

Member of Parliament

Cost: Paid	This is a full time employed role
Employment	
Time: High	This role is a full time employed role
Requirements for Position: Low	You must be over 18 years of age and be a British citizen or a citizen of a commonwealth country or the Republic of Ireland.
Training Offered: Yes	Training is provided

What is a Member of Parliament?

Members of parliament are commonly known as MPs and represent their constituency's interests and concerns in Parliament. The House of Commons is made up of a total of 646 MP's, one for each constituency.

Each MP is publically elected by the people within their constituency, this takes place at each general election or by-election.

Although MPs represent a local constituency they only deal with matters that Parliament or central government is responsible for.

The role of a Member of Parliament

Your local MP can help to assist you with issues or concerns that Parliament or central government is responsible for. It may be worthwhile contacting your local councillor or local authority first.

When it is necessary to contact your MP this can be done either by telephone, in writing or attending a surgery in your area.

It is often best to write to your MP because this will provide them with the opportunity to keep a record of your enquiry which they can refer to later.

You can also lobby to your local MP, as an individual, group, organisation, business and so forth. Lobbying is simply an attempt to influence the opinions of MPs and Lords on specific issues or subjects.

Where it is required for you to contact your MP they can help in a number of ways:

- Write a letter to the relevant department or official to provide a solution
- Take it a stage further and write to the Minister involved

- Make an appointment to see the Minister personally
- Raise the issue in the House of Commons, this will also make the issue known to the public
- Present a petition to the House of Commons

You can find your local MP and their contact details by visiting the [“Find your MP”](#) link.

How to stand as a Member of Parliament

To stand as an MP you must be over 18 years of age and be a British citizen or a citizen of a commonwealth country or Republic of Ireland. You must also have been nominated by ten parliamentary electors of the constituency that you wish to stand in.

In order to stand for a specific political party you must be authorised by that party. Please see individual political party websites for more details.

To encourage only serious candidates to stand a £500 deposit must be paid when you submit the nomination papers. This deposit will be returned if as a candidate you receive over 5% of the total votes cast.

Once you have stood for election you can only become a MP if you win the majority of the public's votes.

Becoming an MP is a full time job for which you will receive a salary and expenses. For more information please visit the following websites:

[Directgov](#)

[Electoral Commission](#)

www.parliament.uk

If you are interested in similar roles then why not look at standing to become a councillor?