# **Template letter for patient writing to healthcare provider**

[Your address]

[Addressee details]

[Date]

Dear [insert name of hospital / Trust CEO]

***New Report - Seizing the opportunity to improve patient care: Pelvic Floor Services in 2021 and beyond***

I am writing to you to draw your attention to a new report ***‘Seizing the opportunity to improve patient care: Pelvic Floor services in 2021 and beyond’*** which highlights the stark inequalities in care faced by millions of UK patients living with pelvic floor disorders.

Whilst I understand the pressures facing our NHS are many and varied, I believe further attention must be paid to patients living with pelvic floor and continence issues, whose care is often de-prioritised and treatment delayed. This report details recommendations that can improve pelvic floor services in the UK that – if actioned - would lead to efficient and timely patient care.

As you may know, 14 million people live with a bladder condition in the UK, and 6.5 million people have some sort of bowel issue. Services are not ‘joined up’ and it can take patients 10 years from first presenting to their GP with symptoms to reaching an accurate diagnosis and treatment. The impact of delayed treatment is severe – many people do not want to leave their house for fear of having an accident due to their condition, and face significant mental – as well as physical - challenges. Treatment - when it finally does happen - improves symptoms before they become severe and require more invasive and intensive attention.

[insert personal story for example, what pelvic floor disorder you live with, how long it took to obtain treatment or if you have not yet received treatment and any challenges you have faced]

I recognise that there are funding pressures and many competing priorities within the NHS. Urgent and life-threatening issues must come first. However, the local actionable recommendations in the report – alongside six key areas identified for change - offer small changes to models of care that would make a substantial difference to the service patients receive.

The enclosed report has been written by more than 30 NHS clinicians and experts in pelvic floor and continence disorders who have first-hand experience of the impact these changes could make. I urge you to review the report and consider what action you personally can take to improve the situation in our local area. In addition, I would very much like to [delete and/or combine the following as appropriate: to meet/speak with you to discuss this matter further to share my personal experience of the pelvic floor services at local hospital / explain what would have made a difference to my care / highlight how the actionable recommendations would make a difference to my care].

The voices of people living with pelvic floor disorders are often quietened due to embarrassment or because we have faced trivialisation of our condition. Please act now so that patients like me can access timely treatment or surgery to improve their symptoms and regain the quality-of-life they deserve.

Yours sincerely

[insert name]