



Engaging & Influencing Parliament

@YourUKParl



What matters to you?

Think about your issue...

- *What problems do you experience?*
- *What would you change or improve?*





The House of Lords



The House of Commons



Government in Parliament

The House of Lords



Have you ever...

- A. Contacted an MP
- B. Contacted a member of the House of Lords
- C. Started or signed a petition
- D. Given evidence to a select committee
- E. Worked with an APPG

Case Study: Cystic Fibrosis Trust and Orkambi

- **2016**

Community contact MP using e-template, debate at parliament

- **2017**

Meeting with Health Minister, protest

- **2018**

Petition, debate, Questions asked at PMQs and to Health Minister, protest, EDM, select committee inquiry

- **2019**

Orkambi available

Find your allies

Search Members



Hansard



Early Day Motions



All Party Parliamentary Groups



Local Housing Allowance and housing supply

That this House acknowledges the endemic housing crisis which now affects all communities across the country and the unsustainable rent increases across the private rented sector; affirms the current inadequacy of Local Housing Allowance, frozen since April 2020; believes that Local Housing Allowance has not kept pace with rising rents; recognises that Discretionary Housing Payments are insufficient in reducing the burden on local authority homelessness teams; expresses concern at the strain temporary accommodation is placing on local authority budgets; welcomes any commitment by any of the major parties to increase housing supply over the medium and long term; implores any potential party of government to commit to immediate interventions to alleviate the housing and homelessness emergency in the short term; and urges the Government to unfreeze Local Housing Allowance during forthcoming fiscal events and restore it to, at the very minimum, the 30th percentile of rents in every local authority area.



Barker, Paula

Labour

20 November 2023

Liverpool, Wavertree

★ Primary



Johnson, Kim

Labour

20 November 2023

Liverpool, Riverside



Saville Roberts, Liz

Plaid Cymru

21 November 2023

Dwyfor Meirionnydd



Lucas, Caroline

Green Party

21 November 2023

Brighton, Pavilion



Shannon, Jim

Democratic Unionist Party

21 November 2023

Strangford



Whitley, Mick

Labour

21 November 2023

Birkenhead



Well-Fed (Scotland) CIC charity

That this House recognises the important work of Glasgow-based charity, Well-Fed (Scotland) CIC; notes Well-Fed's mission of eradicating food poverty in the west of that city; applauds the organisation for successfully running a café, family restaurant, catering service, community pantry and homework club; congratulates Well-Fed for utilising surplus food supplies, which allows the organisation to reduce food waste and operate sustainably and economically; supports the organisation's delivery of healthy, nutritious, and fresh food for Glasgow's residents; considers Well-Fed an important community hub in Whiteinch, which is open 12 hours per day, 7 days per week, and which builds social capital and support networks within the wider community; applauds Well-Fed for the employment opportunities and training it provides to young people locally; sincerely thanks Well-Fed for the nutritional and social support it provides to so many local residents; and views Well-Fed as a prime example of the city's mantra that People Make Glasgow.



Monaghan, Carol



Scottish National Party

22 September 2021

Glasgow North West

★ Primary



Fellows, Marion



Scottish National Party

23 September 2021

Motherwell and Wishaw



Shannon, Jim



Democratic Unionist Party

23 September 2021

Strangford



Stephens, Chris



Scottish National Party

23 September 2021

Glasgow South West



Grady, Patrick



Scottish National Party

18 October 2021

Glasgow North



Thewliss, Alison



Scottish National Party

18 October 2021

Glasgow Central

What are All Party Parliamentary groups?



APPGs are



- Cross-party
- MPs and Members of the House of Lords
- Based around common interest
- Not involved in formal decision making

Learning Disability

Title	All-Party Parliamentary Group on Learning Disability
Purpose	To look at the issues facing people with a learning disability and their families. The group looks at the key issues of the day, across areas including health, social care, education, employment and benefits.
Category	Subject Group

Officers		
Role	Name	Party
Chair & Registered Contact	Sir Robert Buckland	Conservative
Vice Chair	Baroness Hollins	Crossbench
Vice Chair	Barbara Keeley	Labour
Officer	Neil Coyle	Labour
Officer	Lord Wigley	Plaid Cymru
Officer	Mr Barry Sheerman	Labour (Co-op)
Officer	Sally-Ann Hart	Conservative
Officer	Andy McDonald	Independent
Officer	Henry Smith	Conservative
Officer	Tonia Antoniazzi	Labour
Officer	Grahame Morris	Labour
Officer	Rachael Maskell	Labour (Co-op)
Officer	Stephen McPartland	Conservative
Officer	Mr William Wragg	Conservative
Officer	The Lord Bishop of Lincoln	Bishops
Officer	Lord Adebowale	Crossbench
Officer	Baroness Thomas of Winchester	Liberal Democrat

Take action – Contact your MP

- **What is the issue?**
- **Why is it important to you?**
- **Why is it important to the MP?**
- **What would you like your MP to do?**

Start your email

'Dear ---

I would like to ask you about....'

