[Insert date]

Dear [Name of MP- to find your MP visit: https://members.parliament.uk/members/commons]

I work as a [job title] at [Trust or Hospital] and I’m a member of the Society of Radiographers (SoR).

As you are my MP, I would like to draw your attention [to the strike action I’m taking next week alongside thousands of my fellow members of the SoR across England.]

[to the strike action thousands of my fellow members of the SoR across England are taking next week. While we are not on strike in my trust, the strength of feeling, the pressures and the need for solutions are shared with our colleagues taking action.]

One million people are waiting to see a radiography professional and this number looks set to increase. There’s also pressure on life-saving therapeutic radiography treatment with 40% of cancer patients requiring this as part of their treatment.

My colleagues and I regularly work over and above our contracted hours to care for patients and attempt to reduce waiting times.

But we’re facing a recruitment and retention crisis among radiography professionals. One in 10 radiography professionals are missing from the NHS workforce. So we’re urging politicians like yourself to listen to and act on our concerns to improve our pay and working conditions so we have enough radiography professionals to care for people across England.

These include a fair starting salary, as well as a move to restore pay levels for current staff over several years, from the 2023-24 pay award onwards. Average earnings have risen 55 per cent since 2008; for radiographers, our pay has gone up by less than half that. This would help to reduce pressure on members to take on excessive overtime hours, reduce agency costs and keep radiography professionals within the NHS.

The government consistently refuses to speak to our union about the fair and reasonable steps that can be taken to recruit and retain the radiographers the NHS so desperately needs.

I trust that as my MP you will make representations to ministers regarding the positive changes required to address the recruitment and retention crisis in radiography and provide patients – your constituents – with the health service they need and deserve.