



The Velcade Three

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13th March 2009

Ann Keen MP, Minister of State for Health
Department of Health
Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London SW1A 2NS

Dear Ms Keen,

Further to our recent correspondence dated 30th January 2009 in which you turned down our request of a meeting, We, The Velcade Three, are contacting you again to request a meeting in person. We are aware you are a busy person, but are equally aware that we have been asking for a meeting with you or Alan Johnson for over 17 months. We would like to discuss on going concerns related to care for patients with multiple myeloma, we are also keen to thank you regarding the recent reforms to the NICE appraisal process. These reforms make a very significant difference for Myeloma sufferers and we are delighted that the introduction of these reforms has seen the treatment Revlimid (Lenalidomide) receive a positive ACD from NICE.

As The Velcade Three, we have taken the opportunities that have presented themselves to express our concerns regarding the situation faced by Myeloma sufferers. We are pleased that our comments were noted, in the decisions that have been taken. The reforms implemented under your guidance have given us confidence that the treatment route for Myeloma sufferers has greatly improved over the past couple of years. Myeloma sufferers can now have access to life–prolonging treatment at different stages of their disease process, which to us, is of great importance.

At the recent 'Britain Against Cancer' conference, you indicated in the plenary session that you would be willing to meet with The Velcade Three. We are very keen to meet with you directly to discuss our experiences as Myeloma sufferers in the NHS, and to genuinely thank you for having taken on board the comments made by us in the last few years and by taking action on these to make a real difference to the challenges we face. We would be happy to have this meeting in private or in a public capacity to put our appreciation on record.

Yours sincerely

The Velcade Three.