

Untreated Patient Letter to MP

Dear [\(Insert Name\)](#),

I am writing to you as a constituent and heart valve disease patient to ask for your support regarding disruption to treatments caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In **INSERT MONTH AND YEAR** I was diagnosed with **INSERT CONDITION**, a type of heart valve disease. However, unfortunately, COVID-19 has led to the delays of many treatments, including my own. While I understand that the NHS is doing all it can to save lives in the face of an immense challenge, my condition is having a huge impact on my life. **(INSERT INFORMATION ON HOW YOUR CONDITION IS IMPACTING YOUR LIFE E.G. WORK/FAMILY/CARING/EVERYDAY TASKS)**. With treatment, I would be able to get back to a good quality of life. I can resume work, support my family, help my community and enjoy my life. If it continues to be delayed, I would be worried about potentially requiring emergency care, which would put additional strain on the NHS at this difficult time.

Heart valve disease affects nearly 1.5 million people in the UK, and is a common, serious, but treatable condition. 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.

While I understand that you cannot get me treated personally, 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. For example, between April and August 2020, 1,635 patients did not receive their heart valve disease treatment.

I recently gave my support to Heart Valve Voice's (a UK heart valve disease charity) #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 and the impact of COVID-19 is having on patient outcomes; writing to **INSERT NAME OF LOCAL 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 Heart Valve Voice is the Secretariat for.

I understand the incredible challenge faced by the NHS, MPs, and the public at this time, but I would urge you to do what you can to prioritise heart valve disease patients in the coming months, as delays like the one I am currently facing can have severe consequences.

Kind regards,

INSERT NAME