

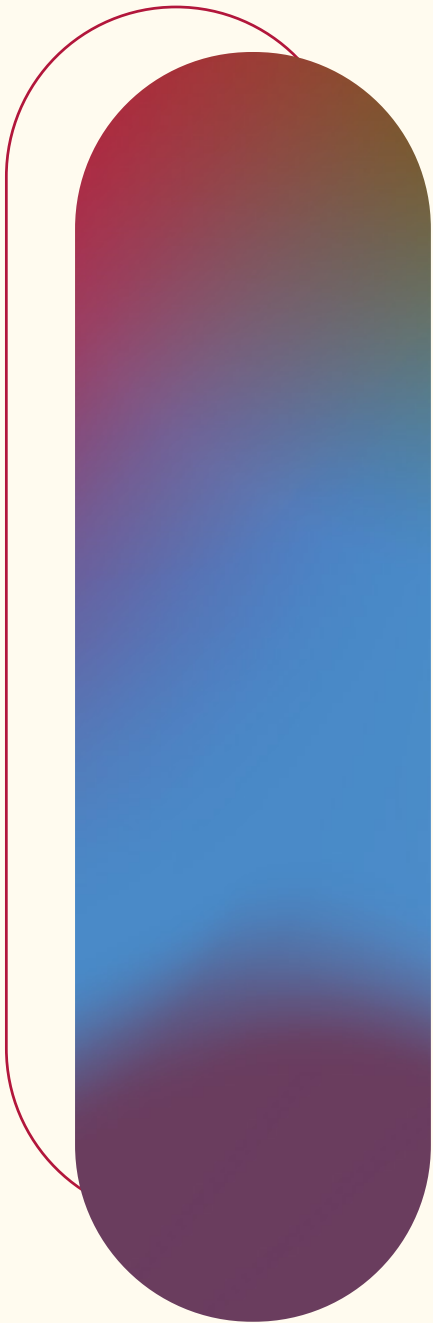


HOUSE OF LORDS



Engage with the Lords

A guide for small charities and campaigners



**Contact us for information about the House of Lords
or to request this publication in an alternative format.**

House of Lords Communications

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As Parliament's second chamber, the House of Lords is an effective place to engage with if you are campaigning on an issue. The House of Lords has a track record of making an impact and bringing about change.

Many members raise campaigns in questions to the government, use briefings from charities and organisations in debates and work closely with campaigners and small charities on changes to legislation or to bring a new draft law to Parliament.

Think of the House of Lords if you want to bring your campaign to the UK Parliament.



Members of the Lords and campaigners who have worked together to bring about change.

Why engage with the House of Lords?

Structure makes it well-placed to champion causes

The way the House of Lords is set up and the way it works make it well-placed to champion causes and influence change in Parliament:

- Every member of the Lords has access to all the amending stages of bills.
- All members of the Lords can press government through questions and debates.
- The processes and set-up are less party-political, so there is greater scope to gain cross-party support for your campaign or issue.

Members are switched on about issues that matter to them

Members actively campaign in the Lords on issues that matter to them; many are interested in hearing about the latest research, developments and challenges in relation to the issues they care about.

Members represent the issues that matter to them and their professional lives, they may be interested in some local and regional matters or international issues relevant to their backgrounds.

Many members are also professionals and opinion leaders in the areas they work on; they may be more open to your briefing and easier to bring on board because they are already switched on about the issues that matter to them.

How do I engage with the Lords?

Target your communication

Targeting relevant members who have demonstrated an interest in areas related to your charity or campaign is key to successful engagement. Research who you want to contact before you communicate with members about your campaign.

Some points to look into are:

- if members have spoken about related issues in the Lords
- which committees in Parliament a member has belonged to
- if a member's profession is relevant to your campaign
- if a member has been involved with a charity, business or organisation relevant to your campaign.

Prepare and provide clear information to brief members on your campaign. Set out:

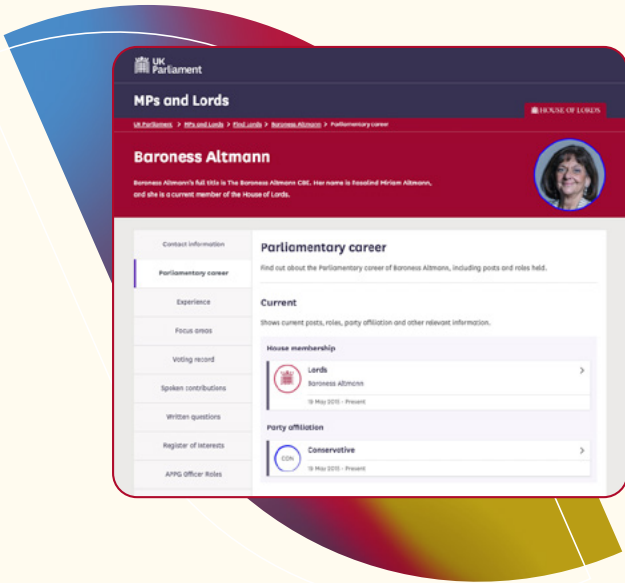
- the background of your campaign, including facts and information relating to it
- where your campaign stands on particular legislation or government policies (for example, what you support and/or what you think needs to change and why)
- what your campaign is trying to achieve, generally and in particular in Parliament
- set out your 'ask' of members – what do you want them to do (and when)?



