Dear [INSERT NAME OF MP]

I made you this gift because I’m worried about the climate and ecological emergency. Climate change and environmental destruction disproportionately impact women and girls. For example, when disasters happen girls are more likely to be taken out of education or married off, lose their land or end up with more care responsibilities. This has been demonstrated all over the world, from floods in Scotland to droughts in India. When people are displaced because of disasters women and girls are more likely to be trafficked and abused. And air pollution is now the 4th leading risk factor for death amongst women worldwide.

I am also writing to ask that you attend a briefing from the Government’s Chief Scientific Adviser, Sir Patrick Vallance, who will likely be briefing MPs this month on current understanding of risks of, and solutions to, the climate and ecological emergency. This briefing was called for by 79 of the UK’s leading climate scientists, led by former Chief Scientific Adviser Sir David King, in an open letter to Greg Hands, Minister of Energy, Clean Growth and Climate Change (1).

In their letter to Mr Hands, the eminent scientists explained that “the crisis is evolving at a rapid pace and it is increasingly difficult for politicians to understand the significance of the latest science that they do not have time to read and digest.” The briefing was also supported by 29 eminent physicians in an open letter to the Prime Minister, published in the BMJ (2). This letter made it clear that “it is essential that the latest scientific evidence on the climate crisis is officially and openly communicated to the cabinet and members of parliament by the government’s chief scientific adviser.”

We saw at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic how calm, rational, evidence-based presentations on complex science were absolutely critical for both lawmakers and the public at a time when rumour and misinformation was rife. This important work led to acceptance of the need for decisive action to protect all of us; to robust, informed debate and to rigorous policymaking. Potentially dreadful outcomes, complex ideas, rumour and misinformation are also prevalent in climate emergency (3), and this important briefing is equally vital.

As one of your constituents, I am deeply concerned about the impact that the climate and ecological emergencies are having, and will continue to have, on me and my family. The need for detailed, impartial, robust information to be regularly shared with MPs so that you are properly informed seems obvious.

I understand that the briefing will likely take place in Portcullis House and that the date and time will be announced shortly. Please let me know that you will be attending.

This gift is a heart to wear on your sleeve, to show that you care about these things too. The green stands for the world we are part of, and the purple and green together stand for women and girls. If you would like to wear it, please go ahead. It was made with love.

Yours,

[Insert name and address to show that you are a constituent]

Member, Hearts on our Sleeves

[www.heartsonoursleeves.net](http://www.heartsonoursleeves.net)

References:
1. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Zac5SzRSbFQoHC9TJnhO0enhqgD-7zS6/view>
2: <https://www.bmj.com/content/377/bmj.o987>
3: <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/climate-denial-spreads-on-facebook-as-scientists-face-restrictions/>