Dear ***(insert name MP)*** ***(insert date)***

As a ***(chartered physiotherapist/physiotherapy support worker)*** working for the NHS in your constituency, I am writing to request your help regarding concerns about local patient access to rehab services at ***(insert name of Hospital Trust).***

As you may be aware, many physiotherapy rehab services were paused in the pandemic and much dedicated rehab space was reassigned and unfortunately once lost this was not restored. More recently extra beds squeezed into hospitals as part of winter planning have crowded out space for rehab and exacerbated the situation further.

This has created challenging and inadequate conditions for the physiotherapy team at ***(insert name of Trust)***. As a result, your constituents are not getting the rehab services they need and this is impacting on their ability to remain in work and prolonging the negative impact on their physical and mental health.

Last year a survey by the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP) which highlighted the problem and the impact on patients resulted in a commitment from the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State Lord Markham that the government would urge NHS leaders to prioritise the restoration of rehab space. In reality, this commitment amounted only to a short mention in an email bulletin to Trust CEO’s sent by NHS England in May.

No sense of urgency was conveyed, yet six months on a new survey by the CSP of 500 members across 100 different areas has found 96 percent of respondents said that access to rehabilitation space has either stayed the same or worsened.

* pushing up length of hospital stays and contributing to the revolving door of repeat admissions and discharges faced by too many people.
* increasing the likelihood of readmission and disrupting the flow of patients through hospital.

**In *(insert location)* our physiotherapy department is no longer able to provide the rehab that local patients need**, creating further negative consequences for the Trust and wider healthcare system in your constituency. Specifically:

* People with long-term conditions and frailty have deconditioned and deteriorated and will continue to do so without adequate rehab. They are also likely to be re-admitted if not given this rehab while in the acute setting
* Continuing backlog of elective procedures, many of whom need physiotherapy rehab intervention in order to return home
* This situation risks putting additional pressure on emergency services, slows hospital discharge and increases demand on struggling social care services.

**We seek your representation to ask the Hospital leadership to re-instate the gym space/facilities to an adequate rehab environment for patients so that they can receive the care and rehab they need.**

Please contact me if you would like to discuss this further. We would also be happy to welcome you to our Department to meet staff and understand the difference better access to rehab services can make to local patients.

I look forward to hearing from you.

***Insert name, title, workplace and contact details.***