mnda
motor neurone disease
association

Campaigning toolkit

Meeting with Members of Parliament (MPs)

Organising a meeting with your MP is one of the most effective ways of communicating your campaign message, and helps in persuading those with decision making power to change things.

mnda
motor neurone disease
association

Find out who your Member of Parliament (MP) is by typing your postcode into **www.writetothem.com**

Contact your MP’s office to arrange an appointment or go to their drop-in surgery. Drop-in surgeries are opportunities for constituents (the people MPs are elected to represent within designated geographical areas) to discuss their concerns. They are advertised on MP’s websites, in local papers and in libraries.

Please let the campaigns team **campaigns@mndassociation.org** and your Regional Care Development Adviser (RCDA) know your meeting arrangements. We can help you to prepare, and knowing that a meeting has taken place will inform future contact with that MP. If in doubt as to who your regional team are, please visit our website: **www.mndassociation.org/staff-contacts**

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

Have your key points and facts to hand. The campaigns team will be able to provide statistics on the number of people living with motor neurone disease (MND) in your area: **campaigns@mndassociation.org**.
A conversation with your RCDA can also provide further local examples and knowledge.

During the meeting stay focused on the campaign issues – if you feel comfortable to do so, share your personal story and experiences; these are compelling, and provide evidence to support your ask.

At the meeting close, thank your MP for their time, confirm and write down agreed action points. Send a follow up email with these details.

Once you have made initial contact with your MP, think of ways to keep your campaigning in their minds. Send updates of your successes and, if applicable, those of your local branch/group. Invite them to events/meetings being organised by your branch/group, and facilitate discussion between them and people living with MND, their families and carers.

TOP TIPS

- Be aware of any role, or office, your MP may hold, eg a position in the Cabinet or Shadow Cabinet, and what their brief/ area of responsibility is. Your MP may have a role as a PPS (Parliamentary Private Secretary) designated by a Senior Minister in Government, or Shadow Minister to act as a point of contact with MPs.
- Your MP may be involved with the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on MND. This is a cross-party group of MPs and Peers that aims to increase awareness and understanding of MND amongst parliamentarians, and campaign for better access to high quality services for those affected by the disease. If your MP is not a member, why not encourage them to join? **www.mndassociation.org/get-involved/campaigning-influencing/all-party-parliamentary-group-appg-on-mnd**

mnda
motor neurone disease
association

MND Association PO Box 246 Northampton NN1 2PR
Telephone: 01604 250505 Email: campaigns@mndassociation.org
www.mndassociation.org
@mndcampaigns /mndcampaigns