**{Your Full Address}**

**{Your Postcode}**

**{Date}**

Dear **{MP Name}**,

I am writing to you as my local MP, to raise my concerns about the impact GP strike action could have on people with epilepsy like me.

GPs are striking for the first time in 60 years. With Hospitals, A&E and mental health services already under pressure, the NHS is preparing for a worst-case scenario.

The British Medical Association has outlined [10 actions](https://www.bma.org.uk/our-campaigns/gp-campaigns/contracts/gp-contract-202425-changes#survivaltoolkit) which surgeries can choose to implement at their own discretion.

Those with epilepsy and other conditions will be severely impacted by this.

1. There will be significant delays to treatments, where Epilepsy Specialist Nurses (ESNs) are not available, GPs are a first call for referral.
2. Ongoing prescriptions of most anti-seizure medicines (ASMs) is the responsibility of a GP. ASMs require ongoing management as some have the ability to cause serious side-effects and can increase the risk of teratogenic effects for child-bearing women.
3. If GPs end the rationing of referrals, investigations and admissions, it will make it harder for those with epilepsy to get neurologist referrals. This would add to the [7.60 million cases](https://www.bma.org.uk/advice-and-support/nhs-delivery-and-workforce/pressures/nhs-backlog-data-analysis#:~:text=The%20latest%20Referral%20to%20Treatment,individual%20patients%20waiting%20for%20treatment) on the waiting list for Referral to Treatment (RTT).
4. Medicines will be harder to get hold of if GPs restrict their patient numbers to 25 per day.

Given that this industrial action may last for months, I ask that you champion this important issue and write to Wes Streeting calling for the government to resolve this matter swiftly so that people with epilepsy and other conditions can receive the treatment that they need.

Yours Sincerely,