NICOLA'S STORY · INFORMATION LEAFLET

Longer odds than any jackpot. Nicola's cancer, in numbers.

Nicola Crymble, 43, is a mum of three and stepmum of two from Co Down and a former classroom assistant. She has FATWO, one of the rarest cancers in the world. It has come back, and there is no roadmap for what happens next.

~150
cases ever recorded worldwide since FATWO was first described in 1973

59,400
new breast cancer cases in the UK every single year, for comparison

0
clinical trials and proven treatments. There have never been enough patients to study

The odds, side by side

Bars are shrunk to fit (log scale). On a true scale, FATWO's bar would run far off the page: ten times longer odds than the EuroMillions jackpot. The FATWO figure is based on reported cases, about three a year among the world's roughly 4.1 billion women. Reported cases undercount the true number, since not every case is published.

How rare is "rare"?

Rare cancer
Fewer than 6 in 100,000 people a year (European definition).

Ultra-rare cancer
Around 1 in 1,000,000 people a year, or fewer.

FATWO
Far rarer than even ultra-rare. Most doctors will never see a single case. Most of Nicola's hadn't.

The twist
Fewer than 1 in 5 FATWOs come back after surgery. Nicola's did, in her pelvis and her liver.

WHO NICOLA IS

Wife, mum, classroom assistant, and her heart in Kenya

Her story so far

Early 2025	Tumour found beside her womb
Feb 2025	Major surgery. Diagnosed with FATWO. We hoped that was the end of it
2025–26	Regular scans and reviews. Nicola gives up the job she loved
Sept 2026	The cancer is back, in two places too close to her heart and bowel to operate on
13 Oct 2026	Chemotherapy begins, every three weeks

What's happened since we asked

- Specialists in **Belfast, New York, Toronto and Lyon** have offered to look at her case
- Her story reached **67,000 people** on Facebook in a single day
- MLAs have taken it to the Health Minister
- A national news agency is telling her story

What support pays for

- Getting Nicola's case to the right specialists, in the UK, the USA or further afield
- Supporting Nicola and our children
- Getting Nicola back to Kenya one more time

How your organisation could help

Share

A post or share with your staff, customers or followers could reach the one person who knows this cancer.

Donate

A company gift, staff fundraiser or match-funding for Nicola's Journey: gofund.me/e5cc123a5

In return

We'll gladly thank and promote you across Nicola's Story, however suits you best.

- Facebook: Nicola's Story · TikTok, YouTube and X: @livingwithfatwo
- Short video, "How rare is FATWO?": youtube.com/shorts/PgtZa2twLMY
- Andrew Crymble, Nicola's husband · nicola.crymble@gmail.com · livingwithfatwo.com

Every possible option, never a promise of a cure. Sources: systematic review of FATWO cases (2024), iris.unibs.it/bitstream/11379/613045/1/FATWO.pdf · Int J Clin Exp Pathol (2025) · PathologyOutlines · Cancer Research UK (breast cancer incidence) · National Lottery and EuroMillions published jackpot odds · UK Met Office (lightning).