**Subject: Supporting** **UK Malnutrition Awareness Week 2020**

[Insert home address] *(This is needed for the MPs office to confirm you as a constituent)*

Dear [name of local MP will be inserted],

I am writing to you as your constituent and as a friend of the Malnutrition Task Force to ask you to support UK Malnutrition Awareness Week (UKMAW) by attending a virtual Parliamentary drop-in session taking place on Wednesday 7th October between 1pm - 3pm.

By way of background, the Malnutrition Task Force is united to combat preventable and avoidable malnutrition and dehydration among older people in the UK. In partnership with BAPEN, the Malnutrition Task Force founded UKMAW - an annual campaign that is now in its third year. UKMAW seeks to increase understanding of malnutrition amongst health and social care workers, community groups, the voluntary sector, and the public. UKMAW is an opportunity to mobilise people to take action to identify and prevent malnutrition.

As you may be aware, malnutrition has a significant impact on individuals and the health system as a whole. More than three million people across the UK are either malnourished or at risk of becoming malnourished, with an estimated one million of these people over the age of 65.[[1]](#endnote-2) With the number of people in the UK over the age of 65 projected to grow by 4.75 million by 2035, these numbers are likely to increase significantly.[[2]](#endnote-3) Although malnutrition is a condition that is often associated with extreme poverty, it is actually widespread in the UK, with the cost to the health service of disease related malnutrition being as high as £23.5 billion at the last estimate, which is approximately 15% of the total expenditure on health and social care.[[3]](#endnote-4) It is also reasonable to assume that the coronavirus outbreak will put many more people at risk of malnutrition.

This drop-in event will give attendees the opportunity to speak to experts in nutrition about the ways in which you can help address the challenges posed by malnutrition in your constituency and at a national level.

With the above in mind, I would be thrilled if you were able to attend the drop-in event and pledge your support to tackle malnutrition. Doing so will ensure that malnutrition will receive greater recognition within parliament.

To RSVP to this event, or for any further information, please contact ukmaw@mandfhealth.com.

Kind regards,

[insert name of sender]

1. BAPEN. Introduction to malnutrition. Available at: www.bapen.org.uk/malnutrition-undernutrition/introduction-to-malnutrition?.pdf. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
2. Malnutrition Task Force. State of the Nation. Available at: <https://www.malnutritiontaskforce.org.uk/sites/default/files/2019-09/State%20of%20the%20Nation.pdf> [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
3. BAPEN. Managing malnutrition to improve lives and save money. Available at: www.bapen.org.uk/pdfs/reports/mag/managing-malnutrition.pdf. [↑](#endnote-ref-4)