*Dear X,*

*I hope you are keeping well in what I am sure is an incredibly busy time for you in the lead-up to the European elections on June 7th.*

*With your candidacy for the elections confirmed, I am contacting you regarding a specific issue Epilepsy Ireland would like to see prioritised within the next European Parliament and is something I also believe should be prioritised.*

*By way of background, Epilepsy Ireland is the national patient organisation supporting and representing people with epilepsy and their families in Ireland. With an estimated 45,000 people living with epilepsy in Ireland, their vision is to achieve a society where no person’s life is limited by epilepsy – something I am very supportive of.* ***(Insert personal connection to epilepsy if you would like)***

*I am writing to you in relation to the Intersectoral Global Action Plan on Epilepsy and Other Neurological conditions (IGAP), which was approved* [***by the World Health Organisation in 2022***](https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240076624)*. The IGAP is a 10-year roadmap to effectively address existing gaps in the diagnosis, treatment, care and public health response to neurological conditions and improve the lives of people with epilepsy and other neurological conditions worldwide.*

*As an EU member state, Ireland voted for and has committed to the implementation of IGAP and therefore, I believe that the Government and state bodies must ensure that the systems are put in place to ensure we meet the targets of the plan, to help improve the lives of the 45,000 people who are living with epilepsy across Ireland.*

*Key priorities of the IGAP include:*

* *To raise the prioritisation of, and strengthen governance for, epilepsy and other neurological disorders.*
* *To provide effective, timely and responsive diagnosis, treatment, and care for all patients.*
* *To implement strategies for promotion and prevention of epilepsy and other neurological disorders.*
* *To foster research and innovation into, and strengthen information systems, for epilepsy and other neurological disorders.*
* *To strengthen the public health approach to epilepsy.*

*Unfortunately, despite being approved in 2022, there has been little national action in implementing or planning to implement the vision of IGAP in Ireland – even though there are very clear targets that are set out in the plan, including:*

* *All countries will have at least one functioning awareness campaign or advocacy programme for neurological disorders by 2031.*
* *The output of global research on neurological disorders doubles by 2031.*
* *By 2031, countries will have increased service coverage for epilepsy by 50% from the baseline coverage in 2021.*
* *80% of countries will have developed or updated their legislation with a view to promoting & protecting the human rights of people with epilepsy by 2031.*

 *Given the lack of action on this at national level, Epilepsy Ireland believe it is vitally important that there is a European-led intervention which places a duty on member states to ensure the targets set out by IGAP are met.*

*Therefore, as a candidate in the forthcoming European Elections, I am writing to you seeking a commitment to support Epilepsy Ireland’s calls for the EU Commission to develop an implementation platform to facilitate the implementation of the World Health Organisation Intersectoral Global Action Plan on Epilepsy and other Neurological Disorders (IGAP) in member states.*

*I hope this is something you will support, given the potential positive impact this plan will have for people with epilepsy – and other neurological conditions – within your constituency and across Ireland.*

*Thank you for your time and attention on this matter and I look forward to hearing from you.*

*Yours sincerely,*