



# Engagement Toolkit for MiP Members

## Engaging Your MP on the NHS Modernisation Bill

### About This Toolkit

This toolkit has been developed to help Managers in Partnership (MiP) members contact their local Members of Parliament about the NHS Modernisation Bill and current cuts as well as the ongoing restructuring being implemented.

It provides practical advice to help you raise this issue effectively and consistently with your local MP.

The goal is simple:

- To raise the profile of NHS managers with parliamentarians and challenge the narrative that fewer managers is automatically good for the NHS;
- To build support in Parliament for greater scrutiny of the NHS reforms and for management capability to be built into the design of the NHS Modernisation Bill before implementation; and
- To ensure MPs understand the local importance of NHS management capacity and the impact restructuring is having in their own constituencies.

MiP's position is that managers want reform and are ready to deliver it, but the current approach to restructuring is damaging service delivery and undermining the very capability the NHS needs to make reform work. Management is a core NHS function and should be treated as an investment in performance, not an easy political target for cuts.

## How to Contact Your MP

Every MiP member has a story to tell. MPs respond best to local and personal examples which impact their constituents. When they see the real impact on services, jobs, and patients in their own constituency, they are far more likely to take action, including raising the issue with Ministers, tabling parliamentary questions, or contributing to debates on the Bill.

If you aren't sure who the MP for the area you are in, you can find their name and contact details easily by entering the postcode of your site at: [www.members.parliament.uk](http://www.members.parliament.uk)

MPs are best contacted by email. To make things as straightforward as possible, we have included template emails in this document that can be tailored with your own local details.

## Writing to your MP

When writing to your local MP, you should always start with your experience as their constituent and what is happening in the NHS services you work in, as MPs care most about the experience of their constituents and the impact on local services that affects their constituents' ability to receive NHS care and treatment. We would suggest that you highlight:

- What is happening in your workplace and the impact on local services and patients.
- Specifically, the number of staff and roles affected by the current reorganisation, the impact on staff morale, and the impact that further reorganisation might have on your workplace.
- The concerns you have about the loss of management capacity, institutional knowledge and the ability to deliver reform in your workplace and in the wider system.

In your approach, you should ask your MP to:

- Meet you (and possibly some of your colleagues) either online or in person, perhaps at one of their regular local surgeries;
- Visit your workplace to see at first hand the work NHS managers do and the services they keep running.

Alongside this you should also ask them to do one or more of the following:

- Write to Health Ministers, particularly Karin Smyth MP, to raise your concerns about the Bill's silence on management capability;
- Submit written parliamentary questions to seek clarity on the Government's plans for managing the transfer of capability, skills and institutional knowledge, and on the workforce implications of restructuring;
- Raise concerns with Ministers during the passage of the NHS Modernisation Bill either in public or private.

Please ensure you talk to your MP about what you are happy to share publicly and what you are keen to keep private. MPs regularly represent constituents by writing privately to Ministers. Raising issues in Parliament places them in the public domain, although examples can be anonymised to protect you.

To help you get started, we have included a suggested email template for you to use when reaching out to your local MP.

### **Attending an MP's Surgery**

You can also look to attend an MP's surgery which is a regular (often weekly) session where constituents can meet their MP in person to raise issues. Most MPs require you to **book a surgery slot in advance**, usually through their constituency office via email. Find your MP's details at [www.members.parliament.uk](http://www.members.parliament.uk). Mention briefly that you want to discuss the NHS Modernisation Bill and its impact on local services, and include your home address and postcode to ensure that they know you are a constituent.

### **Available support**

If your MP responds or agrees to a meeting or visit, please let MiP know so we can coordinate support and provide background materials if needed.

If your situation needs a more specific approach and you are unsure what to include, please contact MiP using the details below.

If you need assistance drafting or personalising your message, or would like additional background material for your MP, please contact our public affairs agency **Inflect** directly at [mip@inflect.co.uk](mailto:mip@inflect.co.uk) or via MiP.

The Inflect team can help:

- Review your draft letter or email;
- Provide advice on your approach to engagement;
- Supply follow-up briefing materials for meetings or visits.

## Feedback and follow up

- **Send a thank-you email** restating the key points you covered in the meeting, including any specific examples you gave.
- **Follow up** if you don't hear back within a couple of weeks.
- **Let MiP know** how it went, especially if the MP agrees to act, so we can coordinate support and supply briefing materials.

## Email Template

*Your Name*

*Your Address*

*Your Postcode*

*Dear MP*

*I am writing to you as one of your constituents working in **[insert workplace]** because of the impact that current reforms are having on me and my local services.*

***[insert your specific concerns about the current reorganisation and impact of the Health Bill, on your job, your workplace and on local service delivery]***

*More generally I am really concerned about the way in which NHS managers and the management capability of the NHS is consistently undervalued.*

*I accept that the NHS needs to reform and modernise, but that must be done with a proper plan and with the resources and capability to deliver it effectively.*

*I would be extremely grateful if you could meet with me either online or in person to hear more about my concerns, and the concerns of my colleagues, in more detail. I would also like to invite you to visit [insert workplace] so you can see first hand the vital role that NHS managers play in delivering positive patient outcomes and the impact that the government's reforms are having on service delivery.*

*Please let me know if this would be of interest and we can make the appropriate arrangements at a time which works for you.*

*I look forward to hearing from you.*

*Kind regards,*