

Petitioner submission of 5 February 2024

PE2062/B: Introduce a National Screening Programme for Prostate Cancer

The Scottish Government has referred to the use a PSA test in its reply as not being sufficiently robust enough to be used for a national screening programme. However, I have not mentioned a PSA test in my petition, the scanning process that is used to determine if someone has prostate cancer could be utilised since this is pretty accurate.

Secondly, if a PSA test is of no value whatsoever, then why is it used as a monitor after treatment for prostate cancer?

A PSA test can be an indicator of prostate cancer, and until an alternative test is developed, it is better than simply letting men die when lives could be saved.

This is what Prostate Cancer UK say about a PSA test:

“It’s a safe and effective way of working out if you need more tests for prostate cancer (such as an MRI scan). It’s freely available from your GP and shows if there’s anything wrong with your prostate. This includes prostate cancer and other prostate conditions. We recommend that if you are at higher risk, you talk to your GP about the pros and cons of the PSA blood test.”

There will be men in Scotland who do not know that they are at a higher risk.

Prostate UK are carrying out a clinical trial which the UK government is contributing to. Shamefully the Scottish Government is making no contribution to the test.

Health matters are devolved, and yet we rely on the UK bodies for guidance.