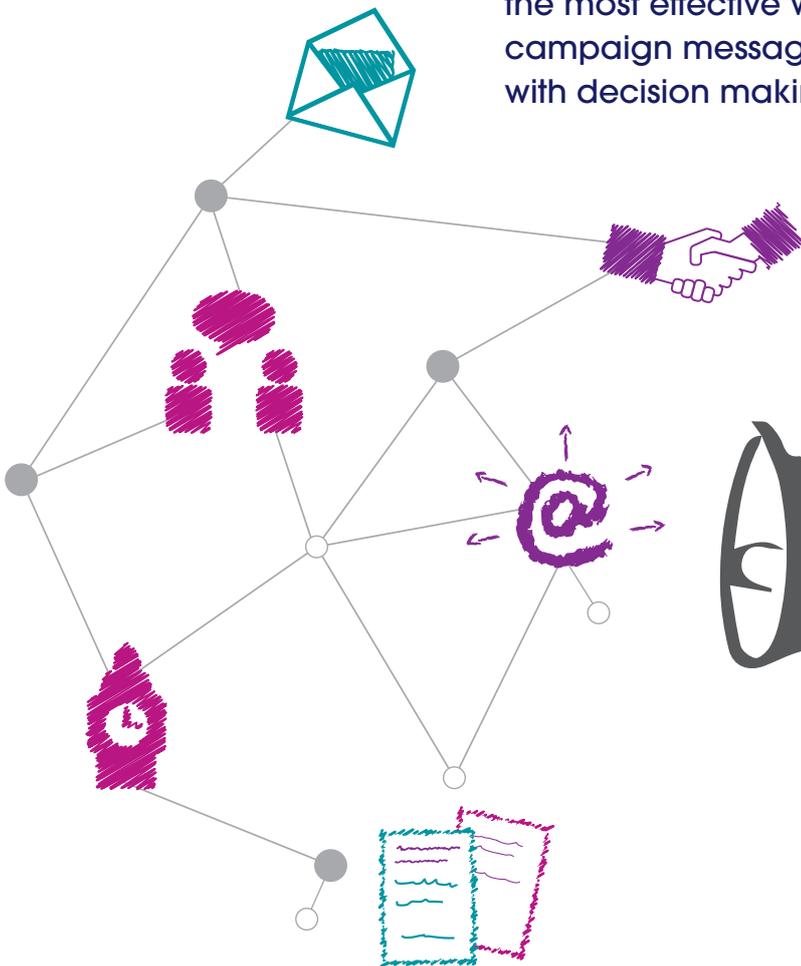




Campaigning toolkit

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.





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Find out who your Member of Parliament (MP) is here: <https://members.parliament.uk/FindYourMP>



Contact your MP's office and remember to include your postcode to let them know you are a constituent, 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 recent years in part due to the pandemic, but also security concerns, some MP surgeries have been taking place online.



Please let the team know if you are successful in securing a meeting with your MP by emailing campaigns@mndassociation.org. We can help you to prepare, and knowing that a meeting has taken place will inform future contact with that MP. We'll be happy to help.



Prepare what you are going to say at the meeting, don't be afraid to take some notes to prompt you. Go into the meeting with a clear idea of 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.



A conversation with the local branch/group or Association visitor (AV) 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. Ask your MP 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. 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

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MND Association

Francis Crick House, 6 Summerhouse Road, Moulton Park, Northampton NN3 6BJ. UK
Telephone: 01604 250505 Email: campaigns@mndassociation.org

www.mndassociation.org



@mndcampaigns



/mndcampaigns

Reg. Charity No. 294354

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