From: xxx

To: xxx

**Re: All-Party Parliamentary Group on Spinal Cord Injury**

Dear xxx

I am writing to ask that you attend the next meeting of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Spinal Cord Injury, which is being held on Wednesday 3rd March 2021 at 3.30pm. This is a virtual meeting and will be chaired by Owen Paterson MP.

At a time when the NHS is under huge pressure as a result of the pandemic, the knock-on impact on specialist services for spinal cord injured (SCI) people has been enormous. Whilst I appreciate that we live in unprecedented times, I’m very concerned that the repurposing of specialist beds (that should be used by SCI patients) into beds for general medical patients is exacerbating an already serious situation. These closures are on top of an existing deficit of 50 beds in the spinal service across England (according to NHS England’s own estimates).

SCI patients who do not access a specialist SCI Centre will still end up being treated elsewhere in the NHS, but at significantly greater cost. To illustrate, whilst a bed in a SCI Centre costs approximately of £600 pounds per day, this is ONE THIRD of the cost of treating an SCI patient at a major trauma centre, where they will typically end up with current restriction on SCI beds. This comes at a time when demand for SCI beds has never been higher.

Across the UK today, seven people will sustain a SCI with profound, life changing consequences for the individual and their families. There are around 50,000 SCI people in the UK, and a significant number reside within your constituency. As your constituent, and as a spinal cord injured person myself, I would be grateful if you could find an hour in your busy schedule to attend what promises to be a very important meeting and demonstrate your support for the SCI community.

To confirm your attendance at the meeting, please register here: [All Party Parliamentary Group on Spinal Cord Injury Tickets, Wed 3 Mar 2021 at 15:30 | Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/all-party-parliamentary-group-on-spinal-cord-injury-tickets-137393380299?utm_campaign=post_publish&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eventbrite&utm_content=shortLinkNewEmail&internal_ref=login)

The Spinal Injuries Association (SIA) holds the Secretariat for the APPG. For more information on the meeting, please email SIA’s Campaigns Team on: campaigning@spinal.co.uk.

Thank you for your continued hard work at this challenging time.

Yours sincerely,