Get involved

Contact your MP

If you are unsure how to contact your MP, or what issues to raise, then this guide is for you.
There has never been a better time to contact your MP. This is the most important Parliament in a generation for the countryside as MPs have the task of helping to deliver a Brexit that works for rural communities, and establishing new policies in agriculture, fisheries, and the environment. There are also on-going challenges to hunting, shooting, and fishing, and the rural way of life. So now is the time to make your voice heard.

MPs are your representatives in Westminster. Contacting your local MP is a great way to raise issues that matter to you and your community.
How do I email or write to my MP?

You can find your local MP and their contact details by going to www.parliament.uk and using the postcode search.

Your local MP represents the area where you live and are registered to vote, known as a constituency. You do not have to be registered to vote to contact your local MP, but you must have an address in the constituency.

Most MPs will have a constituency office and an office in Westminster, and can be contacted at either one. If you are in any doubt, all MPs can be contacted in Westminster using the following template address:

NAME MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Parliamentary rules mean that MPs are only able to act on behalf of their own constituents so make sure you include your full name, address and postcode in any letter or email. As a constituent, you should expect to receive a response to your correspondence.

Contact the Countryside Alliance political team if you are in any doubt about who your MP is or how to contact them.
How do I arrange a meeting with my MP?

The best way to make an impact is to arrange a meeting to see your MP as this shows that you are passionate about the issues you wish to raise.

You can make arrangements to see your MP either in a specially arranged meeting or by attending the MP’s “surgery” which gives constituents the chance to meet their MP and discuss matters of interest. MPs surgeries are held in the constituency and usually take place on a Friday or over the weekend. The best way to find out about your MP’s surgery arrangements is to contact the constituency office or look on the MP’s website. You can also telephone the MP’s office in Westminster to find out more information, phone the House of Commons switchboard on 020 7219 3000 and ask for your MP by name.

When you arrange a meeting to see your MP, you are likely to be asked for the following information:

- Your full postal address and postcode to make sure you are a constituent
- Whether you are planning to bring anyone else with you to the meeting
- The issues you would like to raise

Fair, balanced, and thoughtful conversations will keep the door to your MP’s office open even if you do not find common ground at this particular meeting. Offer to follow up with any relevant information that might be useful.
What issues should I raise with my MP?
The best issues to raise are ones which you are passionate about, and have an impact on you personally. This could be anything from how your local hunt or shoot got on this season and any problems you faced, difficulties accessing high speed broadband, or concerns about a local bank branch closing. If it affects you and your community then your MP should hear about it.

We have suggested some ideas below:

**Hunting**

**Saboteurs in face coverings**
Violence and intimidation have no place in lawful protest. Let your MP know if your local hunt has been disrupted by saboteurs this season, and ask the MP to raise your concerns with the local police.

**Private prosecutions**
Everyone has the right to bring a private prosecution to court but money from charitable organisations and other groups should not be wasted prosecuting hunts or farmers where there is no public interest or where the Crown Prosecution Service is able to act. Ask your MP to take this matter up with the Government and the Charity Commission.

**Hunting Act 2004**
Invite your MP to visit a local kennels or attend a puppy show to find out more about hunting, and why the Hunting Act is bad law passed for the wrong reasons.

**Online bullying**
Social media must not be a safe haven for abuse or threatening behaviour. Let your MP know if you, or your hunt, have been subject to online abuse, particularly if this includes criminal behaviour such as physical threats, or attempts to sabotage businesses associated with your local hunt.
Shooting

Firearms licensing
Let your MP know if you have had difficulty with a firearms licence application or renewal recently. Ask the MP to support the Countryside Alliance campaign for a fair and consistent approach to the firearms licensing medical procedures, and ask them to raise your concerns with the Government.

Lead ammunition
Lead ammunition is vital for those who shoot but there are continued attempts in Europe and the UK to introduce further restrictions on this. Ask your MP to help resist any unscientific attempts to change the existing restrictions on lead shot.

Shoot disruption
There is increasing disruption of shoots by saboteurs, either vandalising release pens or disrupting shoot days. Criminal damage and trespass should not be tolerated by any rural business so it is important that you let your MP know if your shoot has been affected. Invite the MP to visit the shoot to see how you have been affected.

Brexit
Trade and travel with countries within the EU are important for many shoots and associated businesses. Ask your MP to help ensure that these opportunities are continued and developed as part of our new relationship with the EU.
Angling

Salmon fishing
The Environment Agency is considering the introduction of a mandatory catch and release policy for rivers with the lowest salmon stocks in England and the Border Esk, along with other measures. Invite your MP to visit your local fishing club or syndicate to discuss salmon stocks in your local rivers, and what policies you would like to see the Government adopt.

Rod licence
The rod licence raised £21 million last year. Let your MP know the importance of this money for helping to protect and enhance fish stocks as well as introducing people to fishing. Ask your MP to help ensure that this money continues to be ring-fenced by the Government for use by the Environment Agency.

Water quality
Many anglers have first-hand experience of the damage caused to lakes and rivers by disregarding water quality regulations and abusing abstraction licences. Ask your MP to support closer monitoring of water companies in regard to their environmental obligations.

Engagement
As well as fishing being a hobby and a sport, it is also a fantastic educational and therapeutic activity. Make your MP aware of the benefits of fishing, and ask them to support increased participation through funding of projects in your local area.
Communities

Bank branch closures
Let your MP know if your local bank branch is closing and the effect this will have on your daily life or work, and ask them to raise your concerns with the Government.

Broadband
Access to high speed broadband should be seen as an essential service, alongside water, electricity and gas. If your home or business still lacks reliable broadband then ask your MP to make representation on your behalf to the Government and local service providers.

Housing
Affordable housing is essential to rural communities to ensure local people have the homes they need. Every area is different so contact your MP and let them know about the situation in your area. MPs can also help with finding social housing.

Rural crime
You should contact the police if you have been the victim of crime but this is also something to raise with your MP. Issues such as fly-tipping, poaching and sheep worrying, need to be taken seriously and your MP can help by raising your case with the Government and local police.

Contact us
For more information, please contact the Countryside Alliance political team at political@countryside-alliance.org or on 020 7840 9260. countryside-alliance.org