*[****Insert your address here****]*

*[****Insert MP’s address here****]*

*[****Insert date****]*

Dear [***Insert name of your MP here***],

I am writing as a GPfrom your constituency to ask you to support a new campaign aimed at addressing the pressure that spiralling clinical negligence claims are putting on our health services in England, and upon health professionals like me.

Clinical negligence claims are costing the NHS huge amounts of money each year. It is estimated that £65billion will be needed for future clinical negligence costs, relating to claims arising from incidents that have already occurred.

Since 2010/11 spend on clinical negligence has almost doubled (a 98%increase) – this is an average increase of 12% every year.

The costs will only increase further due to the recent change to the personal injury discount rate. After the rate changed in March this year, one NHS trust was forced to nearly triple an injury pay-out from £3.8 million to £9.3 million.

It is important that there is reasonable compensation for patients following clinical negligence, but this must be balanced against society’s ability to pay. Precious NHS resources are being called upon to fund clinical negligence claims that could otherwise be spent on essential frontline patient care.

Many of these spiralling costs also have a very real impact on GPs like me. As well as facing the increased cost of professional protection for clinical negligence claims, we also practise within in a climate where we face the increasing fear of being sued.

This increase in clinical negligence costs does not need to be inevitable though, and MPS are campaigning for a package of legal reform, which includes:

* Introducing fixed recoverable costs for all clinical negligence claims up to the value of £250,000

– ensuring that claimant legal costs do not dwarf compensation payments

* Creating consistency and fairness through limiting future care costs.
* Introducing an ultimate limitation period of ten years between the date of an adverse incident and when a claim can be made

I would be grateful if you could raise this issue with the relevant Ministers in the Department of Health and Ministry of Justice to highlight this issue, and to gain clarity on the plans that the new Government may have to address this. In the meantime, further information about the campaign can be found on the MPS website **www.medicalprotection.org/balance**

I look forward to hearing further from you.

Yours sincerely,

[***Insert your name here***]