

## Template letter

*Use this to write to your local candidate standing in the 2019 General Election. We encourage you to tailor it according to your personal experience and local circumstances. Try wherever possible to keep the letter to one side of A4 and, if appropriate, ask the candidate for a meeting where you can discuss the issues raised in more detail.*

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<YOUR ADDRESS>

<TODAY'S DATE>

Dear <CANDIDATE>

### ***Improving the lives of people with communication and swallowing needs***

I am writing to ask if you will pledge to improve the lives of people with communication and swallowing needs during your election campaign.

- Up to 20% of the UK's population experience communication difficulty at some point in their lives, and more than 10% of all children and young people have a long-term communication need.
- People with a range of health conditions can also have difficulties with eating and drinking safely – this includes those who have had a stroke, those living with certain cancers, dementia, or neurological conditions, including Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis and motor neurone disease, and those with learning disabilities.

One simple thing you could do straight away to help those with communication difficulties is to run a communication inclusive campaign. The enclosed guide from the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT) provides practical advice on how you can communicate with people who have difficulties with speech, language or communication during your campaign.

You could help to deliver significantly better lives for people with communication and swallowing needs by pledging to support the enclosed policy asks issued by the RCSLT.

If you would like any further information, or a briefing about the work of speech and language therapists in supporting your prospective constituents, do please get in touch. My email address is X and my telephone number is X.

Yours sincerely

<YOUR NAME>

<YOUR JOB TITLE>