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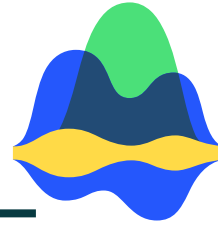
# **HOW TO WRITE TO YOUR MP AND REQUEST TO MEET THEM**



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## Introduction

Everyone has the right to go and speak to their MP, regardless of whether you voted for them or not. And whilst the idea of speaking to your MP might seem daunting, it is your MP's job to listen to you as one of their constituents, and with so many new MP's, they're keen to meet you!

That's why we're asking if you can talk to your MP, about the climate and nature things that mean the most to you. Maybe it's grassroots sports, maybe it's improving public transport, maybe it's wanting to see more space for wildlife—we just want you to let them know.

Doing so will show our MPs that you want them to champion these issues and to see a lasting legacy of positive action.

Please get in touch with any questions you have at: [info@hftf.org.uk](mailto:info@hftf.org.uk).

The first step to meeting with your MP is to write to them. You can find your MP and their contact details on the [Find Your MP](#) website.

If you are not sure if your ask or topic is best suited to your MP or another politician such as a Member of Scottish Parliament or Senedd, you can find out more [here](#).

## Make your letter stand out

Make it local and personable. Reference things around your area and why they matter to you. Include your address to let them know that you're from their area, and if possible, try to show you know them—reference something they've done before in the past, and be positive and call on them to be a strong leader.

A good approach is to find your area of 'Common Ground' with your MP, where your own interests or values overlap with your MPs.

Common Ground allows you to start a conversation by discussing where you agree. This is much stronger than starting with disagreements, as it sets a tone of working together, which then allows you to move onto topics where you might have differing opinions without risking conversation breakdown.





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## Why we're meeting with MPs

It's helpful when you write to keep in mind the reasons we are reaching out to our MPs and the messaging that will help motivate MPs to take action. Communities across the UK are already taking action for a greener and fairer society - reducing local impacts caused by climate change, cleaning up air, creating warmer homes, having more sustainable food, caring for local nature and improving wellbeing. MPs championing and supporting this is needed to make more action possible and accessible. They can play a climate leadership role on the national and international stage.

### Leadership and legacy

This cohort of MPs is the last parliament to be able to take action towards 2030 and are therefore our last defence. We are reaching tipping points. If we don't show leadership on urgent action at the scale needed, it will be too late for planet and people. So you could say *'You have a chance to make leadership on climate and nature your legacy'* or *'I want [your constituency] to be at the heart of the national environmental debate'*.

### Fairness

We need to make sure we respond in a way that is fair and ensures that everyone can afford a healthy future for our communities and our planet. So for example, *'We are all being affected by climate change now but our constituency has been affected by a lack of good jobs for decades. You can help bring the green jobs our constituency needs in this parliament and make leadership on climate change and poverty your legacy from this parliament'*.

### Climate, nature and wellbeing

Action on climate change and nature loss brings public health benefits that address growing health inequalities and save the cost to families and the public purse of avoidable poor health. It can be helpful to frame things positively, like *'Nature and green spaces have helped my physical health and wider wellbeing and sense of community'* or *'we know that action to keep draughty homes like mine warmer improves health and wellbeing'*.





## Preparing your letter

### Where to research:

- They Work For You: find a summary of your MPs voting record (this is mainly useful for MPs who have not just joined parliament).
- Hansard: a record of everything ever said in parliament—try searching the name of your MP and keywords relating to your topic to see any contributions they've made.
- Your MP's website/campaign website
- Party manifestos
- The Local Intelligence Hub: find key information about your constituency.
- Peer networks: ask others who live locally to you.
- Other: Wikipedia, your MP's social media, youtube (check out their maiden speech to find out why they wanted to become an MP!), Local Press etc.

### Choosing a focus area for your meeting:

Whilst you don't have to be an expert in the area you choose, it's good to do some research and have a clear ask you want to achieve from the meeting.

Below are some suggested topics, but feel free to choose your own!

- Clean Air initiatives
- Renewable energy (and green jobs and retraining programme)
- Oil and Gas Licensing
- Home Insulation and Retrofitting
- Climate-Friendly Agriculture
- House Building and Planning
- Public Transport Reforms
- Protecting our waterways
- Supporting global south countries to mitigate negative impacts of climate change

### When researching, look out for:

- Anything they've previously said or done on the topic you wish to raise, including any objections they might have voiced.
- Their motivations for becoming an MP.
- Potential areas for Common Grounds.





