

DR. CAROLINE LUCAS

Green Party
for the South East of England

Rt Hon Rosie Winterton MP
Minister of State for Health Services
Department of Health
Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London SW1A 2NS

April 20th 2007

Dear Minister,

As I am sure you are aware over 1000 women die each year in the UK from cervical cancer. Yet a combination of effective screening and vaccination against the human papilloma virus could significantly reduce, if not eliminate, this tragic death rate.

Recent reports claim that the number of women receiving smear tests has fallen year on year, especially amongst the 25-29 age group, where the risk of infection from the virus that causes cervical cancer is highest.

I urge the government to take action to prevent the unnecessary loss of lives from cervical cancer by implementing a programme to reverse the downward trend in women having cervical smears. I would also appreciate information about plans to introduce national HPV vaccination.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Caroline Lucas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Caroline Lucas - Green Party MEP for South East England.