**Template email for public/patients: End my wait for sight saving appointments [England only]**

**{{INSERT MP NAME}}**

UK Parliament

House of Commons

Westminster

London

SW1A 0AA

(sent via email) **{{INSERT DATE}}**

Dear **[Insert name]**

**Re: End my wait for sight saving appointments**

My name is **[insert name].** I am writing to you about **[my/a relatives]** experiences of the eye care backlog in **[insert borough].**

[Here you can include details of your experience of the NHS and why things need to change.]

As someone who has **[insert condition/or your experience]**, I know first-hand that eye care services in the UK remain under intense pressure.

Latest figures show that 1 in 11 people on an NHS waiting list in England are awaiting an ophthalmology appointment. Some 27,260 of these have been waiting a year or more and it is well evidenced that delays to treatment can lead to preventable sight loss.\*

To shine a spotlight on this issue and how the backlog is impacting patients such as **[myself/my relative],** the Association of Optometrists have produced a briefing document (attached) which explains how a national strategy for eye care in England will support consistent commissioning of extended eye care services so **[I/my relative]** don’t have to wait so long for the vital care and treatment needed to preserve sight.

I believe, if commissioned in my area, these services would be much easier and affordable for **[me/my relative]** to access.

I would be grateful if you could write to Steve Barclay MP and/or Neil O’Brien MP at the Department of Health and Social Care, on my behalf, and ask them to commit to the national strategy. If you were able to raise this matter in questions and debates in the House also that would be hugely valued.

Best wishes,

**[Name, address, including postcode]**

\*NHS England, Consultant-led Referral to Treatment Times, 2023

The British Ophthalmological Surveillance Unit reports that 22 people a month lose vision through delayed follow-ups in hospital, likely to be under-estimated.