

NHS IN DANGER

HOW TO LOBBY YOUR LOCAL MP

The government's Health and Social Care bill is the biggest shake up to the NHS in its 63-year history.

Your MP ought to be very concerned about the 'reforms' set out in the bill. You don't need to be an expert on the 'reforms' to tell your MP you are against them. You can simply tell your MP you want them to vote 'No' to the bill.

What is lobbying?

Lobbying is about raising issues with and seeking to influence your elected representatives. Your MP will see you as a constituent and as such is meant to represent your interests even if he/she does not agree with them.

How to lobby locally?

You can lobby your MP in your local area by arranging to go along to one of their surgeries or contacting their office to make a separate appointment to see them. (Please note that MPs are usually only around for local meetings on Monday morning, Fridays and Saturdays or during the parliamentary recess.

A good way for you to see your MP is to attend one of their advertised 'surgeries'. It is always best to give your MP's office a call beforehand to check whether you need to make

an appointment, although some MPs' surgeries are 'drop-in' sessions that operate on a first come, first served basis. Make sure you call well in advance to make an appointment or turn up early for a 'drop-in' session to have the best chance of seeing your MP.

What is a constituency 'surgery'?

Just about every MP holds constituency surgeries – many weekly, or fortnightly and some monthly. These surgeries are an opportunity for MPs' constituents to raise personal concerns and seek their MP's help with their problems.

You can find out who your MP is and their surgery details here <http://findyourmp.parliament.uk/> – or by 'googling' to find your own MP's website. ***Don't be daunted when you meet your MP. Remember they are meant to represent you – and they will want to hear from you.***

