



Young Activist Network

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Lobbying

What is it?

'Lobbying is when an individual or group tries to persuade someone in Parliament to support a particular policy or campaign.' - UK Parliament

Different Types of Lobbying:

- Meeting with a Politician to discuss legislation
e.g. MP constituency surgeries
- Emailing and Social media targeting
- Mass lobbying
- Petitions
- Writing letters to politicians



Recent High Profile Cases: Owen Paterson

- Paterson paid 16 hours a week consultant for Randox laboratories
- Paterson represented Randox in a call with government minister responsible for issuing contracts.
- March 2020 Randox given £133 million government contract to produce testing kits. (No other firms given opportunity to bid.)
- 6 months later Randox were issued a £347 million government contract. (No other firms were able to bid.)
- Commons select committee on standards investigated his lobbying
- They found he had used his privilege to benefit 2 companies and he had 'brought the House into disrepute.'
- They called for his suspension which then led to his resignation.



Who can you lobby?

- Politicians hold different powers within every level of government in UK. In Norfolk these are the levels of government and the politicians you can lobby:

- UK government - **Cabinet Ministers**
- Parliament: House of Commons & Lords - **Your local MP**
- Norfolk County Council - **County councillors**
- Norwich City Council / district councils - **city/district councillors**
- Police and Crime Commissioners**
- Parish council if applicable



Guest speaker! Councillor Emma Corlett

- Labour County Councillor for Town Close Division on Norfolk County Council



Recent high profile cases: David Cameron

-David Cameron paid advisor to Greensill:

In 2020 during the beginning of the pandemic

Cameron used his influence to attempt to Persuade ministers to put Greensill on the Corporate Covid Financing Facility.

Would have allowed Greensill to issue Govt insured loans to businesses.

Failed to persuade, but Cameron makes \$1 million a year as a part time advisor.

In total he made **\$10 million from 2 and a half years** part time work!



Lobby a politician!

- Think of a problem locally or nationally that you think needs addressing e.g. cheaper bus fares or cutting down Co2 emissions.
 - Who is best to lobby for your issue? MP or city councillor?
 - Draft a letter or email to your relevant politician.
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- Your email should highlight your issue and why it needs changing.
 - You should ask what they potentially propose to do and what they are doing currently?
 - Be persuasive!

