

Guide to organising an MP visit to your housing association

NHF guidance for housing associations

Summary

- Socially distanced visits
- Virtual visits

As part of Starts at Home Day, we're asking members to arrange visits and meetings with their local MPs. We understand that due to coronavirus there may be restrictions on how these visits can take place. We also recognise that you may not feel that an in-person visit is not suitable for Starts at Home Day this year so we have included guidance for virtual visits.

If you do secure a visit with your MP, [please do let the NHF know](#). We can also provide you with background information on your MP or answer any other questions you may have about organising a visit.

Socially distanced visits

As lockdown eases, many MPs are now going on visits in their constituencies again, as they did before the pandemic. If it is appropriate for the setting you work in, you could invite your local MP to a socially distanced visit during the summer for Starts at Home Day. Most MPs will welcome the opportunity to demonstrate their involvement in their communities – for example, visiting residents and support staff who have work in supported housing. This is a good way for MPs to see first-hand the role that supported housing plays in their constituency and will help to inform their work when they return to parliament.



MPs are keen to be seen out in their local communities

Current social distancing guidelines suggest that you should remain one meter plus away from anyone outside your household or support bubble, or one metre away if there are risk mitigation measures in place (such as screens or masks) and two metre distancing is not possible. This advice may change, so please check the latest government guidance before organising a visit.

Top tips for socially distanced visits

- Enforce social distancing guidelines, as set out above
- If possible, visit an outdoor space to reduce the chance of transmission – this could be a communal garden where an MP can meet with residents and support staff outside.

- If meeting an MP inside, make sure it is in a large, well ventilated space where there will be plenty of room for social distancing.
- If you will be inside, consider if you need to provide suitable face coverings for all those involved in the visit.
- Provide hand sanitiser or hand washing facilities for the MP and any staff or residents involved.
- Check that all staff and residents involved with the visit are comfortable with meeting an MP in person.
- Take photos or videos of the visit, but make sure that staff, residents and MPs in the images are clearly socially distanced.



Christopher Pincher ✓
@ChrisPincher



Great to join residents and @MidlandHeart staff of Shannons Mill Retirement Home this morning for a socially distanced visit. The team are doing a brilliant job 👍

It is vital that we build places to live where people want to spend their retirement 🏠



Virtual visits

If it is not possible for you to carry out an in-person visit, you could still showcase the work you do through a virtual visit with an MP.

A virtual visit is different to a virtual meeting. It can be held using video conferencing software, such as Zoom or Microsoft Teams. Whilst the MP will not be able to experience your site in person, you can still give them a taste of what your housing association is like. For example, the MP could speak to a member of front-line staff or a resident about their experiences. Alternatively, you could hold the call in an area you would particularly like to show the MP, so they can still see an example of the services you provide.

Top tips for virtual visits

- Check your technology before the visit, making sure that your sound, camera and internet connection are working.
- Think about where you want to film the visit and choose a location which will leave the MP with a positive impression of the housing association.
- If there will be more than one person on camera from your housing association, please make sure they are socially distanced from each other.
- Take a screenshot of the meeting to share on social media.

