# **Template letter for clinician / charity group writing to an MP/ policymaker / NHS leader**

[Your address]

[Addressee details]

[Date]

Dear [insert policymaker, NHS Leader]

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

I am writing to you in my capacity as [insert personal details i.e., President / CEO of charitable organisation / NHS clinician or leader] 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.

I recognise that we are facing unprecedented strain across the NHS, which has been pushed to its limit as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Pressures facing our healthcare system are many and varied, and patients whose concerns are urgent must be prioritised. However, the care of people living with pelvic floor disorders has been neglected for far too long.

As detailed in the enclosed report, pelvic floor services are at the back of the queue for funding and prioritisation. Care is dependent on the region where patients live, and a lack of ‘joined-up’ services leaves treatment severely delayed. When treatment is delayed, it becomes more intensive, bringing with it further resource and cost. [insert any local or personally relevant statistics/ data]. A recent inquiry led by Baroness Cumberlege (*Independent Medicines and Medical Devices Safety Review, 2020)* highlighted there are issues of quality and safety of care being faced by this sector as a consequence of under-funding and neglect.

Whilst the challenges are many, I believe that the pandemic, in addition to the evolution of sustainability and transformation partnerships into integrated care systems, offers opportunity to change models of care and improve outcomes for people living with pelvic floor disorders.

The report has been written by more than 30 NHS clinicians and experts in pelvic floor and continence disorders and highlights the ways in which services for pelvic floor patients can be improved. Local and national recommendations are included and six key areas for change are highlighted. I believe that the situation can be dramatically improved for the millions of people living with pelvic floor disorders in the UK if the suggestions set out in the report are actioned.

I urge you to review the recommendations, and consider how you can support our health system to make changes to its model of care. I would very much like [delete and/or combine the following as appropriate: to meet/speak with you to discuss this matter further / invite you to visit the urogynaecology unit at my hospital to discuss these issues further / you to raise this issue with the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care.]

Around 14 million people in the UK are living with bladder problems and 6.5 million people live with a bowel issue. Their voices are often quietened due to embarrassment or because they have faced trivialisation of their continence issues. We must act now so that patients can access the timely treatment or surgery that will improve their symptoms and enable them to regain the quality-of-life they deserve.

Yours sincerely

[insert name]

*This letter has been written with the support of the report’s authors and the organisations who endorse its recommendations.*