

## CITIZENS UK SOCIAL CARE CAMPAIGN: GUIDANCE AND TEMPLATES FOR WRITING TO YOUR MP

*On the 30<sup>th</sup> March, Citizens UK leaders from across the UK will gather for a tea party at Parliament Square, Westminster. This collective national action is a chance to stand together in solidarity with care workers across the UK and call on the government to commit to a real Living Wage for all care workers.*

*To get the best possible reaction from our action, we'll need turnout from as many MPs as possible to show the government just how many people care. That's why we're asking you to write to your MP and invite them to the tea party.*

*Below you'll find guidance and two template letters. If you have any other questions then please email [livingwage4careworkers@citizensuk.org](mailto:livingwage4careworkers@citizensuk.org)*

*If you get a response, please forward it to [livingwage4careworkers@citizensuk.org](mailto:livingwage4careworkers@citizensuk.org)*

### GUIDANCE FOR WRITING TO YOUR MP

- **Choose the right letter(!):** There are two letter templates. A slightly different letter for Labour MPs and other MPs, please make sure you use the right one.
- **Make it personal:** The most effective letters are *personal*, these templates should be used as a guide and leaders are encouraged to make them as personalised as possible. If you really want to get the attention of your MP, handwritten letters stand out.
- **Keep it relatively brief:** MPs are busy people to try to keep it to about 1 page of A4 maximum
- **Introduce yourself:** If it's your first time emailing your MP, then introduce yourself, who you are, and your address and postcode.
- **Send it to the right email address:** You can easily find your MP's email address using this website: <https://members.parliament.uk/members/Commons> Simply type your postcode in, click on your MP's name and then find their email address in the details.
- **Put in the diary a time to chase them if you haven't heard.** Block some time in your diary a couple of weeks after sending the letter (but before the action!) to give your MP's office a call to follow up on your email and remind them the tea party is happening on the 30<sup>th</sup>.
- **Say thank you!** If your MP has done something positive and committed to attending, then say thank you! They'll appreciate it.
- **Let us know what they say:** If you get a response from your MP, please forward us their response to [xxx@citizensuk.org](mailto:xxx@citizensuk.org).

### TEMPLATE LETTER – LABOUR MP

{YOUR FULL ADDRESS}  
{YOUR POST CODE}  
{YOUR EMAIL}  
{DATE}

Dear {MP NAME}

My name is {YOUR NAME} and I am a constituent of {YOUR CONSTITUENCY}. I am writing to you today because I am becoming increasingly worried about the care workers in our community who are struggling to get by on low wages.

Over 600,000 care workers in the UK earn below the real Living Wage and research conducted last year found that 56% of care workers skip meals because of their low income. Amidst the rising cost of living and pending rise in National Insurance on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April, I'm worried about how they will cope with this extra financial pressure.

This is something particularly important to me as {INSERT YOUR KEY REASONS AND ANY PERSONAL EXPERIENCE}.

It's simply not right that those who care for us and look after the most vulnerable in our society can't afford to make ends meet themselves. Alongside Citizens UK, I'm calling on the government to provide adequate funding to local authorities to ensure all social care workers can be paid a real Living Wage.

I am asking you to take the following steps to address my concerns.

- **Will you attend Citizens UK's tea party on Parliament Square, 1pm on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March?** We'll show our gratitude to care workers and call on the government to ensure all care workers can be paid a real Living Wage.
- **Will you write to Sir Keir Starmer MP and ask him to use PMQs on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March as an opportunity to raise this with the Prime Minister?**

Please respond and let me know. If you are unable to address this personally, I would like to request you escalate my letter to the relevant Minister or department.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

{YOUR NAME}

## TEMPLATE LETTER – ALL OTHER MPS

{YOUR FULL ADDRESS}  
{YOUR POST CODE}  
{YOUR EMAIL}  
{DATE}

Dear {MP NAME}

My name is {YOUR NAME} and I am a constituent of {YOUR CONSTITUENCY}. I am writing to you today because I am becoming increasingly worried about the care workers in our community who are struggling to get by on low wages.

Over 600,000 care workers in the UK earn below the real Living Wage and research conducted last year found that 56% of care workers skip meals because of their low income. Amidst the rising cost of living and pending rise in National Insurance on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April, I'm worried about how they will cope with this extra financial pressure.

This is something particularly important to me as {INSERT YOUR KEY REASONS AND ANY PERSONAL EXPERIENCE}.

It's simply not right that they look after the most vulnerable in our society but can't afford to make ends meet themselves. Alongside Citizens UK I'm calling on the government to provide adequate funding to local authorities to ensure all social care workers can be paid a real Living Wage.

I am asking you to take the following steps to address my concerns and show solidarity to our care workers.

- **Will you attend Citizens UK's tea party on Parliament Square, 1pm on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March?** We'll show our gratitude to care workers, invite the government to hear our concerns, and ask the government to agree to care workers being paid a real Living Wage.
- **Will you raise this with the Prime Minister?** Ask him to ensure that the government provides enough funding to local authorities to ensure all social care workers can be paid a real Living Wage.

Please respond and let me know if you'll be attending.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

{YOUR NAME}