[Your address]

Paula Sheriff MP

The Old Dewsbury Reporter Building

17 Wellington Road

Dewsbury

WF13 1HQ

paula@paulasherriff.org.uk

[Date]

Dear Paula Sheriff MP

I am writing to ask you, as head of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Women’s Health, to address the alarming gender disparity across several areas of health; pain management, reproductive health, gynaecological conditions, mental health and medical research.

Reports and research have shown a number of alarming problems that urgently need to be addressed:

* Female dementia sufferers receive worse medical treatment than men
* Sexist stereotypes mean women wait longer and are more likely to be misdiagnosed with mental health problems when they present with pain.
* It takes longer for women to be given a hospital referrals.
* Neither gynaecological nor chronic pain conditions, are given adequate funding, or taken seriously enough, despite the fact that each year more than 21,000 women are diagnosed, and 7,700 die of gynaecological cancers.
* UK women are more than twice as likely to die in pregnancy and childbirth than in other developed countries, yet only 2.48% of publicly funded research is devoted to reproductive health and childbirth.
* There has been a steep climb in psychiatric disorders amongst young women, and with deep cuts in social care this is set to worsen.
* Medical research doesn’t properly consider gender differences in brain and body, so women are being treated with medication that could potentially be harmful or insufficient. Studies focus on men, then simply calculate variabilities for female hormones.

[If you wish, add any personal experiences you have that relate to the above]

I would like reassurance that you will bring these issues to parliament’s attention and demand they be taken seriously, to stop women suffering unecessarily.

Best wishes,

[Your name]