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**Inviting your local candidates to a group meeting — template email**

You can use the template email below to request a meeting with election candidates.

**Rules for charities and the Lobbying Act**

To follow charity law and comply with the Lobbying Act, we must be impartial and not favour any candidate, party or major policy announcement.

You can [find more information and guidance on the Lobbying Act here](https://volunteers.mssociety.org.uk/lobbying-act-%E2%80%94-what-you-need-know-general-election).

**Who to invite**

To be impartial, it’s best practice to invite all candidates if that’s possible. But in some areas, lots of candidates might be standing from very small parties or as independents. In this case, it’s reasonable not to invite every single candidate. As a minimum, you should invite any independent candidate who’s previously served as the local MP. Plus any candidates from the following parties, if they’re standing in your area:

* Conservative Party
* Labour Party
* Liberal Democrats
* Green Party
* Scottish National Party
* Alba
* Plaid Cymru
* Democratic Unionist Party
* Sinn Féin
* SDLP
* Alliance
* Reform UK

The list above is of parties which had MPs in the last parliament. Or where polls suggest they’ll take a significant vote share at the general election and did so in recent local elections.

If you’re not sure who your local candidates are, you can find names and contact details by putting your postcode in here - [https://whocanivotefor.co.uk](https://whocanivotefor.co.uk/)

**Your constituency**

Your group might include people from different constituencies and cover more than one constituency. We recommend inviting the candidates of the constituency that matches where your event takes place to make it more likely that your candidates attend.

For other constituencies your group covers, you can still ask the local candidates to speak up for people with MS by using our [online tool](https://campaigns.mssociety.org.uk/page/151035/action/1) as a group to send them an email.

**Sending the invitation**

During the election period, candidates will be receiving invitations to meet from many community groups, so remember to follow up via email if you don’t receive a reply.

If there’s a particular issue in your local area that your group’s interested in asking your candidates about, you can edit the below email to include it. If not, we’ve included a link to our manifesto which includes all the things we’re asking future MPs to support.

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Dear [name of candidate],

We’re writing to you from [name of group] to request a meeting to hear about how you would address the issues that matter most to the MS community.

We’d like to meet with you to discuss the issues that are important to us and find out how you’ll act on them if elected.

We’ll be holding a [name of event, eg coffee morning] at [insert date, time and location]. We’re inviting our local candidates to ask them how they’ll speak up for the MS community if they were to become our future MP.

You can read the full manifesto with more information about the MS community’s priorities here: <https://www.mssociety.org.uk/election-manifesto>

We hope you can attend our event.

You can contact us at [your group’s email]. We very much look forward to hearing from you soon.

Best wishes,

[Your name and volunteer role]

[Name of group]