

# WRITING TO YOUR MP

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Writing to your MP is a great way of getting across our concerns about media. Making time to write is often seen as representing the silent views of other constituents. Here are a few tips to help you get started.

## FINDING OUT WHO YOUR LOCAL MP IS

It's vital that you only write to the MP of your constituency as they are obliged to respond to you. Writing to another MP means your letter is unlikely even to be read. If you're unsure about who your local MP is simply go to [www.writetothem.com](http://www.writetothem.com) and type in your postcode.

## COMPOSING YOUR LETTER/EMAIL

### ● Be Polite and Courteous

However passionate you feel about an issue, or however much you disagree with your MP's stance on other issues, it's important to communicate courteously, after all, you want your MP to listen.

### ● Be Focussed

Don't try to tackle every issue you feel strongly about in one letter. Focussing on one per letter/email is likely to have greater impact.

### ● Be Concise

MPs are extremely busy so aim to be concise and keep your letter to one side of A4.

### ● Be Personal

Using your own words and personal experience of a problem carries much more weight than a standard or template letter (where volume of letters received is key).

### ● Be Factual

Support your letter with relevant facts about the issue. MPs won't always be experts or have knowledge of every issue that crosses their desk. Supplying facts in addition to your personal experience provides further context for your MP, aiding their understanding. If you don't know where to start with finding facts, do feel free to contact the Mediawatch UK team for help. From time to time we also produce briefings on various topics.

### ● Be Clear

When writing to your MP it's important to be clear about what you would like he/she to do about the issue, e.g. what action would you like them to take as a result?

### ● Be Prepared to Persevere

Your MP should reply to your letter. If you don't hear back after a couple of weeks, make a follow-up phone call to the constituency office, or an appointment to speak to your MP in person at a local surgery.

If the response from your MP doesn't address or answer the points you've raised, then write back and politely let them know and request a further response. Often a second letter is the one the MP will read and give a more considered response to, and also demonstrates how strongly you feel about your concerns.

### ● Be Thankful

Remember to thank your MP if they help. Gratitude is a value we hold dear at MWUK and helps build closer bonds with those in positions of influence.

## And finally...

Don't forget to include the obvious stuff like your name and address so that your MP knows who to reply to!

