

How to lobby your MP and why this is so effective

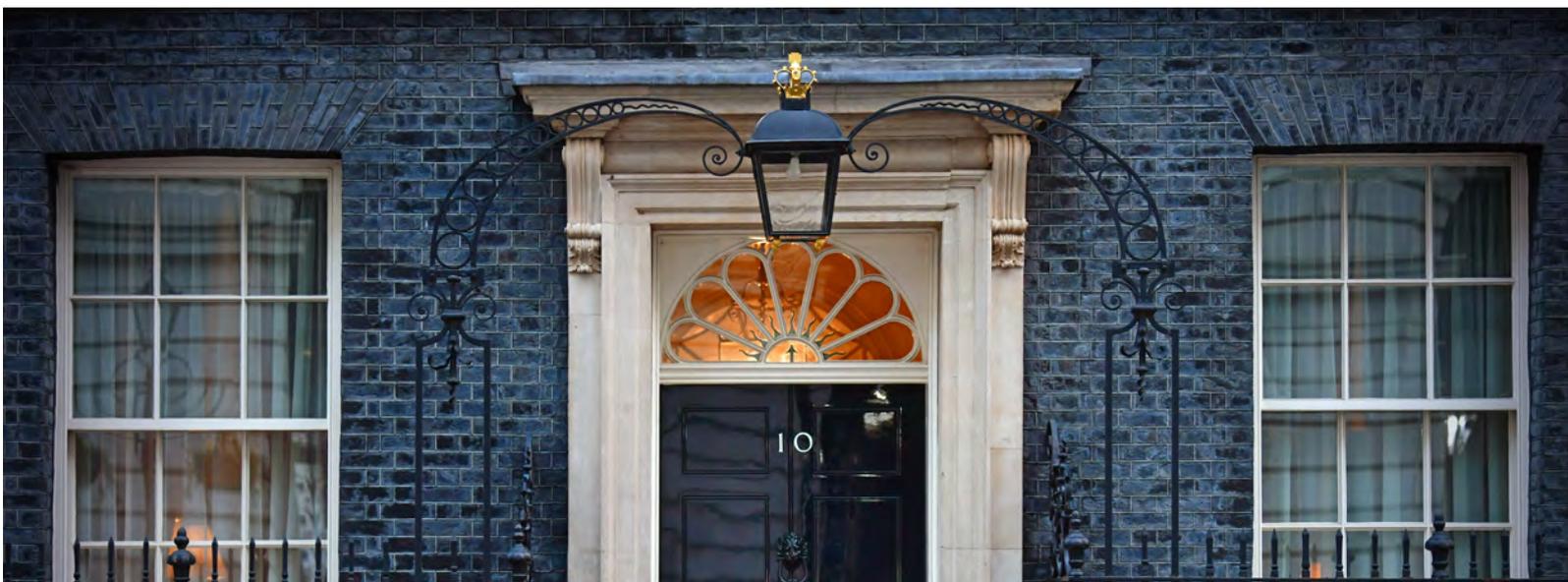
Introduction

The NRLA represent the views of members to Government and lobbies for support from MPs. We campaign on your behalf speaking to Government ministers and officials regularly.

But as elected politicians, members of parliament have an obligation to listen to their constituents' concerns. It is vital that you as individual landlords make sure your representatives understand your concerns to increase the impact of our calls.

We need you

You can do this by contacting your MP and telling them your views on proposed policy or legislation, its impact on the private rented sector and, most importantly – how it impacts you as an individual in their constituency.



Why should I lobby my MP?

Your MP is your representative in Westminster. They have a duty to represent you as their constituent, and to reply to your concerns. They also want your vote in the next election and to be seen to be responsive to their constituents.

The more landlords an MP has contacting them on the same issue the more likely they are to do something about it – landlords can make an impact. And if sufficient MPs don't vote for the Government's legislation it cannot become law.

If you have properties in an area other than the one you live in, you can also write to the local MP for that area. You should make clear that you are contacting the MP as you are running a business in their area, rather than as a constituent. They don't have a duty to respond to you as your constituency MP does, but you can still influence their views.



You can find more information on our website at
www.nrla.org.uk/campaigns/write-to-my-mp

If you have any questions please contact the
Policy Team at policy@nrla.org.uk.

Lobbying works

We know lobbying works and need our members to get involved to amplify our calls to ensure we are raising awareness of the issues impacting landlords and driving forward our vision for the sector.



A number of MPs have raised issues brought to their attention by landlords in the House of Commons – you can make an impact by contacting your MP and making your voice heard.

Sir Robert Syms MP ([Conservative, Poole](#)) - “I know of landlords who have not been able to evict people exhibiting antisocial behaviour and causing distress to other tenants because of restrictions the Government have imposed. Some people who could pay rent are not paying rent, but some of the residential landlords are still having to pay mortgages. This is a troubled sector and we should explore all the issues and have a full debate.”

Clive Betts MP ([Labour, Sheffield South East](#)) - “I have two very serious cases in my constituency, and we are told that it could be well into the new year before they are dealt with. What priority has the Lord Chancellor directed the courts to give to cases of antisocial behaviour? And if Members have particular cases in their constituency, what action can they take to ensure that they are dealt with expeditiously?”

Remember, the more landlords an MP has contacting them on a specific issue, the more likely they are to take action and this will increase pressure on the Government to respond.

Contact your MP and you can make an impact.

What issues should I raise with my MP?

Your personal experience will have a bigger impact on your MP than a standard line or letter written by the NRLA.

However, for each of the NRLA campaigns we have key asks that you can choose to include. You can access our current campaigns under the Campaigns dropdown menu at www.nrla.org.uk. There you can find our key asks under the relevant campaign page and other information that can help inform what you raise with your MP.

What should I ask my MP to do?

When you contact your MP, it's important to be clear about what you are asking them to do and to get a commitment from them for action. You could ask them to:

- Write to the relevant Secretary of State about your concerns.
 - Your MP writing will have a greater impact than you writing as an independent citizen.
- Raise a question in Parliament about the issue.
- To vote a certain way on a piece of legislation or even table an amendment.

How can I find out who my MP is?

We have a tool on [our website](#) which enables you to email your MP directly if you are logged in as a member.

Alternatively, [Parliament's website](#) lets you search for your MP by entering your postcode. This will give you the details of who the MP is, and how to contact them – including phone, email address and postal address.

You can also directly call the House of Commons Information Office on **020 7219 4272** and give your address and postcode.

Tips for personally engaging with MPs

- **Use personal stories and examples** in your argument. This is likely to have more of an influence on your MP. MPs need to stay informed on a wide range of issues, which means you as a landlord are likely to be more informed on the private rented sector and housing issues you are passionate about.
- **Be clear about what you expect** your MP to do next and that you would like a response or update from them.
- **Let us know that you've been in contact with your MP** and their response by emailing us at policy@nrla.org.uk - and we will be able to follow up with further information for them.
- **You can also let us know on our campaign pages** by clicking 'yes' to the survey question of 'Have you contacted your MP'.