

Myasthenia Gravis Association
MG Awareness Campaign 2004
Lobbying Campaign

Dear Supporter,

Thanks to Jim Dobin, MP for Rochdale, England, his team, and members of our Association, we have now defined the key points we would like championing via the respective Governing bodies:- The House of Commons, The Welsh Assembly, The Scottish Parliament, The Irish Dáil. We also intend to undertake local lobbying via representatives of these bodies together with members and supporters of our Association.

Myasthenia Gravis Association's approach is as follows:-

1. Make a direct approach to members of the respective houses to champion the following questions:

Question to the Prime Minister, First Minister or Taoiseach

To ask if he will make a statement on the disease Myasthenia Gravis and how their Government can support those who are diagnosed with Myasthenia Gravis.

To ask the respective Secretary of State for Health:-

- a. If he/she will make a statement on Government support for those who are diagnosed with Myasthenia Gravis and their families.
- b. If he/she will make a statement on hospital waiting times for patients diagnosed with Myasthenia Gravis.
- c. If he/she will clarify plans he/she has to raise the numbers of consultants and nurses qualified to diagnose and treat Myasthenia Gravis.
- d. If he/she will clarify plans he/she has to increase awareness about Myasthenia Gravis amongst the medical profession.
- e. If he/she will make a statement on the Blue Badge Parking Scheme (or similar) entitlement for those diagnosed with Myasthenia Gravis.
- f. To ask the respective Secretary of State for Works and Pensions if he/she will make a statement on benefit entitlement for those diagnosed with Myasthenia Gravis.

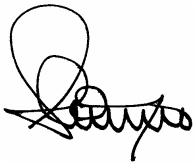
2. Undertake a direct approach to our members and ask them to write to their individual MPs (or equivalent). We hope this will raise the profile of the illness. In addition we feel this will support the campaign to the Minister of Health, and enhance the overall awareness. We are currently:-

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- a. Asking Myasthenia Gravis Association members to write to their respective MP. To assist in this, we will be sending them all a pre-printed postcard.
- b. Support our members by providing them with details on how they can find out who their local MP is (see below)
- c. Providing our supporters with a Government Lobbying Form (attached). This will also be accessible from our website at www.mgauk.org. It is hoped that they will send this, along with the postcards to their respective MPs (or equivalent).

Please help us by getting as many people as possible to sign the attached Government Lobbying Form and then return to MGA at your earliest convenience. Please copy as many forms as necessary.

Thank you,



Alasdair Nimmo
Chief Executive Officer

How to find out who your MP (or equivalent) is:

If you have access to the Internet:

If you live in England, Scotland, Wales or N. Ireland:

1, You can search by your postcode, by name or by constituency at:

<http://www.locata.co.uk/commons/>

2, Go to <http://www.upmystreet.com/> and enter your postcode, then click on GO and then on the next page scroll down and click on "Your Representatives".

If you live in the Republic of Ireland

You can view the current TDs here:

<http://www.gov.ie/oireachtas/Members-29th-Dail/members-29-alphabetic.htm>

If you do not have access to the Internet:

Try calling your local council or visit your local public library. If you know what Ward you are in then this will make things easier for you.

If you are unable to do either of these things:

Please contact us at Derby Support (01332 290219) and we will find out for you and call you back.