

## **Welcoming new MPs**

Resources for Homeless Link's members to write to MPs who won election in their areas

# How to contact your MP post-election

## Your local MP

Following a general election is a great time to write to your local MP(s) and arrange a meeting. You may have a new MP in the areas you work, or you may still have the previously incumbent MP. Either way, MPs are always keen to hear from organisations delivering services who operate in their constituency. **New MPs will be keen to engage with the local community straight away, meanwhile previously incumbent MPs are usually aware of local housing and homelessness issues because it makes up a high proportion of their postbag.**

## Finding your MP

If you don't know who your MP is, you can find out by **putting in the postcode of your service into the [TheyWorkForYou](#) website**. If your service operates in more than one constituency you should feel free to write to all the relevant MPs, but make sure you explain that you have a service in their constituency.

## Drafting a letter

The best way to contact an MP is by writing to them. **We have produced examples and template letters for you to use to help in this process** (see pages three and four of this document). However, it's important to personalise your letter as much as possible. For example, if you have met the MP previously, either during the previous Parliament or the election campaign, then make sure to mention that so they remember you and try to include local statistics and insight.

Additionally, doing some internet research around your MPs interests can also help personalise your approach.

- Check if they have signed Homeless Link's candidate pledge via looking on this [Google Sheet](#).
- If they have served as an MP before, looking up things like whether they're part of an All Party Parliamentary Group and/or whether they sit on a Select Committee, as well as what have they said in the past about homelessness can be very helpful. Useful websites include [TheyWorkForYou](#) (records what MPs say in the commons and how they vote) and [UK Parliament](#) (has details of membership of APPG's and Select Committees).

- If the MP is new to Parliament, look via Google at what they have done in their career up to this point and what they said about homelessness in the past.

### Sending your letter

Every MP has a public facing email address, which you can find on their profile page on the [UK Parliament](#) website. Following an election, there is no hard deadline for when MPs email addresses will be activated. Returning MPs inboxes will be active faster than new ones because they can just have their old systems switched back on. However, new MPs will need to set up their office, decide what they want their email to be, and go through setup process with the House of Commons digital service etc. **Normally, all MPs emails are up and online a week after the election.**

MPS inboxes can receive a huge amount of correspondence, meaning it can be slow for MPs to respond. MPs will also have an email for internal use so if you have this for your MP then send it to this address too, as well as copying in any of the MP's staff if you have their contact details. Calling the constituency office to ask for the best contact emails is a good idea. Many people also recommend sending a hard copy of the letter, as well as your email, to the constituency office to bypass an MPs bloated inbox.

### Following up

MPs are likely to receive a lot of correspondence post-election. It may take a little while for them to reply. **If you haven't received any response to your letter within two/three weeks then it is worth sending a follow up email** enquiring about it to keep it on the MP's radar, as well as calling their constituency office.

### Example Welcome Letter

Dear Rachel Pugh,

I am writing to you from Homelessness Rothermead to congratulate you on your election/re-election as MP for Rothermead and to request a meeting to with you to discuss how we can work together to reduce homelessness in the Rothermead area.

#### Who we are

I was delighted to show you around our services only a few weeks ago. As I explained then, Homelessness Rothermead work across the Rothermead area in three locations, providing accommodation and support to people experiencing homelessness. On average, we support over 500 people each year, providing accommodation to around 60 people at any one time, while helping them find independent accommodation and reintegrate into the local community.

#### Homelessness and rough sleeping is rising

We provide a vital service to people within the community who have often experienced significant trauma and need extra support to stabilise their life. But rough sleeping in Rothermead rose by 33% in 2023, while the number of households making homelessness applications to Rothermead Council rose by 40%. It's no wonder we've seen a huge increase in demand for our services.

These statistics are symptomatic of a wider national trend. Rough sleeping rose by 27% in England in 2023 and 60% over the past two years. Meanwhile a record number of people, including over 145,000 children, are currently experiencing homelessness trapped in temporary accommodation, often in squalid and overcrowded conditions, with the cost of providing this accommodation crippling council finances.

#### Working together

We see first-hand the problems driving homelessness in Rothermead. A distinct lack of genuinely affordable, secure housing leaves people with no choice but to turn to the council and local services. Meanwhile, health and support services are so stretched, they cannot provide the holistic, person-centred care needed to help people start to address the wider causes of their homelessness. We are part of the wider Rothermead Homelessness Partnership, but despite our best efforts, too many people get stuck in a revolving door, with little hope of living full and happy lives.

But I firmly believe that the right policy changes can drastically improve the lives of the people we support, whilst preventing more people from being sucked into homelessness. Alongside our local insight and ideas, we are supporters Homeless Link's (the membership body for homelessness services) [Manifesto to End Homelessness](#). Therefore, I would like to arrange an initial meeting with you to build a partnership that can make sure no one in Rothermead has to experience the trauma and indignity of homelessness.

Your sincerely,

Sumeeta Sharma, CEO at Homelessness Rothermead

## Template Welcome Letter

Dear *insert MP name*,

I am writing to you from *insert organisation name* to congratulate you on your election as MP for *insert constituency* and to request a meeting to with you to discuss how we can work together to reduce homelessness in the *insert constituency* area.

### Who we are

*Insert any past meetings you have had with the MP as well as a summary of your organisation and your impact.*

### Homelessness and rough sleeping is rising

We provide a vital service to people within the community who have often experienced significant trauma and need extra support to stabilise their life. *Insert local homelessness and rough sleeping statistics.*

These statistics are symptomatic of a wider national trend. Rough sleeping rose by 27% in England in 2023 and 60% over the past two years. Meanwhile a record number of people, including over 145,000 children, are currently experiencing homelessness trapped in temporary accommodation, often in squalid and overcrowded conditions, with the cost of providing this accommodation crippling council finances.

### Working together

We see first-hand the problems driving homelessness in *insert local area*. *Insert summary of local drivers of homelessness and rough sleeping*

But I firmly believe that the right policy changes can drastically improve the lives of the people we support, whilst preventing more people from being sucked into homelessness. Alongside our local insight and ideas, we are supporters Homeless Link's (the membership body for homelessness services) [Manifesto to End Homelessness](#).

*Insert summary of MPs demonstrated interest in homelessness.* Therefore, I would like to arrange an initial meeting with you to build a partnership that can make sure no one in *insert local area* has to experience the trauma and indignity of homelessness.

Your sincerely,

*Insert name and job title*

## What We Do

Homeless Link is the national membership charity for frontline homelessness services. We work to improve services through research, guidance and learning, and campaign for policy change that will ensure everyone has a place to call home and the support they need to keep it.

## Homeless Link

Minories House

2-5 Minories

London

EC3N 1BJ

[www.homeless.org.uk](http://www.homeless.org.uk)

@HomelessLink

**Let's End Homelessness  
Together**

