



Engaging with Parliament

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What is Parliament?



House of Commons



The Monarch



House of Lords

What does Parliament do?



Makes and passes laws
(Legislation)

Holds Government to
account (Scrutiny)



Enables the Government
to set taxes (Taxation)

Select Committees

- Set up to scrutinise specific areas of work and Government departments
- Work carried out through public enquiries
- Groups and individuals submit evidence to enquiries
- Enquiry report created and usually passed to relevant Government department

Select Committees



- Environment, Food and Agriculture Committee
- Communities and Local Government
- EU: Environment and Agriculture

Parliamentary Questions

Enable Parliamentarians to:

- Obtain information – stats, policies
- Press for action
- Raise constituency issues
- Challenge Government policy

Must have factual basis & relate to the running of a Government department



Parliamentary debates

Enable MPs and peers to raise issues on local, regional and national matters



- Flooding in Somerset
- Cowboy builders
- Child adoption
- Type 1 diabetes in children
- Road markings and signs

All Party Parliamentary Groups

- Cross-party & Cross-chamber
- Subject & county groups
- Not formal, but important in developing knowledge/ raising awareness

*Environment, National Parks, Forestry,
Local Environment Quality, Conservation &
Wildlife*

Early Day Motions

A way to raise issues there may not be time to debate

Can be used to:

- Draw attention to an issue
- Call for action
- Commemorate, congratulate, condemn

Weekly Information Bulletin

Includes:

- The week ahead
- Forthcoming business of both houses
- Legislation being considered
- Committee enquiries and membership
- Contact details
- Details of Green and White papers (Govt)

General Advice

- Local MP in first instance
- Identify & contact MPs/ Peers with an interest
- Be clear and specific on aims
- Remember party & Government positions
- Be positive and proactive
- Use the Parliament website!

Questions



Where can I get information?

- www.parliament.uk
- 020 7219 4272 – Commons information
- 020 7219 3107 – Lords information