

Meeting your MP: a short guide

As Positive Money, our current focus is to convince the government to abandon quantitative easing and adopt an alternative form of monetary policy which works for people, not financial markets.

Lobbying MPs is an essential part of our campaign. There are Positive Money supporters living in every constituency in the UK. If together we talk to as many MPs as possible, it will raise the profile of our campaign and put pressure on the government.

MPs are sensitive to the opinions of their constituents – even if they disagree with them. So you are in a powerful position to get your voice heard.

Understand your MP

Before you start, it's a good idea to find out some basic details about your MP. By entering your postcode at www.theyworkforyou.com, you can find their name, any positions they hold and their voting record on some key issues. It's also worth checking out www.parliament.uk, where you'll find your MP's contact details, as well as links to their website and Twitter page.

Getting in touch

An easy way to contact your MP is through www.writetothem.com. To set up a meeting, we suggest you call their constituency office to book an appointment at their next surgery. The number will be on their website. MPs and their staff are always busy, so remember to keep your communication concise and to-the-point. It can also be worth inviting your MP to an event.

Before the meeting

Once you've got a meeting in the diary, let David from the Positive Money team know at david.clarke@positivemoney.org.uk.

If more than one person is attending the meeting, it's useful to work out who's saying what. You might want to rehearse some key arguments.

You should also decide what action you want your MP to take after the meeting. Some options include asking them to write to the Chancellor, asking them to table a question in parliament. (See this [a useful guide](#) on how MPs can raise questions with the Government).

Here's a briefing you can download, print and give to your MP. It gives a fuller explanation of QE and the Positive Money arguments for an alternative monetary policy.

How to approach the meeting

- Introduce Positive Money: we're a non-partisan organisation campaigning for a fairer and more sustainable money system
- Explain that we want the government to support an alternative to the Bank of England's quantitative easing programme, because it's ineffective and has negative side-effects
- Explain how QE is supposed to work: by inflating asset prices and lowering interest rates and encouraging people to borrow more
- Set out our argument:
 - QE has major downsides: Standard and Poors found that QE disproportionately benefits the wealthy, and the Bank of England's own research agrees
 - It's ineffective at supporting growth because it relies on people and businesses borrowing more at a time when they're already in a lot of debt
 - There are better alternatives, backed by some of the world's leading economists
- Request that your MP takes action, such as tabling a question in the Commons
- Ask for their response

Afterwards

You should try and send a follow-up message within a week of the meeting, thanking your MP for their time and confirming any action that they've agreed to take. If they've committed to write to a Government minister, or ask a Parliamentary Question, you can request that they send you their correspondence, or notify you when it's happened.

Please remember to let David know how your meeting has gone. It's useful for us to build up a picture of how MPs are responding to our campaign, and hearing about your experience can be extremely useful if we have contact with your MP in the future.

Good luck!