

## Treated Patient Letter to MP

Dear ([Insert Name](#)),

I am writing to you as your constituent, an advocate for the charity Heart Valve Voice, and as an example of what life after heart valve disease treatment can be like. I would like to ask for your support in helping to raise awareness of the need to prioritise treatment for patients living with this condition.

I was first diagnosed with heart valve disease in **INSERT MONTH AND YEAR** after experiencing symptoms of **INSERT INFORMATION**. I was then treated in **INSERT MONTH AND YEAR**. Since receiving treatment, I have been able to get back to a better quality of life, and recently **INSERT PERSONAL INFORMATION OF POST TREATMENT EXPERIENCE**.

Heart valve disease affects nearly 1.5 million people in the UK, and is a common, but treatable condition. However, while it is treatable, over half of untreated aortic stenosis patients (the most common form of valve disease) die within two years of showing symptoms. With treatment, patients like myself can get back to a good, even better quality of life.

Sadly, COVID-19 has led to the delays of many treatments, and while I understand that the NHS is doing all it can to save lives in the face of an immense challenge, heart valve disease has a huge impact on a patient's ability to live a normal life. For me, it (**INSERT INFO ON HOW YOUR CONDITION IMPACTED YOUR LIFE E.G. WORK/FAMILY/CARING/EVERYDAY TASKS**).

While I understand that you cannot get individual patients treated yourself, I ask that you recognise the importance of prioritising treatment for heart valve disease in the future. No one would argue against the prioritisation of cancer treatments, and nor should they, but heart valve disease is also a high risk condition and should be treated as such. Between April and August 2020, 1,635 patients did not receive their heart valve disease treatment. If patients are not treated in a timely manner, the condition could get worse, potentially requiring emergency care which would put additional strain on the NHS at this difficult time.

I recently gave my support to Heart Valve Voice's #JustTreatUs campaign, and I would ask that you offer your support too. You can find more information about that campaign [here](#). However, going further, you may wish to consider tabling a Parliamentary Question related to raising awareness of the condition, this campaign, and the impact of COVID-19 is having on patient outcomes; writing to **INSERT NAME OF LOCAL NHS TRUST** to see what they're doing to prioritise heart valve disease care; or consider joining the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Heart Valve Disease, which HVV is the Secretariat for.

I completely understand the unprecedented challenge currently faced by the NHS, Parliamentarians, and the public at this difficult time, but I would urge you to do what you can to raise awareness of the need to prioritise heart valve disease patients in the coming months, as the delays that many patients are facing can have severe consequences.

Kind regards,

**INSERT NAME**