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## Our 5 step approach to writing to your MP

1. Briefly introduce yourself, any relevant details (such as if you've met this politician before), and the main topic you want to discuss. You could also take this opportunity to congratulate them on their success in the General Election.
2. Politicians appreciate their work and commitment to the local area being recognised, so you could thank them for work they have done on a particular issue.
3. Highlight the main points you want to make, this will be received best if presented as 2-3 short points with their backgrounds, key facts, and why it should be important to your MP and the local area.
4. Invite your MP to meet with you or your group on a date that suits you. It's a good idea to note this request in bold in order to draw attention to it. You can see the example below for how to phrase this section. If you have any accessibility requirements for the meeting, this would be a good place to mention them. Feel free to also specify a place you would like to meet them, or to leave it open if you are flexible.
5. Remember to thank the politician and to sign off with your name and area of residence including your postcode (MPs and other politicians will only work with those in their local area/constituency).

On the next page we've included a template letter which you can use, and on the following page we've added an example letter.





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Dear **{Include your MP's name}**

Firstly, I would like to congratulate you on your successful campaign to become our member of parliament for **{insert constituency name}**. I hope that you are adjusting well to your new role and are enjoying meeting your new colleagues and getting stuck into being an MP. **{If you know your MP has already done good work, or spoken about tackling climate or restoring nature, this is your space to celebrate it!}**

I am one of your many constituents who are united in wanting to see action on climate and nature. The recent election has shown that ordinary people from all walks of life want their MPs to champion and support solutions for tackling climate and restoring nature.

**{Here is a space to add in the issue you're passionate about. If you have any statistics, or any testimonies of how it is affecting you or your community, you can add it here.}**

I would like to meet to discuss how we can best work together to see real action and to help realise a better, fairer future than the one we currently face. This is why I would like to ask you to meet me to discuss **{your issue}**. I would be happy to meet with you at your constituency office or another place of your choosing, where I would love to talk to you more about what we are facing, and how we can fix it, together. **{If you have any accessibility requirements, ask them to confirm the meeting space can accommodate}**.

Should my suggested date not work for you I would be equally happy to meet at another time, ideally just before that date.

Finally, I want to thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I am looking forward to hearing from you and hopefully meeting with you soon.

Best wishes,

**{Insert your name}**

**{Insert your address including postcode - MPs only respond to their constituents, so it's really important you add this!}**





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Dear Farida Khan MP,

Firstly, I would like to congratulate you on your successful campaign to become our member of parliament for Wittering South. I hope that you are adjusting well to your new role and are enjoying getting stuck into being an MP. I was especially pleased to hear your comments about centering our shared natural world in all government decisions during the campaign, and look forward to seeing you take this forward into parliament.

As I'm sure you're aware, fuel poverty is a big issue in our community, a condition shared by roughly 22% of our constituents. Not only does this increase other inequalities such as health, this also has an outsized effect on our carbon emissions, as an excessive amount of gas is burnt to heat our leaky inefficient homes.

The cost-of-heating crisis requires an ambitious, emergency government plan to roll out a rapid, street-by-street insulation programme, co-ordinated by councils. However, I'm concerned, now that Labour has reduced the £28bn pledge for climate, that this ambition won't be matched financially. I was heartened to see your previous comments on the need to do something about the dire state of our nation's insulation, and it is for this reason that I felt it would be a good idea to reach out to you.

People across the UK are planning to meet their MPs to discuss how they can best work together to see real action and leadership on the climate and nature crises. This is why **I would like to ask you to meet me to discuss Labour's Warm Homes Plan in 3 weeks time**. I would be happy to meet with you at your constituency office or our local community garden where I would love to show you some of the work we have been doing to demonstrate how people can retrofit their homes. Please note that I use a wheelchair so if we are to meet at your constituency office can you confirm that there is wheelchair friendly access.

Should my suggested date not work for you I would be equally happy to meet at another time, ideally just before that date.

Finally, I want to thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I am looking forward to hearing from you and hopefully meeting with you soon.

Best wishes,

Angela Jones

{Address including postcode}

