

Radiotherapy Board

STATEMENT ON THE NON-SURGICAL CANCER TREATMENT WORKFORCE

The Radiotherapy Board¹ welcomes the publication of the Cancer Research UK (CRUK) report *Full Team Ahead: understanding the UK non-surgical cancer treatments workforce*² and the work being undertaken by Health Education England (HEE) to develop both a short-term and longer-term Cancer Workforce Plan in England³.

These initiatives have raised awareness of the need for a fully-staffed and fully-resourced multi-professional workforce if the UK is to continue to provide cancer patients with high quality treatment and care. They have also highlighted very clearly that the current non-surgical cancer treatments workforce is already under-staffed and under pressure.

With the well-documented increase in cancer incidence in the UK, a continued improvement in survival rates, increasingly complex treatment options becoming available and overall ageing in the UK population, the demand for cancer treatment is expected to increase still further. This will place additional strain on all members of the non-surgical cancer care team, including the clinical scientists and technologists, therapeutic radiographers and clinical oncologists who work together to deliver radiotherapy treatments.

The three professional bodies that comprise the Radiotherapy Board – the Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine, the Society and College of Radiographers and The Royal College of Radiologists – stand ready to work with CRUK and HEE and to share their experience and expertise to help address the concerns around future provision of the UK radiotherapy workforce - and the infrastructure that is needed to support that workforce - in delivering a world-class radiotherapy service to patients with cancer in the UK.

May 2018

¹ The Radiotherapy Board was established in 2013 by The Royal College of Radiologists, the Society and College of Radiographers and the Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine to provide guidance, oversight and support for the continuing development of high-quality radiotherapy services for cancer patients in the UK. It has representation from across the four UK nations and from other organisations closely involved in radiotherapy services.

² Available on the [CRUK website](#).

³ Phase 1 of the Cancer Workforce Plan is available on the [HEE website](#).