**Template letter for people accessing speech and language therapy to send their MPs**

Name of MP

The House of Commons

London

SW1A 0AA

Date

Dear X,

I understand that the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT) has recently been in touch with you about the work of speech and language therapists and how you, as my MP, can support your constituents who have communication and/or swallowing needs and their families and carers.

As one of your constituents, and [**optional**: something about your interest in speech and language therapy], I wanted to follow-up personally and ask for your support with being communication inclusive and investing in speech and language therapy.

I very much hope that you will pledge to be communication inclusive. One way you and your staff could begin to do this is through undertaking the free Communication Access training: <https://communication-access.co.uk/> Completing the training would enable your offices to display the Communication Access symbol. It would also help you meet the requirements of the Equality Act (2010) and the need to make reasonable adjustments to address the substantial disadvantages that people with communication disability, difficulty, or difference and their families and carers can face in every area of their lives.

As you know, speech and language therapy transforms lives across all stages of life. It supports educational attainment, the gaining and retaining of employment, good mental health, the development of positive relationships, better quality of life, and for older, frail, people the opportunity to live well for longer, in their own homes, doing the things that matter to them, as well as supporting people at their end of their lives. All of this not only has positive economic impact, it also reduces risks to people with communication disability, difficulty, or difference, and those with eating, drinking, and swallowing needs, and their families and carers.

However, not everyone can access the speech and language therapy they need. Therefore, I hope you will also pledge to work with the RCSLT to raise awareness of the need to increase investment in speech and language therapy. This was the subject of a petition on the Parliament website\* which secured over 10,000 signatures in just over two weeks. The Petitions Committee had chosen the petition for debate on 1 July, but the election meant that it was cancelled. I was extremely disappointed that this important matter was not debated by the last Parliament and hope that, as my MP, you will try to find ways to ensure this is debated as soon as possible given the many thousands of people who signed the petition in such a short time.

I hope you will pledge to be communication inclusive and raise the profile of investing in speech and language therapy. The RCSLT has a dedicated webpage where you can access resources to highlight this\*\* and its briefing on speech and language therapy\*\*\* may also be useful.

I look forward to hearing from you [**optional**: and would be happy to meet you to discuss our issues around accessing speech and language therapy].

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

\* <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/657935>

\*\* [https://www.rcslt.org/policy-and-influencing/uk-campaigns/raising-the-profile-of-speech-and-language-therapy/](https://www.rcslt.org/?page_id=52548)

\*\*\* <https://www.rcslt.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/RCSLT-MP-brochure-2024-Supporting-communication-with-your-constituents.pdf>