**Template email 5: Westminster Eye Health Day**

**{{INSERT MP NAME}}**

UK Parliament

House of Commons

Westminster

London

SW1A 0AA

(sent via email) **{{INSERT DATE}}**

Dear **{{INSERT NAME}},**

**The Eyes Have It - Westminster Eye Health Day 19 October**

I am writing to you as my local constituency MP, to ask if you would attend the second annual Westminster Eye Health Day drop in session in the **Attlee Suite, Portcullis House on Wednesday 19th October 2022, 2pm – 4.30pm**.

[The Eyes Have It](https://eyeshaveit.co.uk/) is a partnership of Roche, Fight for Sight, the Macular Society, The Royal
College of Ophthalmologists, the RNIB, and my professional membership body, the Association of Optometrists. Last year’s event, attended by over 50 MPs, galvanised fresh support for eye care in parliament, and drew political attention to calls from across the sector for a National Clinical Director for Eye Care – a post which was successfully filled earlier this year.

As an optometrist, I know first-hand that eye care services in the UK remain under intense pressure. As of June 2022, there were more than 640,000 people waiting to start specialist eye treatment in England; this accounted for almost 10% of total NHS waiting lists and included nearly 26,000 people who had been waiting a year or more.

The Westminster Eye Health Dayevent will aim to shine a spotlight on the impact this pressure has had on patients’ sight and their wider wellbeing. To prevent avoidable sight loss, and support people with deteriorating vision, we need a National Plan for Eye Care in England that supports local decision-making with national accountability so that everyone can access the right care, where and when they need it.

At Westminster Eye Health Day, you will be able to:

* Find out about eye care in your area, and discover what can be done now to
improve eye care services;
* Commit to action to improve eye care, by adding your voice to our pledge wall;
* Join a photo and social media call.

As an optometrist from your constituency, please show your support for this important issue by joining representatives of The Eyes Have It partnership at Westminster Eye HealthDay on 19 October.

I look forward to hearing from you.

**{{INSERT NAME AND JOB ROLE}}**