



WELCOME TO OUR AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

A foreword from Barbara Wilson

September always feels like a time of transition with summer easing into a new season of work, but this year is a genuinely significant month for us.

On 1st October, Breast Cancer Awareness Month begins, and it lands at a moment when the conversation about cancer and work has never felt more pressing. More people are being diagnosed in the UK than ever before, and still, for many employers, cancer remains something that happens quietly, at the edges, rather than something they're equipped to talk about or plan for. That is the gap Working With Cancer exists to close.

This month, we're launching a new report, "What Cancer Costs Employers", on 29th September, produced in collaboration with the Economics Team at Ashurst Perkins Coie. It shows that the real cost of cancer, to people and to businesses, is impossible to ignore. Alongside that, I'll be spreading the message about how employers can properly address the needs of cancer survivors and carers with a webinar for Stowe School, involvement in a round table organised by the Keep Britain Working initiative and participation in an event organised by Healix Health to launch the Cancer Care Performance Pathway.

What connects all of it is something we believe deeply at Working With Cancer: that the workplace has a critical role to play in supporting cancer survivors to cope with the rigours and after-effects of treatment. That may sound odd, but the workplace can be a valuable source of psychological and social as well as financial support.

We have more to share on the report and these events very soon. In the meantime, I hope this edition gives you something valuable, whether that is insight, reassurance, or simply the knowledge that this community exists and that you are not alone.

Warm wishes,

Barbara Wilson

Founder, Working With Cancer

"What Cancer Costs Employers"

A report by Working With Cancer in collaboration with the
Economics Team at Ashurst Perkins Coie.

ASHURST
PERKINS
COIE



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Tuesday 29 September 2026, 9-11.30 am, London

What Cancer Costs Employers - A New Report

We are pleased to be launching '**What Cancer Costs Employers**', a new report from Working With Cancer, produced in collaboration with pro bono support from Ashurst and Perkins Coie's Economics Team.

The report analyses current data to estimate the impact of cancer in the workplace for employers, offering a clearer picture of what's really at stake, for people and for businesses.

On 29 September in London, we'll be sharing a summary of the report's key findings, followed by a panel discussion on managing cancer in the workplace, with speakers offering both employer and employee perspectives.

Full details of the report will follow the event.

If you'd like to join us on the day for the launch, please add your details via the link below.

[Register here](#)

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Working With Cancer Ambassador Christina Wilhelm launches her new book: *It's Breast Cancer: Now What? The Missing Manual for Informed Decisions, Return to Work and Long-Term Recovery.*



Huge congratulations to our ambassador Christina Wilhelm, who launched her book last month: *It's Breast Cancer: Now What? The Missing Manual for Informed Decisions, Return to Work and Long-Term Recovery*. It's a genuinely valuable resource for anyone facing a breast cancer diagnosis.

Modern breast cancer care still leaves two significant gaps for patients: information and support. Too many people are left to bridge them alone, often at the exact moment they have the least capacity to do so.

Christina's book steps into that gap. It isn't a clinical textbook, and it isn't offering miracle cures.

It's an evidence-based guide to help patients understand their options, interpret risk, ask sharper questions, and navigate everything that continues long after active treatment ends — treatment decisions, endocrine therapy, recurrence risk, workplace rights, alternative medicine claims, and the long-term realities so many face without enough guidance.

Christina wrote the resource she wished had existed when she was diagnosed. Our hope is that it helps others feel better informed, better supported, and more confident in the conversations that shape their care.

You can purchase a copy via the link below.

[Purchase a copy.](#)



September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, and this year it arrives alongside a piece of genuinely welcome news. The WHO has just opened a new pathway to close a gap that's existed for far too long: safe, child-friendly formulations of cancer medicines. Manufacturers are being invited to submit products for 12 essential medicines, either because no proper paediatric formulation currently exists, or because supply simply can't meet demand.

Around 400,000 children are diagnosed with cancer globally each year. In lower-income countries, survival rates can sit below 30%, against over 80% in wealthier ones — a gap that speaks to exactly the kind of access this new pathway is trying to close.

But behind every one of those statistics is a parent who became a full-time carer overnight, on top of everything else already going on in their life, including their job. For working parents of a child with cancer, treatment doesn't run to office hours. It's early hospital appointments, cancelled plans, and days where showing up to work at all feels impossible. What makes the real difference for these parents isn't just clinical care. It's whether their employer treats them as someone managing an extraordinary situation, rather than someone falling short of a normal one.

That might look like flexibility that doesn't need justifying every time, a manager who checks in without making them feel like they're letting the team down, or cover that's genuinely planned for, rather than scraped together at the last minute.

If you're an employer, it's worth asking honestly: how well does your organisation actually support a parent carer through something like this?

Working With Cancer®

Changing conversations about cancer and work

Working with Metastatic (Secondary) Breast Cancer

*Navigating work, ongoing treatment
and the choices that are right for you*

Thursday 13th August 2026

*Veronica Foote, Head of Policy & Consulting,
Working With Cancer*

**BREAST
CANCER
NOW** The research
& care charity

Veronica Foote joins Breast Cancer Now for a workshop on working with metastatic breast cancer

In August, our Head of Policy and Consulting, Veronica Foote, joined Breast Cancer Now for an online workshop on working with metastatic breast cancer.

The session brought together practical guidance for anyone navigating work alongside an mBC diagnosis — from managing your own and your employer's expectations, to understanding your rights under the Equality Act, and finding the words to talk to your employer about mBC and how your needs might change over time.

It also covered what making work genuinely sustainable can look like: flexibility, reasonable adjustments, and the realities of returning to work after time away.

And for those whose relationship with work shifts entirely, whether that's stepping back, changing roles, or stopping altogether, the workshop made space for that conversation too, alongside a rundown of further resources and support.

It's exactly the kind of conversation we exist to support: practical, honest, and rooted in what actually helps people stay connected to work on their own terms, for as long as that's right for them.

[Equality Act 2010 Guidance](#)

Online Webinars happening in November



FREE ONLINE WORKSHOPS

In November, we will be running more sessions of our popular free online Workshops for employees, HR, and line managers.

Working With Cancer offers two free webinars, one designed for employees affected by cancer, and another for HR professionals and line managers.

Each session provides practical guidance, shared experiences, and expert advice on how to manage cancer at work with confidence and compassion.

Our next online workshops are in November and you can find the link to book and further details of both below:

HR/Line Managers_November 24, 2026 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

The challenges of managing work and cancer

[Save your space](#)

Employees November 10, 2026 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

How to return to work successfully after cancer

[Save your space](#)

Thanks for reading