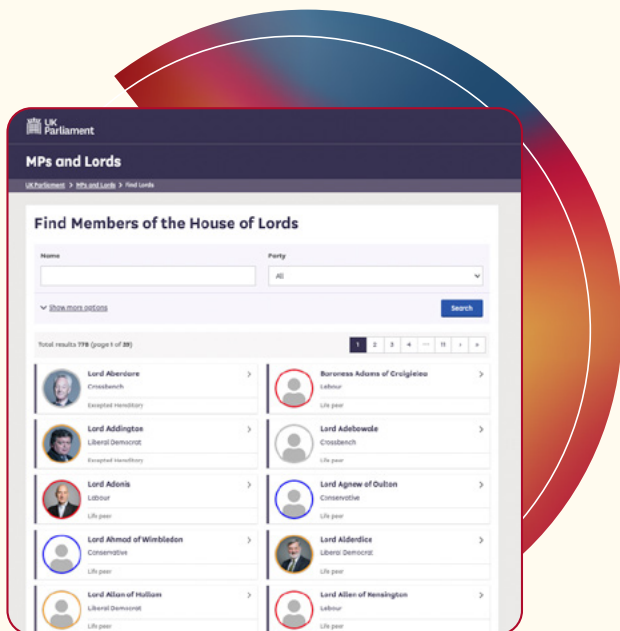
Use free tools and resources

Free tools and resources at parliament.uk are available to help you research which members are relevant to your campaign and help you to target your communications.

Every member has a biography page, it includes the information on their careers, policy interests and record in Parliament – and how to contact them.



There is a **searchable A-Z index of members** – look up members by policy area, experience and more.



Lords Hansard shows what members have said in questions, debates and legislation – look up topics related to your campaign to see who's said what and when.

The **UK Parliament What's On calendar** shows questions, debates and legislation coming up and who is taking part in it – you might be able to contact members ahead of a question or debate.

Time your communication

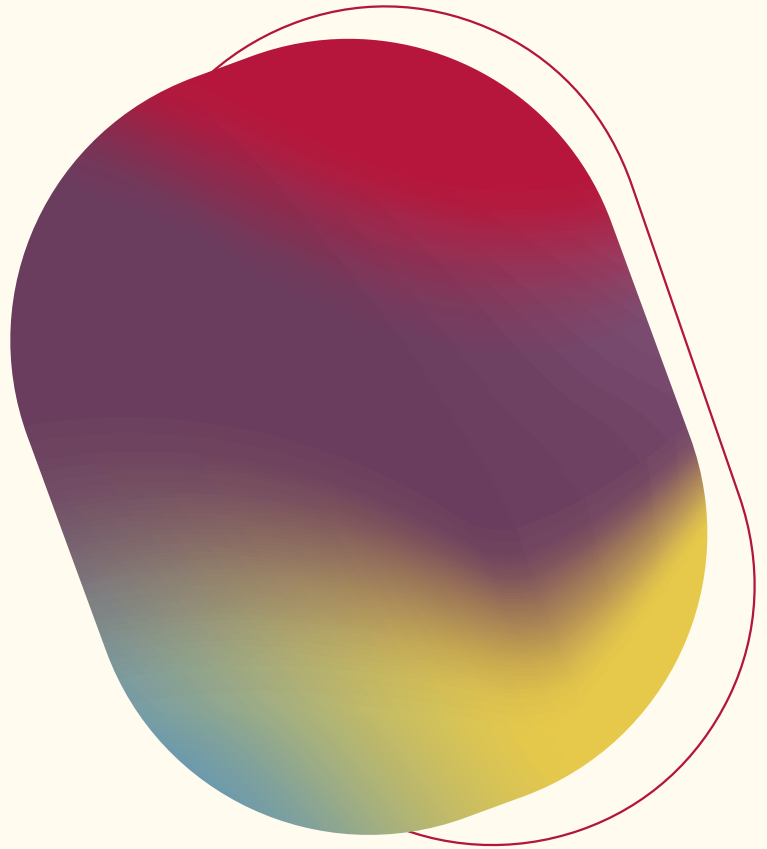
Consider the timing of your communication with members and any dates pertinent to your own campaign.

Members plan and put down questions and debates weeks in advance, regularly to coincide with anniversaries, campaigning weeks, international days and important international meetings.

At the start of each session the King's Speech sets out the government's legislative work for Parliament's year, so you can identify if any upcoming bills are relevant for your campaign. Every bill introduced to Parliament has a dedicated bill page where you can track its passage.



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