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Action Bladder Cancer UK

Sent by email: xxxxx@actionbladdercanceruk.org

3 April 2020

Dear XX XXXXX

**Re: Final Appraisal Document (FAD) – Pembrolizumab for treating locally advanced or metastatic urothelial carcinoma after platinum - containing chemotherapy [ID1536] (CDF guidance review of TA519)**

Thank you for your letter of 26 March 2020, making Action Bladder Cancer UK’s case for compassionate treatment under this FAD. I note this is not a formal appeal. I am replying as interim Vice Chair in place of Tim Irish, who is currently acting as interim Chair.

I do fully understand and sympathise with the situation of patients suffering from bladder cancer, and how disappointed they must be in this FAD. Sadly we cannot fund all of the treatments we would like and difficult and painful decisions have to be made. I am afraid there is no way to reflect the current public health crisis in a more favourable approach to this treatment: as you will appreciate, if the NHS did that for one treatment it would have to do it for all treatments, and that is sadly what we cannot do.

However I can tell you now that another appeal has been lodged and that there will be an appeal hearing. Ordinarily you would be entitled to attend that hearing as observers. Under the current situation I anticipate that the appeal hearing will have to be held remotely on a date to be confirmed. I am not sure what arrangements will be made for virtual attendance, but if you would like to observe, I will ask for you to be able to follow the proceedings live, technology permitting, should you wish to do so?

Yours sincerely

Dr Rima Makarem

Interim Vice-Chair, National Institute for Health and Care Excellence