

Amicus Construction Rally and How to lobby MPs



Wednesday 28th March - 11am to 4pm Central Hall Westminster, Storey's Gate Westminster

How to lobby MPs

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

Write to your MP

Use the campaign postcard or write a letter to ask your MP for an appointment on Wednesday 28th March. To find the name and address of your MP call the House of Commons information line on 020 7219 4272 or look your MP up at www.locata.co.uk. You can also email your MP through this website.

If they are available they should respond to you with a suggested place and time. If they are not available you should receive a response informing you of this. If they are not able to meet with you on the day you can make an arrangement to see your MP locally or at one of their constituent surgeries.

The Green Card

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. 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

Amicus 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 Governments proposals could affect 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 hearing about the figures and the policy. Remember our case is fair and we already have huge support in the House therefore anything you can do to help persuade just one MP to be supportive or to change support into activity is a bonus for our campaign.

Why don't you ask your MP to come and visit you?

Many MPs won't know much about the work you do. By arranging for your MP to visit your place of work you can highlight the contribution of your work to the regional economy. This can also provide a useful story on which to attract the interest of the local press and media. Of course, you'll need the agreement of your employer to go ahead with this.

If you have any further questions please do not fail to ask Amicus Lead Industry Officer, Construction and Contracting, Tom Hardacre on 0161 798 8976 or email Tom.Hardacre@amicustheunion.org.

Amicus the union making a difference in construction