***When writing to your Member of the Legislative Assembly using this template please ensure you use your full name and contact address. Your MLA must be able to confirm you are a constituent otherwise they are not able to respond. When you get a reply please send a copy to*** ***campaigns@ovarian.org.uk***

<Insert MLA Name>

Parliament Buildings

Ballymiscaw

Stormont

Belfast

BT4 3XX

<Insert date>

Dear <Insert MLA>,

When a woman is diagnosed with ovarian cancer in Northern Ireland, the odds are stacked against her. Ovarian cancer is the biggest gynaecological killer of women in the UK, and Northern Ireland has one of the worst survival rates in Europe. Only 32% of women in Northern Ireland will survive five years beyond their diagnosis. Whether they live in Belfast, Ballymoney or Belcoo, women across Northern Ireland deserve better

Early diagnosis is key to a better chance of surviving the disease. Women diagnosed at stage 1 have a 90% chance of survival but this drops to just 5% when women are diagnosed at stage 4 of the disease. 58% of cases of ovarian cancer are diagnosed too late at stage 3 and 4. Too many Northern Irish women and their families will have anniversaries, birthdays, weddings and first days of school; countless hugs and cups of tea stolen by a late diagnosis of ovarian cancer.

An ovarian cancer audit maps patients’ journeys from diagnosis through treatment using pre-existing data to highlight best practice and identify parts of the country where improvements are needed. Previous clinical audits across the UK have already successfully improved survival rates in lung, bowel, head and neck and oesophageal-gastric cancers. Similar progress is much needed in ovarian cancer. The most recent ovarian cancer audit in Northern Ireland was almost a decade ago in 2010.

The charity Ovarian Cancer Action is calling for an updated Northern Irish national clinical audit of ovarian cancer. Collecting the most recent data will be vital to help identify transform survival rates in Northern Ireland and to reduce inequality across Northern Irish ovarian cancer care. However an audit cannot be funded without a Government in place.

I would be grateful if you could show your support for a new audit ready for when a Government is formed. March is Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month and your support will help stop this disease stealing any more precious moments from Northern Irish women and their families.

Yours sincerely,

Insert your name

Insert contact address