

A step-by-step guide to lobbying your MP

“So what’s the best way to persuade an MP to support your cause? It’s simple. When I get an invite to visit the local branch of an organisation, I will always go...When a local constituent calls me asking for a meeting, to talk about his or her involvement in her charity, I will always do it.”

Robert Halfron MP (Cons. Harlow)



1. Why is SPUC holding a constituency-based mass lobby of MPs?

There are two urgent issues which we would like you to raise with your MP:

- **The dangerous DIY abortion policy** which means that women can get abortion pills through the post to carry out their abortion at home. We must fight back against this dreadful policy, as well as the ever present threat of abortion being decriminalised completely.
- **The threat of a bill to legalise assisted suicide** during this Parliament. Over 200 MPs entered Parliament since the last vote on assisted suicide in 2015. With pro-assisted suicide groups piling pressure on the Government, it is vital that all MPs are lobbied on this issue.

2. When does SPUC's mass constituency-based lobby take place?

Friday 16 July 2021 **or** Saturday 17 July 2021. (If you cannot do these dates, please do the nearest possible date).

3. Where is SPUC's mass lobby taking place?

This mass lobby is taking place in **constituencies**. **We are not asking you to come to London to lobby your MP. Instead we are asking you to arrange to meet your MP** at his/her office in the constituency.

4. What is a mass lobby of MPs?

A mass lobby of MPs is a co-ordinated event where people from across the country lobby their Member of Parliament about a particular issue (in this case, DIY abortion and assisted suicide). It is one of the most effective means of lobbying.

5. What exactly is "lobbying"?

It is simply explaining your views to your MP and asking him/her to support them. We would like you to ask your MP to do the following:

- Lobby the Secretary of State for Health to end DIY abortion.
- To state whether he/she will vote against assisted suicide.

6. Who should take part in the mass lobby?

Everyone who wants to end DIY abortion and ensure that assisted suicide is not made legal can take part. We hope that people from every constituency will participate, so that every MP can be lobbied.

Each person should lobby his or her own MP. We will try to put you in touch with other people in your constituency who contact SPUC wishing to lobby your MP too.

7. Who is my MP?

If you received this briefing by post, the covering letter will tell you who your MP is and how he/she has voted on pro-life issues.

You can also find out who your MP is by going to <https://members.parliament.uk/members/commons> and inputting your postcode. You can contact us for more information about your MP's voting record.

8. How do I contact my MP?

You can write to your MP at: House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA. Or you can write to your MP at his or her constituency office. Or you may want to email your MP. You can find his/her constituency address and email address online at: <https://members.parliament.uk/members/commons>

Write a simple letter/email asking for an appointment at the constituency office on either Friday 16 July or Saturday 17 July. Let your MP know that you would like to talk to him/her about abortion and assisted suicide. Tell your MP that this is part of a mass lobby of MPs.

9. Should I go with others to meet my MP?

If possible, go to meet your MP with at least one other person. Ask your MP how many people can be accommodated at the meeting. There may be several people in your constituency who want to lobby your MP. We will put you in touch with other people in your constituency who also want to lobby your MP.

(At the time of writing, there are not expected to be any pandemic based restrictions on meetings by July 2021. We will do our best to update you with any changes, but please keep abreast of Government guidance, and respect any restrictions that your MP may have on numbers.)

10. I've contacted my MP. What do I do now?

When you have an appointment with your MP, please use the RED form enclosed to let us know the details of your meeting. Or you can email SPUC at: **lobby@spuc.org.uk**. You can also telephone us to let us know the details of your meeting by calling Katherine Hampton on: 01892 542616

We will endeavour wherever possible to put you in touch with others in your constituency who want to lobby your MP also.

11. Do I have a right to lobby my MP?

You have a right to request an appointment to see your MP. Every MP should agree to meet with their constituents as far as their commitments allow.

12. What if my MP cannot meet me for some reason?

We are lobbying to defend the lives of unborn babies and the mental and physical health of women in the face of grave threats. While treating MPs very courteously we must impress on them that we expect them to make time to listen to our concerns. If your MP cannot see you on either Friday 16 July or Saturday 17 July, please ask for the earliest possible appointment after that date – or maybe one earlier in the month.

13. What if my MP wants me to write instead?

Tell your MP that you want to lobby him/her in the time-honoured Parliamentary tradition. Obviously if it is impossible to meet the MP, then it is good to express your concerns in writing.

14. I already know what my MP thinks about abortion. Is there any need to lobby him/her?

Yes. Whether your MP supports the pro-life cause, is opposed to the pro-life position or is undecided, it is important that you lobby him/her.

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Also there are a number of new MPs since the 2019 General Election, who will not have had meetings with pro-life constituents. There are even more MPs who have never voted on assisted suicide, who need to be lobbied on the issue. Above all every MP needs to be made aware that there are people in his/her constituency who care about the plight of unborn babies and their mothers, and about the threat of assisted suicide to vulnerable people.

In addition, some MPs support the current abortion law but would not like to see abortion decriminalised, or are uncomfortable with DIY abortion. It is vital that all MPs, whatever their ideological views, are given the full facts about these issues.

15. What should I ask my MP?

During the discussion with your MP, please make sure that you ask:

- Will your MP lobby the Secretary of State for Health to end dangerous DIY abortion?
- Will your MP vote against legalising assisted suicide?

16. Where can I get more information about DIY abortion and assisted suicide?

Please see the briefing on DIY abortion and assisted suicide enclosed with these guidelines. You can order copies of this briefing when you return your reply form to us. Or you can order copies by telephoning us on 020 7091 7091. You can also order a copy online or download a copy at: www.spuc.org.uk

17. What do I do after I have lobbied my MP?

Please use the enclosed BLUE feedback form to give us a report on the meeting with your MP. The report does not have to be long or detailed, but every piece of information is very valuable to us at SPUC. When you have completed your report please post it to SPUC as soon as possible. Thank you.

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