



mnda

motor neurone disease  
association

## Campaigning toolkit

### Meeting with members of the Northern Ireland Assembly

Organising a meeting with your Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) 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 Assembly members are by typing your postcode into the website [www.writetothem.com](http://www.writetothem.com) or by going to <http://aims.niassembly.gov.uk/default.aspx>



You will be represented by six MLAs for your local constituency. Depending on the issue, you may wish to approach all of them, or prioritise the more supportive or influential members.



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



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



Prepare what you are going to say, and be clear what action you are hoping the MLA 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 in your area are living with MND. You can get these statistics from [campaigns@mndassociation.org](mailto:campaigns@mndassociation.org) - your RCDA 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. 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 MLA, think of ways to keep your campaigning in their minds. Send updates of successes you and, if applicable, the Northern Ireland branch have had. If you write an article, send them a copy. Invite them to events being organised by the Northern Ireland branch, and ask them to meet with people living with MND, their families and carers at support meetings.

## TOP TIPS

Be aware of any particular role your MLA may have, eg a position in the Northern Ireland Executive and what their area of responsibility is.