[Your address: this is necessary, so the MP knows you are one of their constituents]

[Your email address: this may be used for a reply]

Dear [MP’s name]

**Hospice funding in the UK**

I am asking for your urgent help to ensure the continued provision of hospice palliative and end of life services for some of the most vulnerable people in our region.

As you may know, in June 2024, Birmingham Hospice announced that it would be making the equivalent of 45 full-time posts redundant – around 14% of its total workforce. This will mean longer waits for patients to access its care in future, and more people being unable to die in the place of their choice.

This is happening across the sector with around a fifth of hospices making service cuts this year and some 300 hospice beds currently closed – beds that could be providing much-needed care for people at the end of their lives.

Birmingham Hospice predicts it will cost around £20 million to run its services this year, and over 40% of that needs to be covered by fundraised income. Over the last few years, the hospice has seen a significant increase in costs, including the price of energy, food and vital medicines, and a shortfall in funding for staff pay awards.

The recent government announcement of a rise in employer National Insurance contributions means Birmingham Hospice will face further financial burden and increased pressure on our services. We estimate we'll need to find an additional £400,000 to meet this increase from next April, unless hospices receive an exemption from this or additional funding to cover it.

[If you have personal experiences of, or connections to, Birmingham Hospice, please feel free to add details]

End of life care is the only part of the NHS that has never been fully funded, despite its establishment as a ‘cradle to grave’ service. Hospices take pressure off the NHS by supporting those with a terminal diagnosis as inpatients or in the community. Continued cuts to hospice services will mean longer stays and delayed discharges from the acute sector, causing increased waits for treatment elsewhere.

I hope you will be able to help Birmingham Hospice and others like them by using your position to raise awareness and ask questions in Parliament about how the government can work with the sector to ensure hospice funding is properly funded, both now and in the long term.

If you are unable to address this personally, I would like to request that you raise my concerns with the relevant Minister or department.

Please do keep me informed of any progress made.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

[your name]