



## Campaigning toolkit

### Meeting with members of the Senedd (Welsh Parliament)

Organising a meeting with your Members of the Senedd (MS's) is one of the most effective ways of communicating your campaign message, and helps in persuading those with decision making power to change things.





You can find out who your Senedd Members are here: <https://senedd.wales/find-a-member-of-the-senedd/>



You will always be represented by one MS for your local constituency and four MS's representing a larger region. Your constituency MS may be best to approach first, unless you think a regional MS will be more supportive or influential.



Contact your MS's office to arrange an appointment or go to their drop-in surgery. Drop-in surgeries are opportunities for constituents to voice their concerns and are often advertised in local papers and in libraries.



Please let our Public Affairs Adviser for Wales know your meeting arrangements by emailing [campaigns@mndassociation.org](mailto:campaigns@mndassociation.org). We can help you to prepare, and knowing that a meeting has taken place will inform future contact with that MS. We'll be happy to help.



Prepare what you are going to say, and be clear what action you are hoping the MS will take after you meet them, eg attend/speak at a local event, take action on a campaign, speak/write to other local decision makers or media etc.



It is useful to write down your key points. Make sure you have the facts to hand, eg how many people within your area are living with motor neurone disease (MND).



Ahead of the meeting you may want to connect with your local branch/group to better understand what issues are affecting people with MND locally. A conversation with the local branch/group or Association visitor (AV) can also provide further local examples and knowledge.



Keep focused during the meeting on the campaign issues and why they are so important – if you feel comfortable doing so, share your personal experiences; these are compelling and support your ask.



At the end of the meeting, confirm the key action points that have been agreed and write them down. Ask your MS if they would be happy for you to take a photo together, which you can post on social media after the meeting to promote that you have met with them. Thank them for their time and let them know that you'll follow up in writing.



After the meeting, follow-up with an email confirming what was agreed, specifying the date, time and names of attendees.



Once you have made initial contact with your MS, think of ways to keep your campaigning in their minds. Send updates of successes you and, if applicable, your local branch/group has had. If you write an article, send them a copy. Invite them to events being organised by your branch/group, and ask them to meet with people living with MND, their families and carers at your support meetings.

## TOP TIPS

Be aware of any particular role your MS may have, eg a position in the Welsh Government or being an opposition spokesperson, and what their area of responsibility is.