**To complete this letter**: Please copy and the below text into an email, completing the relevant details highlighted in yellow below. Please do one for every constituency you work in.

To find the contact details of your MP, please go here: <http://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/mps/>

Dear {Parliamentarian’s name}

As your constituent, I am writing to you on an issue which concerns me greatly.

You may be aware of the ongoing sleep-in back pay crisis currently threatening the social care sector.

**Would you be able to meet with me in constituency on the 17, 18 or 19th of May?**

I would like to discuss how this issue personally affects me and if any support you are able to offer.

Please see a brief outline on the issue below.

I look forward to your response and to meeting you.

Best,

{Your name}

The Sleep-in Crisis facing the social care sector

**Government provides funding for sleep-ins for people with severe learning disabilities.** Sleep-in shifts are an integral part of public services which Government has a statutory obligation to provide. The individuals who receive these services are assessed by local authorities or the NHS as requiring support from the state to keep safe and well because of the severity of their disabilities. The individuals concerned and their families do not pay for this support – it is provided as part of the state’s public services. In many cases, Local Authorities choose to fund charities or other independent/private providers to deliver these public services on its behalf.

**Government has not funded sleep-ins at the NMW for the last six years.**

Due to a change in minimum wage legislation, Government previously believed sleep-in shifts did not need to be paid at the National Minimum Wage. Therefore, adequate resources were not provided to Local Authorities to pay providers at this rate. Even now, Government is still not giving more money to Local Authorities to make-up for the higher rate at which workers must be paid for sleep-in shifts.

**HMRC is now pursuing social care providers for six years of back pay**

The care sector is facing a crisis where social care providers are being threatened with an unexpected HMRC bill for six years of back pay. This results from the unfunded and unenforced changes to guidance on the National Minimum Wage and sleep-in shifts which [Government itself has stated were misleading](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/632758/nmw-social-care-sector.pdf). As it is Government’s responsibility to fund social care for the most vulnerable people in society, they must fund past sleep-ins at the National Minimum Wage. The care sector has not been funded by Local Authorities nor by Government for back pay for this statutory care.

**This unexpected cost will affect the care sector’s ability to provide services.**

In an underfunded sector, this huge unexpected cost will impact the services the care sector is able to deliver to the vulnerable people who rely on these services. These workers do a critical job and deserve to be paid fairly - and Government needs to step up and pay this higher wage moving forward as well as provide adequate funds to allow the sector to pay this back pay. This continued uncertainty is effecting services.

**The care sector have worked to find a solution with Government for over two years.**

As part of a wider coalition including charities, not-for-profit and independent sector companies who provide learning disability services in the UK, the care sector have been working with the Government for over two years. Representatives have met with the Cabinet Office, DHSC, DBEIS, DCLG and HMRC - yet the situation still lacks a resolution.

**Government must fund the full HMRC liability now. Government would have funded sleep-ins at the NMW rate had their guidance been correct. The social care sector should not - and cannot afford to - fund this service on behalf of Government.**

Care services in our constituency are working as part of a larger alliance representing a significant portion of the social care sector for people with learning disabilities which includes the Association for Real Change, Care England, Learning Disability England, Learning Disability Voices and the Voluntary Organisations Disability Group - with the aim to solve the sleep-in crisis in a way which supports the people who rely on care services, workers and the providers who implement these crucial community services.