***When writing to your Member of Scottish Parliament using this template please ensure you use your full name and contact address. Your MSP 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 MSP Name>

The Scottish Parliament

Edinburgh

EH99 1SP

<Insert date>

Dear <Insert MSP Name>,

When a woman is diagnosed with ovarian cancer in Scotland, the odds are stacked against her. Ovarian cancer is the biggest gynaecological killer of women in the UK, and Scotland has one of the worst survival rates in Europe. Only 33% of women will survive five years beyond their diagnosis. Whether they live in Dumfries, Durness or Dundee, women across Scotland deserve better.

Early diagnosis is key to a better chance of surviving the disease. Women diagnosed at stage 1 of the disease have a 90% chance of survival but this drops to just 5% when women are diagnosed at stage 4. 58% of cases of ovarian cancer are diagnosed too late at stage 3 and 4. Too many Scottish 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.

In 2016 the Government’s cancer strategy ‘*Beating Cancer: Ambition and Action’,* the Government committed to improve data collection to advance the quality and delivery of care for cancer patients. As a result, the Scottish Government has recently published its first audit of ovarian cancer. This important audit has identified where local Scottish Health Boards are meeting best practice targets and where improvements are still needed.

The charity Ovarian Cancer Action is calling on the Scottish Health Boards to build on this audit and take action on its results. Using these results will be vital to help transform survival rates in Scotland and will be an important step to reduce inequality across Scottish ovarian cancer care.

I would be grateful if you could write to your local health board to ask them how they plan to take action from the results of the audit. March is Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month and your support will help stop this disease stealing any more precious moments from Scottish women and their families.

Yours sincerely,

Insert your name

Insert contact address