



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MSPs, MPs, MEPs, councillors – who does what?

This leaflet explains the roles of the different elected representatives you have in Scotland, what they do and how to contact them.



Introduction



MSPs, MPs, MEPs and councillors belong to different organisations. They represent you on different issues and make decisions that affect you in different ways. If you have an issue you want to raise, this leaflet can help you decide who to contact. It covers the following:

- The **Scottish Parliament**, which is the law-making body in Scotland for a range of domestic matters, known as devolved matters (see pages 4-5). You are represented in the Scottish Parliament by Members of the Scottish Parliament, or **MSPs**.
- The **UK Parliament**, which is the law-making body for Scotland on reserved matters. These are issues that generally have a UK-wide or international impact and are outside the law-making powers of the Scottish Parliament (see pages 6-7). You are represented in the UK Parliament by a Member of Parliament, or **MP**.

- The **European Parliament**, which plays a key role in making laws that apply across all the member states of the European Union (EU), including the UK (see pages 8-9). You are represented in the European Parliament by Members of the European Parliament, or **MEPs**.
- Scotland's 32 **local authorities (councils)**, which are responsible for directly delivering a wide range of services and for setting the level of, and collecting, council tax in the area they cover (see pages 10-11). You are represented on your local council by **councillors**.

The following pages list some of the work your representatives do. In addition, all of them take part in a wide range of other activities including meeting with local people, speaking at events and attending fact-finding visits.

Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs)



Who represents me?

Each person in Scotland is represented in the Scottish Parliament at Holyrood in Edinburgh by eight MSPs: one constituency MSP and seven regional MSPs. All MSPs have equal status in the Parliament and you are free to contact any of the eight. You can find out who represents you and how to contact them by using the postcode search facility on the Scottish Parliament website or by contacting Public Information.

What do MSPs do?

Your MSPs represent your area on a wide range of domestic matters, known as devolved matters. They can:

- take part in committee meetings and speak in debates in the Scottish Parliament
- debate proposed Scottish laws
- question the Scottish Government
- scrutinise and vote on the Scottish Government's budget proposals.

What can an MSP help me with?

MSPs can assist if you have concerns about a devolved matter such as:

- health
- education
- justice
- police and fire services
- housing
- environment.

Scottish Parliament Public Information

Tel: 0800 092 7500 or
0131 348 5000

Website:

www.scottish.parliament.uk

Email:

sp.info@scottish.parliament.uk

Members of Parliament (MPs)



Who represents me?

Each person in Scotland is represented in the House of Commons at Westminster in London by one constituency MP. You can find out who represents you and how to contact them by using the postcode search facility on the front page of the UK Parliament website or by calling the House of Commons Information Office.

What do MPs do?

Your MP represents your area on matters that are dealt with by the UK Parliament, known as reserved matters. They can:

- take part in committee meetings and speak in debates in the House of Commons
- debate proposed UK laws
- question the UK Government
- scrutinise and vote on the UK Government's budget proposals.

What can my MP help me with?

Your MP can assist you if you have concerns about a reserved matter such as:

- benefits and social security
- immigration
- defence
- foreign policy
- employment
- trade and industry.

House of Commons Information Office

Tel: 020 7219 4272

Website: www.parliament.uk

Email: hcinfo@parliament.uk

Members of the European Parliament (MEPs)



Who represents me?

Scotland is represented by six MEPs in the European Parliament, which meets in Brussels and Strasbourg. Wherever you live in Scotland, you can approach any one of the six. You can find out who your MEPs are and how to contact them by visiting the European Parliament website or by contacting the European Parliament Office in Scotland.

What do MEPs do?

Your MEPs represent you on EU-wide issues. They can:

- debate most proposed new European laws
- control how money is spent by the EU
- scrutinise all EU institutions
- hear public petitions raised on EU matters.

What can an MEP help me with?

MEPs can assist you with matters that affect EU member states such as:

- employment and working conditions
- consumer protection
- economic development
- equal opportunities
- environmental standards
- fishing and agriculture.

European Parliament Office in Scotland

Tel: 0131 557 7866

Website: www.europarl.org.uk

Email:

epedinburgh@europarl.europa.eu



Who represents me?

Scotland is split into 32 local councils. Each council is divided into small areas called wards. Three or four councillors represent each ward, depending on its size. You can approach any of the councillors who represent you.

There is not enough space to list all the councils and their contact details in this leaflet, but you can access a list of council websites from the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) website or find contact details for your council in your local phonebook.

What do councillors do?

Your councillors represent you on matters which affect your local area. They can:

- take part in council committee meetings
- scrutinise council policies and decisions such as council tax levels and the delivery of local services.

What can a councillor help me with?

Councillors can assist you if you have an issue with the delivery of services in your area such as:

- public transport and road maintenance
- planning decisions and licensing
- running of schools, libraries, museums and galleries
- social work services
- refuse collection
- housing benefit and council tax benefit.

COSLA

(for contact details for your local council)

Tel: 0131 474 9200

Website: www.cosla.gov.uk

Email: enquiries@cosla.gov.uk

For more information on the Scottish Parliament, its membership, business and procedures, **please contact us.**



Address Public Information
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP



Telephone 0800 092 7500
0131 348 5000

Fòn 0131 348 5395 (Gàidhlig)

Textphone users can contact us on 0800 092 7100. We also welcome calls using the Text Relay service.



Text 07786 209888



Email sp.info@scottish.parliament.uk



Website www.scottish.parliament.uk

Contact us if you need this information in another format such as Braille, large print or audio or in another language.

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