***MP Template - Access to Free School Meals for disabled children***

**All of the parts of this letter in bold will need to be changed or deleted so that they are relevant to your situation**

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Dear **{your MP}**

My name is **{First and Last Name}** and I live in your constituency **{Postal address including postcode}.**

I’m contacting you because my child is entitled to Free School meals but cannot **{access or eat}** the meals provided because of **{ his/her /their}** disability. **{Please feel free to provide as much or as little detail as you want about your own circumstances}**

Many disabled children who are not in physical attendance at school due to long-term medical conditions are unable to access Free School Meals.

Additionally, some disabled children who attend school cannot eat the school meals because of dietary requirements and/or sensory processing difficulties.

This means that disabled children are disadvantaged compared to their non-disabled peers. Their parents have the additional financial burden of paying for their child’s school lunch.

Under section 20 of the Equality Act 2010 a duty exists to make reasonable adjustments to a provision, criteria or practice or a physical feature which places a person at a substantial disadvantage due to their disability.

As my MP I would be grateful if you could write to the Minister of State for Schools asking him to update the existing [Free Schools Meals Guidance](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/700139/Free_school_meals_guidance_Apr18.pdf) to explain how local authorities and schools must provide alternative Free School Meals to disabled children who, for whatever reason, cannot access them.

This maybe achieved by the establishment of a term-time supermarket voucher scheme that would allow children who cannot access school meals to still benefit from the Free School Meals scheme.

Please get in touch with Imogen Steele at the disability charity Contact.

imogen.steele@contact.org.uk if you need extra information.

Kind regards,

**{First Name and Last Name}**