**TEMPLATE LETTER FOR MPs TO SEND THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

The Rt Hon Wes Streeting MP

The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

Department of Health and Social Care

Richmond House

79 Whitehall

London

SW1A 2NS

Date

Dear Secretary of State,

***Better lives for people with Primary Progressive Aphasia and their families***

I am writing on behalf of my constituents, who have expressed deep concern over the lack of specialised services for those living with Primary Progressive Aphasia (PPA), highlighting the challenges they and their loved ones face due to the absence of nationally commissioned services.

Currently, NHS England recognises PPA as a rare form of language-led dementia that requires specialised care, yet services for it remain uncommissioned on a national level. This has created significant barriers for individuals with PPA, who are unable to access the specialised speech and language therapy they and their families need. Given that the specialised service specification mandates that cognitive disorders, including conditions like frontal temporal dementia, should be commissioned as specialised services, it is crucial that PPA receives the same consideration.

The consequences of not having nationally commissioned services are stark:

* **Misdiagnosis**: Without access to specialist speech and language therapy, the risk of incorrect or delayed diagnosis increases, depriving individuals of timely support.
* **Lack of Support**: Families are struggling to cope with the complex communication challenges brought on by PPA, leading to significant emotional strain and the risk of their human rights being compromised under the Mental Capacity Act.
* **Shortfall in Expertise**: Community-based therapists, who may rarely encounter PPA cases, lack the specialised training and resources necessary to provide adequate support, further exacerbating the challenges faced by patients and their families.

Specialised commissioning for PPA would not only ensure accurate and timely diagnoses but also provide access to early interventions, such as speech and language therapy, which is currently the primary form of treatment. Early intervention helps patients and their families understand the condition, develop effective communication strategies, and establish long-term self-management plans. This significantly improves the quality of life for people with PPA, allowing them to maintain their independence and continue engaging in activities that are meaningful to them.

I urge the Government to act swiftly by ensuring that PPA is included as a condition requiring nationally commissioned services. By doing so, you can provide equitable and appropriate care for all individuals with PPA, no matter where they live.

Yours sincerely,