



70 Years of the MS Society – Key messages

The MS Society was founded in 1953 by Richard and Mary Cave who were frustrated at the lack of treatments and support available for Mary's MS. This year we're marking our seventieth anniversary.

Over the last 70 years we've worked tirelessly with our community to successfully campaign for better healthcare, treatments and welfare support. We're proud to provide award-winning support and information to anyone affected by MS.

We've also invested over £227 million in today's money into world-leading research, and we're closer than ever to stopping MS.

We're incredibly grateful to our supporters, fundraisers, donors, campaigners, volunteers, researchers, and staff for your dedication. None of this would have been possible without your support.

The MS Society today

Approximately 3,000 volunteers

Approximately 230 local groups

270 staff

helping us generate £27m a year

With one aim: to stop MS together

Messages to avoid

70 years of research – we did not start funding research in 1953.

Supplementary information: Key services today

Note: This section is about what we've achieved together. Please feel free to use this information **in addition** to the key messaging.

Our MS Helpline

We launched our MS Helpline in November 1991. Last year, we responded to over 25,000 enquiries, giving emotional support and information to anyone living with MS. This included our MS Nurses responding to over 3,370 enquiries.

Providing high quality information

In 2022 alone, we distributed around 31,000 printed information booklets and visitors to our website downloaded around 110,000 online resources. Empowering people with information like our [‘What is MS?’ booklet](#) and our [‘Have I got MS?’ factsheet](#), which looks at the early symptoms of MS to help people navigate diagnosis.

Campaigning

Last year over 14,000 people signed up in support of our flagship campaign, Breaking Point, urging the government to support people with MS through the cost of living crisis.

As part of our Approved but Denied campaign, we successfully called on the manufacturer of Sativex, a cannabis-based medication used to treat muscle stiffness and spasms, to apply for the approval of the medicine on the NHS in Scotland. Sativex is now approved for use on the NHS in England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland.

Research

This year we started recruitment for Octopus, our revolutionary, multi-arm, multi-stage trial that will transform the way we test treatments for progressive MS.

We also recruited almost 1,000 people to take part to our MS-STAT2 trial making this the largest academic-led progressive MS trial to date.

Connecting MS communities

Approximately 230 local groups, run by dedicated volunteers, help make sure no one has to face MS alone. Across the UK, our local groups provided more than 1,000 regular services and activities for people with MS, and their friends and families.

Fundraising

In 2019 we launched our £100 million Stop MS Appeal to help us to find treatments that slow or stop progression for everyone. To date we have raised over £70 million.

In 2022 we received over £24 million from donations and legacies to the MS Society.