Dear [Insert full name of MSP],

As your constituent, I am reaching out to request your support for the muscle wasting and weakening community. [choose what applies: I have a muscular dystrophy condition; I care for someone who has a muscular dystrophy condition; I am an ally for those in the muscle wasting and weakening community] and I would like to draw your attention to a recent report titled [*Missing people. Missing support*](https://www.musculardystrophyuk.org/app/uploads/2024/11/MDUK-Scottish-Report_final_DIGITAL_151124.pdf).

This report, published by Muscular Dystrophy UK, compiles data from all 14 NHS Scotland health boards, including our board, and addresses urgent concerns raised by our community in Scotland, particularly about the increasing gaps in specialist support for people living with muscle wasting and weakening conditions.

The findings of this report are deeply concerning, revealing that around 7,000 people are currently missing from NHS Scotland’s records. Additionally, it shares heartbreaking accounts from our community, demonstrating the uphill battle we face in securing vital support, often feeling overlooked as we cope with conditions that are life-limiting and life-ending.

Muscle wasting and weakening conditions are a group of rare inherited conditions that cause muscles to progressively weaken and waste over time, often affecting mobility and sometimes vital organs like the heart and lungs. Although symptoms vary, they can include muscle weakness, stiffness and difficulty with physical tasks. Unfortunately, there is no cure, but ongoing research and treatments can help us understand more than ever the best ways to provide care and improve the quality of life.

The report outlines clear and achievable recommendations to ensure our community is better accounted for and better supported. I urge you to join us in advocating for the Scottish Government and NHS Scotland to take concrete steps towards mandating and standardising data collection on the prevalence of muscle wasting and weakening conditions and the availability of specialised care resources.

Please [read this report](https://www.musculardystrophyuk.org/app/uploads/2024/11/MDUK-Scottish-Report_final_DIGITAL_151124.pdf), advocate on our behalf, and make representations to the Scottish Government and our local NHS health board.

If you have policy-related questions or questions about the report, please contact [campaigns@musculardystrophyuk.org](mailto:campaigns@musculardystrophyuk.org).

Sincerely,

[Give your name and if you are comfortable, your address or the area of their constituency or region you live in]