



Situations you might encounter when arranging to meet with or meeting with your MP and some tips on what to do

You can't get them to agree to meet with you in the first place.

MPs are very busy and sometimes it will take some tenacity to get a face to face meeting with them. But be persistent! There are other ways to get them to hear you, it's important to not give up. There are a few ideas in your handout on effective engagement with an MP, but here are some that might work best in this situation.

- **Stop by a surgery instead**
 - Many MPs hold weekly surgeries at different locations around their constituency. Find your MP's website and look at any of those published dates, or ring their office to inquire about dates and locations
- **Write a letter to the editor of your local paper**
 - Local politicians read their local paper and know that their constituents do too. Why not write a letter to the editor about the topic of concern, it's impact and in the letter explain how the MP appears not to be engaged in local issues as they have not accepted a meeting despite numerous attempts over X weeks/months.
- **Keep trying**
 - Write, phone the office, tweet the MP and keep asking for a moment of their time. Perhaps offer a photo opportunity outside the surgery or at another place of interest.

Your MP doesn't agree with you

In your first meeting with your MP, it is unlikely you will be able to change their mind on every issue. Your time might be better spent looking at where you can work together. Start with small steps and build each other's trust. As the relationship develops over time, you can see what you can do to change their mind in the longer term.

Your MP starts to tell you about something very different to the topic you want to discuss or continues to try and change the subject

Acknowledge what they are saying, but politely explain you are aware of the short time you have with them so would like to focus on the issue you came to discuss. For example, Your Conservative MP starts saying how the Government has invested £Xbn in cycling over the last five years more than previous governments. A possible response is to acknowledge this, but then ask how much does this mean in terms of investment for their constituency and why there has been no change?