**Template letter to send to your MP**

 It’s critical the new Government is aware of our community’s priorities. We need your help to ensure MPs put people with muscle wasting and weakening conditions at the top of their agenda.

We want to make sure all MPs know what muscle wasting and weakening conditions are, and what living with a muscle wasting condition means for the over 110,000 people in the UK with one of over 60 conditions.

For decades our All-Party Parliamentary Group for Muscular Dystrophy has given people with muscle wasting and weakening conditions a key platform to influence decision-makers. For this to continue in the new parliament, **we need your help** to convince MPs to join this group, by showing that it matters to their constituents.

Reaching out to congratulate your newly elected MP is just as, if not more, important than reaching out to them as candidates. By gaining the support of as many MPs as possible, we can better seek the changes that our community wants to see. Whether you have a muscle wasting and weakening condition, or care for or know someone who has, we’re asking you to share our Manifesto for Muscles with your MP and to invite them to join our All Party Parliamentary Group.

Use the template letter below to ask your MP to support people with muscle wasting and weakening conditions in parliament.

* Copy and paste the text below, **filling in the parts in orange with your own details.**
* Include your name, constituency and postcode so your MP knows you’re a genuine constituent.
* Add details about your own experience, if you feel comfortable to – personalised letters are far more likely to get a response, and they help MPs understand what it’s like to live with or support someone with a muscle wasting and weakening condition.
* We also encourage you to attach a copy of our [Manifesto for Muscles](https://www.musculardystrophyuk.org/app/uploads/2024/06/Manifesto-for-Muscles-2024_FINAL_050624.pdf).
* Email or post the completed letter to your MP. You’ll find your constituency, your MP’s name and contact details at: https://www.writetothem.com/. If you need any support in doing this, email our team on campaigns@musculardystrophyuk.org
* To help us campaign successfully, we need to know which MPs you contact and how it goes. [Tell us about your conversations](https://www.musculardystrophyuk.org/get-involved/campaign/general-election-2024/tell-us-about-your-conversations/).
* Thank you for all your efforts! If you have any questions or would like more support, contact us at campaigns@musculardystrophyuk.org

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Dear **[name of MP]**,

I am writing to congratulate you on your successful election as the MP for **[name of constituency]**. As a constituent, I look forward to following your progress and hope you will champion people with muscle wasting and weakening conditions in parliament. Muscle wasting and weakening conditions **[like mine / my friend’s / my family member’s]** affect over 110,000 people in the UK. That’s nearly 1 in 600 people. These conditions are rare, progressive, and in some cases life-limiting.

***Add your personal story and connection to muscle wasting and weakening conditions here if you would like to.***

Every day counts when you live with a muscle wasting and weakening condition. Yet people with a condition, and their loved ones, continue to face many challenges.

***Add an issue or example of particular concern to you here if you would like to.***

Muscular Dystrophy UK represent over 60 different muscle conditions and are calling for five priorities in this Parliament, to address the key challenges identified by our community:

1. Improve access to NHS services and treatments
2. Ensure people affected by muscle wasting and weakening conditions can feel financially secure
3. Ensure people living with a muscle wasting and weakening condition can get a timely diagnosis
4. Increase knowledge of muscle wasting and weakening conditions among non-neuromuscular specialist healthcare professionals
5. Maintain the UK’s position as a world leading centre for research excellence

I would be delighted if you would join the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Muscular Dystrophy. In recent years this group has played a key role in advocating for people with muscle wasting and weakening conditions, from newborn screening to psychological support. It’s a great vehicle to signal your support for our community and unite with other MPs to help deliver some of the change we need. Register your interest or find out more by emailing campaigns@musculardystrophyuk.org

You can also learn more on Muscular Dystrophy UK’s website: <https://www.musculardystrophyuk.org/>

***You could include the following offer to meet with your MP if you are comfortable to -*** I would be delighted to meet with you to discuss how you can champion constituents with muscle wasting and weakening conditions.

I very much value your support. Thank you for your time, I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours Sincerely,

**[Your name]**

**[Your address and contact details]**