

Dear [Insert formal name],

I am a constituent of {insert constituency here} to which you seek election.

*Insert personal story* (ailment, difficulties getting an appointment, getting the medical cannabis product, etc.)

As you are likely aware, the former Home Secretary legalised medical cannabis in November 2018 following the public fight by the families of Billy Caldwell and Alfie Dingley. As a patient, I applauded the move as a necessary and compassionate step in the right direction. However, my initial optimism was premature as there remain significant barriers to accessing medical cannabis on prescription.

The conditions under which prescriptions can be obtained remain too strict, the number of prescriptions remain too low and medication costs are too high. Patients in Britain should never have to choose between putting food on the table and paying for their medicine.

In addition to this, restricted access is forcing many patients to access the black market to obtain the medicines that they need. This is supported by a recent YouGov study published by the Centre for Medicinal Cannabis and the patient advocacy group CPASS that showed there were around 1.4m adults in the UK using illegal cannabis to treat a diagnosed medical condition. This situation cannot be allowed to continue – it is socially irresponsible, fuelling crime and putting patients at risk of harm.

Cannabis is medicine for me. It alleviates *[insert condition]*. I need you, as my local politician, to stand up for my rights to receive the care I need to treat my condition in Britain. Barriers must be torn down.

I am writing to ask for your help. There are other jurisdictions such as Canada, Germany, Australia and the United States that have created functioning medical cannabis systems. In Canada, access to medical cannabis has existed for nearly two decades, with a fully regulated system in place since 2014. The UK could tailor existing models to suit UK patients' needs. It is the right thing to do and I want you to say that you will stand up for patients' rights.

- Do you support implementing a fair and compassionate medical cannabis system in the UK?
- Will you stand up for UK patients?
- Will you remove barriers to access?

I look forward to your response and will share your reply with members of my local network.

My vote matters, your voice matters, now is the time to act.