

This letter gives you an idea of what you need to be writing to your MP. It would be best if you wrote the letter again, using your own words – but you could also copy it off and paste it into your own letterhead/ email...

Name MP
Constituency Address

Date:

Dear

PCT Spending on Sexual Health

I would like to bring to your attention the recent report from the Independent Advisory Group on Sexual Health. The report reveals that a significant number of Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) are spending money intended for the improvement in sexual health services to offset some of their financial deficits.

At a time when fewer than 50% of patients are able to get an appointment at a GUM clinic within the 48-hour target, this is a most disappointing and concerning situation.

The Government has made sexual health in England a top six NHS priority for 2006/07. This reflects the urgent need to address the poor state of the nation's sexual health. It allocated extra funds of £300million across England. If these funds are not utilised for their intended destination, the situation is unlikely to improve, other than in the most progressive areas.

Priority funding must continue beyond 2007 in order to achieve the following demanding, but essential Public Service Agreement targets:

- **100% of patients contacting genitourinary medicine (GUM) clinics to be offered an appointment within 48 hours by 2008**
- Reduction in the under-18 conception rate by 50% by 2010
- Decrease in rates of new diagnoses of Gonorrhoea by 2008
- Increase in the percentage of people aged 15-24 accepting Chlamydia screening by 2007.

I therefore am enquiring if you might consider approaching <insert name of PCT(s)>, raising these concerns and to better understand the PCTs' position on sexual health funding.

We would of course also appreciate you raising this issue with the Minister for Public Health, Caroline Flint MP, if you feel it appropriate. One of my colleagues will be in touch shortly to discuss the possibility of this in more detail.

Thank you in advance and kind regards

Yours sincerely,