Tell your local parliamentary representative about the importance of occupational therapy

* **Use this template email to promote the profession to your local Member of Parliament and either ask for a meeting or invite them to visit your services.**
* **Health and social care are devolved in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. If you’re a member in these countries, you might want to email your local Assembly Member (AM) in Wales, Member of Scottish Parliament (MSP) or your Member of Legislative Assembly in Northern Ireland (MLA).**
* **Copy and paste the email text below to send to your representative.**

**Add their name, your constituency name and your postcode so your they will know you’re a constituent.**

* **You can find contact details for your local MP, AM, MSP or MLA through the website of your national parliament.**
* **Edit the email before sending with either a request to meet with them or to invite them to visit your services. Before inviting them to visit your services, we recommend discussing this with your management and / or communications team first.**
* **If you’re inviting them to visit your service, you can read our tips on how to host your local representative.**
* **Attach the briefing document PDF to your email.**
* **If you need support or have any questions, please email us at practice.workforce@rcot.co.uk.**

Template email for members to send to your MP, AM, MSP or MLA

Dear [name],

I’m an occupational therapist in [insert constituency name] and I’m reaching out to highlight why occupational therapy is essential for our community. I'd be happy to meet with you in person to discuss this further.

Occupational therapy helps people to do the things they want and have to do. That could mean helping overcome challenges learning at school, going to work, playing sport or simply doing the dishes. Occupations are essential to living. They give our lives meaning, purpose and structure.

I believe prioritising occupational therapy services will greatly benefit residents across our constituency. Occupational therapy is a solution to many of the UK's health and care challenges – it helps relieve pressure on acute services and helps people to get in to work.

We're facing a shortage of occupational therapists, and without support, we risk failing to meet our population's needs. We need to integrate occupational therapy into community settings, including in GP surgeries and schools, to provide help at the right time.

I have attached a copy of a briefing from the Royal College of Occupational Therapists with more information and recommendations for the government for you to consider.

Please edit as appropriate [once completed change all the text to black]:

[I’d welcome a meeting to discuss how you can prioritise occupational therapy and improve our community’s wellbeing].

[I’d be delighted to host you at our occupational therapy service (insert details of service) to see for yourself how important these services are and the difference we make].

Thank you for taking the time to consider this. Your support for occupational therapy would make a significant difference.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes

[Full name]

[Address, including post code]

[Email]

A logo for a therapist

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

[RCOT.co.uk/workforce-strategy](http://www.rcot.co.uk/workforce-strategy)