**Template email**

Dear \_\_\_\_,

As a constituent concerned about the problem of microfibers and as a local WI member, I am writing to ask you to join the newly-formed All-Party Parliamentary Group on Microplastics.

Since 2017, the Women’s Institute has been campaigning to better understand the scale of the microplastic problem through the ‘End Plastic Soup’ campaign.

A major source of microplastic pollution is from microplastic fibres. These are particles smaller than 5mm that are shed from synthetic clothing when laundered. They are classed as the third largest primary source of microplastic pollution after vehicle tyre dust and plastic pellet spills.

Due to their size, they are too small to be caught by washing machine filters and end up in the sewage system where they are either caught or remain in sewage sludge or are released into the marine environment, damaging marine species and entering into the human food chain.

The NFWI has been pushing for the development of solutions to the microplastic problem, particularly from clothes. The WI’s End Plastic Soup campaign builds on our pre-existing fast fashion and climate change campaigns. To find out more about the NFWI’s End Plastic Soup campaign, you can visit the [NFWI’s website](https://www.thewi.org.uk/campaigns/key-and-current-campaigns/end-plastic-soup), or read the NFWI’s [In a Spin report](https://www.thewi.org.uk/campaigns/key-and-current-campaigns/end-plastic-soup)- which has previously been referenced by the Environmental Audit Committee.

The APPG on Microplastics will aim to promote awareness of microfibre plastics and their harmful effects on the environment to consumers and will work to ensure collaboration across various sectors to reduce the effects of microfibers on the environment.

The inaugural meeting of the APPG on Microplastics will be on the **14th of September at 3:30 pm**, and will be conducted virtually. The meeting will be chaired by Alberto Costa MP, Member of Parliament for South Leicestershire, and the National Federation of Women’s Institutes will be acting as the APPG’s secretariat.

To register your interest in attending, or to stand as a Vice-Chair or APPG Officer, please contact f.thomas@nfwi.org.uk.

As your constituent, I would be interested to know if you will be attending this meeting.

With best wishes,