**Always
include
your
postcode**

Tips for Engaging with your MP

- Try to put party politics to one side
- Be prepared to explain yourself
- Put a face and personal story to your email
- Be specific about what you want them to do for you
- Avoid mass email campaigns
- Be persistent and keep in touch

Contact

**MPs and members
of the House of
Lords can support
your campaign.**



The Lewis family campaigned to introduce the Mental Health Units (Use of Force) Bill, known as Seni's Law, after Olaseni Lewis was fatally restrained by 11 police officers while in a mental health hospital.

What can you ask your MP or a Member of the House of Lords to do?

- Ask a question to a government minister
 - Oral questions
 - Written questions
- Hold or speak in a debate
- Arrange a meeting

Recent Examples:

- Household Energy Bills
- Youth Crime







Mark Logan

Conservative

Bolton North East

 Commons



To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, what steps she is taking with Cabinet colleagues to help tackle violence against women and girls.



Maria Caulfield

Conservative

Lewes

 Commons

The Minister for Women sits on the Ministerial Steering Group overseeing the delivery of the Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy and the Domestic Abuse Action Plan. This group met most recently on 18 October 2023 to assess progress, which includes;

- Adding the issue of violence against women and girls to the revised Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR), meaning it is now set out as a national threat for forces to respond to alongside other threats such as terrorism, serious and organised crime, and child sexual abuse;
- Investing £168 million through the Safer Streets and Safety of Women at Night funds to make our streets safer;
- Launching a fund for VAWG ‘by and for’ services over two years to a total of up to £6 million, from 2023/24 – 2024/25. The fund is for services across England and Wales, supporting LGBT people, people with a disability, or ethnic minorities affected by VAWG;
- Launching the ‘Enough’ behaviour change campaign in March 2022, which has reached millions of individuals across England and Wales.

Case Study: Period Poverty

- **Issue: Free period products for young people on free school meals**
- **Methods used: Petition, social media, protest, writing to MPs**
- **Outcome: Government funding**
- **Campaign Length: 2 years**



Amika George

Petitions



Select Committees



What do Select Committees do?





What are **Select** Committees?



1

OPEN CALL FOR EVIDENCE

2

GATHERING EVIDENCE

3

ORAL EVIDENCE

4

DRAFT REPORT AGREED

5

PUBLICATION OF REPORT

6

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Children's social care

Inquiry

The Education Committee will assess the current system of children's social care in England.

The Committee will focus on ways to improve early intervention, tackle rising demand and rising local authority spending, and support children with complex needs.

The inquiry will also look into protection for vulnerable children and support for care leavers, and aim to assess the social care market in the context of the private and public sector.

Terms of reference:

- Is the current provision of children's social care sufficient to meet demand?
 - What factors are causing the increase in demand for children's social care?
 - What are the recent trends and causes of out-of-area placements?
- How children's social care can impact a child's educational or long-term outcomes and ways to improve outcomes for care leavers;
- The specific experiences of disabled children or children with additional needs within children's social care, how they differ from their peers, and ways to improve their experiences;



Top Tips for Submitting Evidence

- Be concise
- Refer back to the terms of reference set out in the call for evidence
- Use bullet points and subheadings
- Uses factual information and avoids politicised language
- Do not use jargon
- Consider the audience that will be reading it i.e. intelligent non-experts
- Include recommendations for action, i.e. solutions to the problem

Do not increase visa fees and the Immigration Health Surcharge

Halt any further increases in visa fees and the Immigration Health Surcharge. Immigrants who contribute through taxes shouldn't face increased financial burdens

[More details](#)

We believe these fees are already an extortionate burden on individuals who hold temporary visas, with no access to public funds. It is disheartening that despite our contributions, we are required to pay additional charges just to access essential healthcare services through the NHS. It is crucial to highlight that individuals with work visas diligently fulfil their tax obligations. Yet they are subjected to policies that demand extra payments for access to the NHS. The Government should not increase these even further.

[Sign this petition](#)



Petitions

UK Government and Parliament

28,295 signatures

Autism and learning disability training for education staff



"I have explained to friends and family the whole process from petition through to final feedback. Some were not aware of the petitions process.

"Whilst the debate did not result in law or policy change, this is a significant starting point and, as I explained to our granddaughter, when she gets older society will hopefully be a more autistic friendly and understanding place, because of little actions like this debate.

"Nothing will ever change unless there is a desire and motivation to change it. This is one way of influencing and motivating change.



Petitions

UK Government and Parliament

Case Study: Menopause

Cause: lack of awareness and cost of HRT

Methods: Petitions (less than 10,000 signatures), Westminster Hall **Debate** with public sharing experiences through a survey, General Debate organised by Back Bench Business Committee, **Private Members Bill**

Outcome: Longer prescribing cycles so prescription will cost less, Menopause Taskforce



Questions?



Thank you



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