

Take Action

How to write to your local representative about an issue you care about

If you feel passionate about an issue that you have learnt about in school and would like the government to take action, you can contact your local TD. You could write as an individual or as a class. Your TD is in the Dáil to represent you and serve you and your community, so you should feel confident writing to them about issues that you care about.

Tips for writing the letter to your TD

- **Opening:** Address your TD as: Dear Deputy (surname)
- **Make it local:** Mention that you live in their constituency (area) or that your school is in their constituency. This makes your letter more relevant for them.
- **How to begin:** Start by saying “I am writing to you regarding...” and then highlight the issue.
- **Explain:** Your TD may not know about the issue so explain the issue succinctly.
- **Make it personal.** Tell them why it is important to you or your class.
- **Be concise:** Don't make the letter too long – one to one and a half pages should be enough to make your point. You can use links or references if needed.
- **Include an ask:** Ask them to do something specific, for example asking a Parliamentary Question or publicly supporting a specific policy. (You can check their current stance on an issue on their party's website).
- **Be polite.** If you are rude, you probably won't get a response.
- **Say thank you.** If your TD has previously taken positive action in the past on a similar issue, thank them for thus.
- **Ask for a response.** You could write “I/We look forward to hearing from you on this matter.”
- **Sign off** using “Yours Sincerely,” and your name or your class and school's name.
- **Contact details:** Leave a contact number or address or email address.
- **Proofread:** Proofread your letter and also ask someone else to read over it to check for spelling and grammar mistakes and to make sure your points are clear.

Following up

- **Phone call:** If they don't respond you can call and check that they received your letter. You will likely speak to a member of their staff, again be sure to be polite.
- **Meet in person.** You and your class or parents could ask to meet your local TD or visit their clinic to discuss the issue in person. If you are going into a clinic, make sure that you bring any supporting documents relating to the issue with you.

How to contact

The postal and email addresses for current TDs are as follows:

<TD's full name>

Houses of the Oireachtas

Leinster House, Kildare St

Dublin 2

D02 XR20

<firstname>.<surname>@oireachtas.ie

If you are unsure who your local TD is visit: <https://www.whoismytd.com/>

You can find more about contacting your TD by visiting: <https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/members/>