

**DON'T BREAK
BRITAIN
CUTS KILL COMMUNITIES**



Unite 'Don't Break Britain – protect public services' Lobby of Parliament, Westminster London

Tuesday 19 October 2010

**Rally 12.30-2pm Methodist Central Hall, Westminster, SW1H 9NH
Lobby 2.30pm Westminster Hall, Parliament**

**Unite meeting in Parliament 2.30-4.30pm – Unite members are also invited
to Committee room 20 to meet Labour Party MPs**

How to lobby MPs

The purpose of lobbying is to make sure MPs and Government are aware of the experiences of Unite members when they make decisions that affect our lives.

Write to your MP

Write a letter to ask your MP for an appointment on 19 October (see model letter). To find the name and address of your MP call the House of Commons information line on **0207 219 4272** or look at **www.findyourmp.parliament.uk**. You can also email your MP through this website. Please remember to include your contact details on the letter, or your MP will not be able to confirm.

If they are available they should respond with a time. If they are not available you should receive a response informing you of this. It would be helpful if you could make an arrangement to see your MP locally or at one of their surgeries if they are not available on the 19th.

The green card system of lobbying

If you do not receive a reply from your MP or do not get a chance to write to them then you can use the green card system (although it is always best to try to get an appointment). This allows you to fill in an appointment card in Central Lobby (the main central area of Parliament where the public can meet MPs) and the staff in the House will attempt to find your MP to see if they are available to meet you. You should wait in Central Lobby while your MP is found. This may take some time so please be patient. Sometimes your MP will be available and will come to Central Lobby to meet you, but sometimes they will not and will send back a message saying they cannot meet you.

When you meet your MP

Unite already lobbies Government at a national level. However the lobbying done by individual members is crucial as it provides MPs with a personal dimension. You should always stress how the Government's action (or inaction) affects you, your family and friends (especially if they have a vote in the MPs constituency).

The use of personal experience will make the MP aware of the issue on a more human level rather than just the figures and the policy. If the MP supports our case then you are giving them ammunition for the case, if they do not support you then you are making them respond on an individual level rather than the abstract political level.

Remember our case is fair and we already have some support in the House therefore anything you can do to help one MP be supportive or to change support into activity is a bonus for our campaign.

Have fun lobbying!



www.uniteunion.org/dontbreakbritain

DON'T BREAK BRITAIN CUTS KILL COMMUNITIES



Don't Break Britain – protect public services

The most important issues to raise with your MP is what cuts are happening in your community and to their constituents (ie their voters). Once your MP starts to get a real picture of the human costs of cuts they are less likely to support them.

Real stories will make your MP sit up and take notice.

There is an alternative to cuts

- The coalition has maintained that reducing the deficit is 'the most urgent issue facing Britain' – that cutting fast and deep is 'unavoidable'. It is not. Leading economists argue that cuts to public spending now, when the economy is still fragile, risks the recovery and could lead to a double dip recession.
- Unite believes that there is a better, fairer way to reduce the deficit. When the government spends money, it generates more money and wealth. So cuts to public spending drains money from the economy, hitting both private and public sector jobs.
- The Treasury has predicted that 500,000 public sector jobs and between 600,000-700,000 jobs in the private sector will be lost as a direct of the cuts, hitting poorer regions hardest.
- The coalition has blamed Labour's 'reckless' spending on public services for causing the deficit. But Unite, the TUC and many economists argue it was caused by the sharpest recession in this country since World War II. A recession caused, largely, by the near global collapse of the financial banking services industry. This then led to a massive fall in tax income for the government, as the government was forced to bail out the banks and people lost their jobs.
- The government promised that the cuts would be fair. Instead, the Budget's measures will hit frontline services, the poor and the vulnerable; risks increasing inequality, opening up a North/South divide and lets the rich off the hook.
- Unite is arguing for an alternative economic strategy that supports long-term, sustainable growth, maintains public services and creates jobs. Investing in our public services and job creation is the best way to encourage growth which in turn reduces the deficit.

As well as your local issues other questions you might want to ask:

1. **You said these cuts would be fair – why are you forcing through cuts that will harm the most vulnerable and poorest in society?**

Your MP may say: The government is committed to protecting the most vulnerable and poorest in society.

Rebuttal: *Many leading economists argue that the cuts will hit poorer households hardest. The poorest 10% of households will be worse off by £1,514 a year – this is 21.7% of people's household income. But the richest 10% of households are losing just 3.6% of their annual household income.*

2. **Why is the government committed to reducing the deficit so fast risking a double-dip recession?**

Your MP may say: Labour left the government with no alternative. If the deficit is not tackled the UK will lose its triple A credit rating, increasing the price the country must pay to borrow money on the markets, as well as the amount paid servicing the debt.

Rebuttal: *The UK is not broke. The UK remains the fifth largest industrial economy in the world, slashing so deep and fast is not necessary and is driven more by ideology than economic reality.*

3. **How will the government create jobs?**

Your MP may say: The government's say the private sector will create 2 million jobs over the next five years.

Rebuttal: *History tells us otherwise. Following the recession in the 1980s it took seven years to create 2 million jobs and nine and half years after the recession of the early nineties. This was on the back of annual growth of 3.6 percent and 3.2 percent, respectively.*