

Message Subject:

Improving diabetes care in Ireland. Join the meeting on 21/9/2022 in Leinster House

Dear (INSERT NAME OF TD)

As a constituent and regular voter in your area and a *relative of a* (DELETE IF N/A)/ **person living with diabetes**, I am writing to ask you to **represent me and my family** at a meeting hosted by Diabetes Ireland and the Cross Parliamentary Group on Diabetes in **the AV Room, Leinster House on Wednesday 21 September at 12 pm**. This meeting, focusing on necessary improvements in diabetes care in Ireland and as outlined in our Pre-Budget Submission 2023, is expected to last for 45 minutes.

It is very important for me to know that you are aware of the ongoing issues and needs of diabetes community in Ireland. Diabetes is a serious global public health issue which has been described by the World Health Organisation as one of the top ten most challenging health problems in the 21st century. In Ireland it affects approx. 300,000 people living with diabetes, and their families. One of the recent studies, supported by the HSE, showed that diabetes is the most prevalent chronic condition among Irish people between 45-74 years of age! While we have no accurate data on the huge cost of managing diabetes, studies have estimated the cost to be somewhere between €700m to €1 billion per year, with about 50% of the cost spent on managing preventable, unnecessary diabetes related health complications and hospitalisation.

(If you wish to highlight any local diabetes service issue or share your personal story, please add it here:

You can delete this blue section if not interested in sharing your personal experience or local service issue).

Currently, we do not have a National Diabetes Strategy and therefore no vision or leadership for effectively supporting people with diabetes. We have no diabetes registry that could help health-services planners and we face significant under-resourcing in all aspects of diabetes care. With increasing prevalence, the cost of managing diabetes is only going to increase and our current services will not be able to cope without significant planning and investment.

As a first step to change it, I would be extremely grateful, if you would attend the meeting **in the AV Room on the 21st September at noon**, to represent all your constituents with diabetes and their families with a view to working together to improve local diabetes services for your voters. At the meeting, people like me who are living with diabetes daily and eminent diabetes healthcare professionals will outline a number of actions that must be done to effectively tackle this issue and we need your help and support to achieve this.

Thank you for your time in considering my request. If you have any questions or require further details – do not hesitate to contact me or Diabetes Ireland directly at info@diabetes.ie. For more information you can visit www.diabetes.ie.

Yours sincerely,

Your Name, Address, Email