**{YOUR FULL ADDRESS}**

**{YOUR POSTCODE}**

**{DATE}**

Dear **{MP NAME}**,

My name is **{YOUR NAME}** and I am a constituent of **{**[**FIND YOUR CONSTITUENCY ONLINE**](https://members.parliament.uk/)**}**. I am writing to you today in relation to the [First Do No Harm report](https://www.immdsreview.org.uk/Report.html), published on 8 July 2022 by the Independent Medicines and Medical Devices Safety (IMMDS) review. The review investigated three medicines and medical devices, including the antiepileptic drug, sodium valproate.

Sodium valproate has been prescribed to people with epilepsy since the 1970s, despite the fact that the drug can cause birth defects and learning difficulties in children if taken during pregnancy.

This is something that’s particularly important to me as **{EXPLAIN KEY REASONS AND ANY PERSONAL EXPERIENCES THAT HAVE INFORMED THIS}**.

The report includes important recommendations to address decades of avoidable harm, and ensure that affected families get the help and support they need.

I am particularly disappointed that the government has rejected the recommendation to establish a redress scheme. This is essential for families who have experienced avoidable harm associated with sodium valproate and pregnancy, and to meet the cost of providing additional care and support. Many families face a significant financial burden as a result of this avoidable harm. As highlighted by Baroness Cumberlege, a compensation scheme was established in France, and it is hugely disappointing that a similar scheme has not yet been established in the UK.

As my MP, I am asking you support the work of Epilepsy Action to ensure that the recommendations are implemented in full, and that the government urgently reconsiders their stance on compensating victims.

**I would therefore be very grateful if you could email** [**campaigns@epilepsy.org.uk**](mailto:campaigns@epilepsy.org.uk)**, to express your support for this important issue.**

Please keep me informed of any progress made.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

**{YOUR NAME}**