

HOW TO ENGAGE YOUR MP



WHAT SHOULD YOU BE IN TOUCH WITH YOUR MP ABOUT?

MPS ARE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT WHO ARE ELECTED INTO OFFICE EVERY FOUR YEARS. THEIR ROLE IS TO REPRESENT THEIR CONSTITUENTS ON ISSUES THAT AFFECT THE COUNTRY NATIONALLY; I.E. WITH BREXIT NEGOTIATIONS, IMMIGRATION LAW AND ISSUES OF TUITION FEES. THEY ARE ENTITLED TO YOU AS YOUR CONSTITUENTS TO REPRESENT YOUR CONCERNS WITH REGARDS TO ISSUES THAT THEY CAN DEBATE AT A NATIONAL LEVEL.

FOR EXAMPLE; ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT THE STATE OF YOUR LOCAL HOSPITAL? THIS WOULD BE RELEVANT AS THIS IS DIRECTLY LINKED TO NHS FUNDING. OR ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT IMMIGRATION DETENTION CENTRES? THIS IS AGAIN IS RELEVANT. WOULD YOU WRITE TO YOUR MP ABOUT A POTHOLE ON YORU ROAD? MAYBE NOT! SO THE TOPICS YOU SHOULD BE GETTING IN TOUCH WITH YOUR MP MUST BE APPLICABLE TO NATIONAL POLITICS.

TOP TIPS

BE CONCISE. REMEMBER MPS GET HUNDREDS OF EMAILS EVERY DAY. TRY TO BE AS CLEAR AS POSSIBLE, USE DIRECT AND SIMPLE LANGUAGE. SEPARATE WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR MP TO DO IN PARLIAMENT, AND WHAT LONG TERM OUTCOMES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE.



HOW TO DRAFT A TEMPLATE LETTER

WRITING A LETTER TO YOUR MP IS USUALLY THE FIRST STEP TO CATCHING AN THEIR ATTENTION. ARE YOU STUCK ON THE FORMAT AND STYLE OF HOW YOU SHOULD BE WRITING TO THEM? DON'T WORRY! PLEASE SEE THIS EXAMPLE OF A LETTER TO AN MP FROM RIGHT TO REMAIN. THIS EXAMPLE USES THE ISSUE OF IMMIGRATION DETENTION WHICH IS ENTIRELY RELEVANT TO OUR PEOPLE NOT NUMBERS CAMPAIGN, SO PLEASE FEEL FREE TO USE IT. IF YOU AREN'T WRITING ABOUT DETENTION, MAKE SURE YOU USE A SIMILAR STRUCTURE, STYLE AND DEMAND WHEN WRITING TO YOUR MP.

HOW TO LOBBY YOUR MP

LOBBYING YOUR MP IS USEFUL IN ANY FORM OF CAMPAIGNING. STAR (STUDENT ACTION FOR REFUGEES) HAVE WRITTEN THIS BRILLIANT SET OF INSTRUCTIONS WHICH LET YOU KNOW HOW TO SET UP MEETINGS WITH MPS, HOW TO WRITE TO THEM AND ALL ABOUT PARLIAMENTARY PROCESSES.

REMEMBER- MP'S ARE THERE TO SERVE YOU WHATEVER POLITICAL PARTY THEY REPRESENT. MAKE SURE YOU LOBBY THEM AS A KEY DEMOCRATIC AVENUE FOR ANY CAMPAIGN OR CAUSE THAT IS OF IMPORTANCE TO YOU OR YOUR COMMUNITY