

# Get MS on the agenda: tips for speaking with candidates

**On the doorstep, in the street or at a public meeting, here's how to get MS on the agenda with your local candidates.**

## Sharing your experiences

Candidates will want to hear about your own experience of MS and why issues matter to you. Whether it's about disability benefits, a local accessibility issue or treatment access at your local hospital – this is your chance. Ask your future MP to make a difference for you and the MS community.

To find out more about what we're calling for, read our full manifesto at: [mssociety.org.uk/election-manifesto](https://mssociety.org.uk/election-manifesto)

## Here are some suggested questions you could ask:

If elected, how will you improve the benefits process, including PIP assessments?

If elected, how will you help support people with MS to stay in work if they can?

If elected, how will you improve neurology services in the UK?

## Key Statistics

MS can be misunderstood. To help, here's some key facts about the issues facing the people with MS. You can use them to explain to candidates the challenges that the MS community faces:

- MS is a neurological condition affecting over **150,000 people in the UK**
- **6 in 10** people with MS said their PIP assessment report didn't accurately reflect their MS
- **More than a quarter (28%)** of people with MS said they'd left their job due to their employers' actions. Or because their employer failed to put in place support.
- At the start of 2024, **over 235,000 people** were waiting for a neurology appointment in England. Of those, over 8,000 had been waiting over a year.
- The UK ranks **44 out of 45** European nations for the number of neurologists for each person with a neurological condition.

## What can I ask my candidates to do?

If your candidate seems interested in showing more support, that's great. Please ask them to read our manifesto. You could also ask them to join the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for MS, if they're elected. And encourage them to get in touch with the MS Society to find out more about speaking up for MS, by emailing: **[campaigns@mssociety.org.uk](mailto:campaigns@mssociety.org.uk)**

## Sharing your conversations

It's really useful to know what future MPs say about supporting people with MS. If you have any conversations, please let us know what they say by emailing us at **[campaigns@mssociety.org.uk](mailto:campaigns@mssociety.org.uk)**. We'll use this information when we contact MPs after the election to hold them to account for their promises and encourage them to speak up for MS, now they have a seat in parliament.

**Get MS on the agenda**

