

## Meeting your MP virtually - The We Own It Kit



Your support is going to take this campaign to the next level - Thank you so much! We'd love for every MP in the country to have a meeting with a constituent where the MP pledges to protect the NHS from Trade Bills. They can do this very practically by supporting an amendment which you are going to tell them about.

This is your kit, which includes guidance on the 5 steps to a successful meeting with your MP.

	<b>Stage</b>	<b>When?</b>
<b>Step 1</b>	Email your MP to invite them to the meeting	Now!
<b>Step 2</b>	Follow up with a call to get the meeting booked	2 days after you sent the email
<b>Step 3</b>	Preparing for your meeting with your MP: a checklist	2 days before your meeting
<b>Step 4</b>	Have the meeting	The big day!
<b>Step 5</b>	After the meeting	The days and weeks after

### Step 1 - Email your MP

You can use the script below as a template!

Dear XX and team,

I hope you're all as well as possible right now.

My name is XX and I'm a constituent. I am, like everyone across the country, thinking about the health of my loved ones, my neighbours and my community. Our NHS is doing an amazing job at caring for us, I'm even more convinced that it is something we must protect as I'm sure you agree.

I'd really like to meet with you to discuss how we can protect our NHS from trade deals. I welcome the government's assurance that the NHS is 'not on the table' however I know that this isn't enough to make sure that the NHS is protected from the effects of trade

deals with the US and elsewhere. The Trade Bill needs to be amended in order to provide the protection that the NHS needs. Please see [this briefing](#) for more information.

Even 20 minutes of your time would be greatly appreciated. I know you must be incredibly busy, but it's really urgent that we make sure our NHS is protected at this crucial time.

Thank you so much in advance for making the time,  
All the best,  
XX  
Postcode:

*\*This is so they know you are a constituent which helps them to know to prioritise your email!*

## **Step 2 - Following up with a call**

Your MP is likely to be quite busy, however, this doesn't mean they don't have time to meet with you. You're a constituent and their job is to represent you.

Follow up your email with a call to get a meeting in the diary booked. You might have to call a few times and follow up the call with further emails, but here is a guide to calling the MP's team.

[Search for your MP](#) and find their constituency team number. If not, try their parliamentary team number and hope that there is a redirect. You might need to try a few numbers. They also might ask for a bit more detail on the meeting so have your elevator pitch at the ready.

Here's a script which you might find useful!

*Hello there,*

*My name is X. I emailed a few days ago about meeting my MP to discuss the NHS and trade bills. I'd love to get a quick 20 minute meeting in the diary to speak to them. Would it be possible to book a time in now? I know your team are all incredibly busy so I appreciate your help.*

## **Step 3 - Preparing for your meeting with your MP: a checklist**

Here's a checklist for the meeting and some top tips to be ready for your meeting!

- 1) Have you set up the meeting link and sent it to the MP before?

You can create a [free zoom account](#) (which MPs are using for online parliament while in lockdown) or use skype, google hangouts, or even jitsi! All only take 5-10 minutes to set up.

- 2) Have you thought about your set up for the meeting? We recommend a smart-ish outfit, and a comfortable place to sit where you won't have to move around. Try to make sure kids and pets aren't in the room as they might distract you or interrupt!
- 3) Have you googled the MP?  
You don't need to know every little detail, however looking at their twitter account if they have one, and their website, will give you a good idea of their priorities and interests!
- 4) Have you got your points ready?  
You might want to practice your elevator pitch with a friend over the phone, or print off your briefing before so you have it to hand. You'll be great!
- 5) Will anyone be joining you? You might want to have a friend as a backup. If so, sort out roles beforehand! Once you've got your meeting booked, let us know and we will do our best to link you up so that you can prep beforehand, as the MP will likely want to meet you all together. It's not a problem for multiple people to reach out for meetings.

#### **Step 4 - Have the meeting!**

The meeting may seem daunting but remember that their job is to represent you.

Remember some key points throughout the discussion and you'll be more than fine!

- 1) Start with a story: Personal stories are a really powerful way of engaging others and conveying your passion and commitment. If this is your first meeting with your MP, you might want to start the meeting by sharing why it is that you care about this issue. What motivated you to do this?
- 2) Thank them for making the time. They rarely get thanked and it will be very appreciated.
- 3) Be concise. Your meeting isn't going to last very long so have your elevator pitch ready so that you can leave the remaining time for questions and discussion.
- 4) Know both sides of the story. There may be coherent arguments against what you are asking for. Be prepared, make sure you look through your notes and do your homework to counter any opposition. If you don't know the answer or how to respond, tell your MP you will get them further information – it's a great excuse to follow up and build a relationship with their office.
- 5) Don't have an argument and always be polite, even if the conversation is frustrating – avoid an argument. Unfortunately not all MPs will be supportive of this, however a fair, balanced, and thoughtful conversation will be a great outcome and you can build on this.
- 6) Get their pledge for the amendment – MPs are used to avoiding questions. Make sure to get them to commit to supporting the amendment.

### **Step 5 - After the meeting!**

- 1) Make sure to send a thank you for the discussion after, because it will leave a good feeling! If you promised to provide them with any additional information, you could include this in your message.
- 2) Follow up: without follow up, your effort in scheduling a meeting and speaking powerfully about our issues could be wasted. If your MP committed to support the amendment, set a reminder to follow this up in a few weeks in case you haven't yet had a response.