*Home Address*

*Address 1*

*Address 2*

*Address 3*

*Postcode*

[*Insert date*]

[Name] [Surname] AM

The National Assembly for Wales,
Cardiff Bay,
Cardiff,
CF99 1NA

Dear Mr/Mrs/Ms [*insert name of AM*]

I am writing to you regarding the future of fertility services in my area.

As you may be aware, there is a post-code lottery for couples seeking fertility treatment on the NHS in England. In Wales, we do not have this problem.

Having said that, as a nation, we are still falling short when it comes to providing the appropriate level of treatment to couples in need.

In 2013, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) updated its clinical guideline on fertility. It reiterated its recommendation that 3 full cycles of IVF treatment should be provided to eligible couples. By ‘full’ cycle, this means the transfer of fresh embryo/s plus the transfer of any frozen embryos that may have been gathered during the harvesting process.

The importance of providing three full cycles of IVF is underpinned by the fact that not all couples yield the same amount of viable embryos for transfer. Some may only yield one. These couples are immediately placed at a disadvantage if the option of a third fresh cycle is not made available to them. Hence NICE’s reiteration of a third fresh cycle in its latest guideline.

I gather that GPs recently took on the responsibility of commissioning fertility services in England. GPs are by definition very knowledgeable on a wide range of medical conditions, however infertility is different in the sense that it is a specialised service that requires specialised knowledge. Wales has recognised this and a centrally commissioned policy of two cycles has been pursued for a few years now by the specialist commissioning body, the Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee (WHSSC).

Wales is also ahead of England in the fact that eligibility for the Service is also set centrally. This means we do not have local health authorities using arbitrary social criteria in order to limit the number of referrals.

On the face of it, the comparison looks positive. However, I would like to know what action is being taken in Wales to increase compliance with the NICE guideline on fertility, as current debates relating to NHS funding offer little comfort to me and others like me in your constituency.

If it is not too much trouble, I also wondered if you could ask some of your own in the Assembly. I believe it would help enormously if this issue were to be brought to the attention of your colleagues and policy makers in the Welsh Government.

[**If it helps, I am more than willing to provide you with further details relating to my own personal experience] – amend/delete as appropriate.**

Thank you for taking the time to consider my concerns. I very much look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,

{Signature}

[Insert name]