

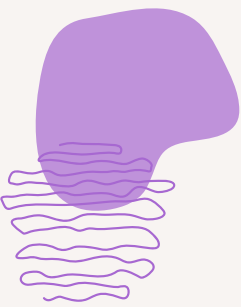


**MOMENTS OF FREEDOM**

## MSPs and Councillors

[www.momentsoffreedom.org](http://www.momentsoffreedom.org)



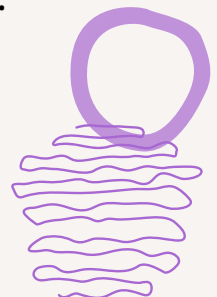


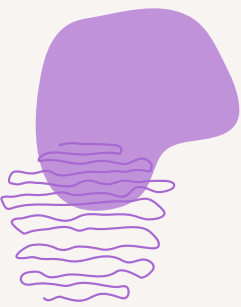
## MSPs (Members of the Scottish Parliament)

The Scottish Parliament makes laws on a wide range of issues that affect Scotland and the people living here.

The Scottish Government is accountable to the Scottish Parliament.

- There are 129 Members of the Scottish Parliament.
- The MSPs are elected to represent people in an area.
- They contribute to debates and vote on laws and other matters.
- They can ask questions and raise issues in the Parliament.
- They also do a lot of work in Committees, for example looking in detail at the planning stage of new laws and reviewing the progress and impact of changes.





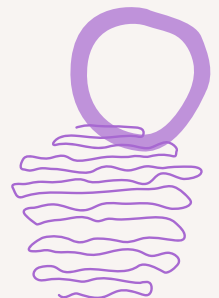
# The Scottish Government

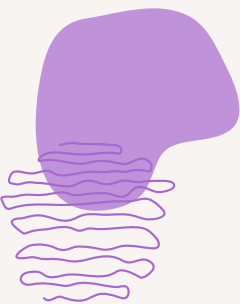
The Scottish Government is the body that runs the country, for example by setting policies and allocating money for services that are used by the public.

Most of the detailed work is done by civil servants who are accountable to the Ministers for that topic.

The First Minister and all the other Ministers are also MSPs.

You can find out more and see who the Ministers are and the topics they deal with at <https://www.gov.scot/about/who-runs-government/>





## Finding who represents you

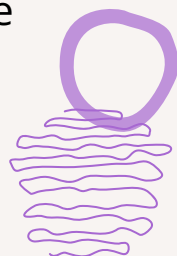
Every person in Scotland has eight Members of Scottish Parliament (MSPs) that they can contact:

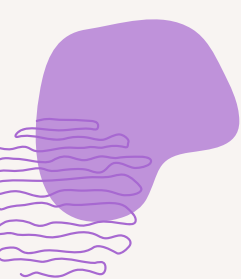
- One MSP who represents people in a local area or constituency.
- Seven MSPs who represent all the people in a bigger region.
- You can contact any of them.
- It does not matter whether or not you voted for that person. Once they are elected the MSP represents everyone in that area.

The Scottish Parliament website has details of the current MSPs:

<https://ballotbox.scot/scottish-parliament/maps>

If you are not able to look up information online, you can contact Public Information by calling 0207 624 2993 and ask them for the names and contact details of your MSPs.





## What do Councils do?

When you vote in the election you will be voting for candidates who are standing to be elected as councillors. Elected councillors will represent you on your local council.

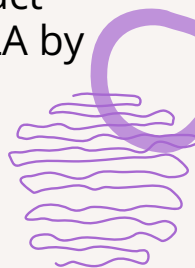
Local councils are responsible for making decisions about how money is spent to provide local public services.

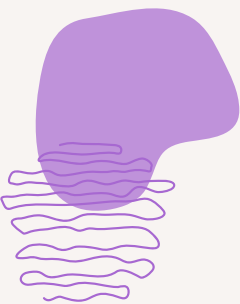
This includes:

Education, social care, housing, environment, waste, public transport, roads, library and leisure services.

Constituencies are split up into smaller areas called wards. In each ward there will be three or four Councillors. You can contact any of them. You can find out who your Councillors are by looking at your local Council website or by directly contacting your Council and asking them.

The Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) also has information on the contact details for Councils. You can contact COSLA by calling 0131 474 9200 or by emailing [info@cosla.gov.uk](mailto:info@cosla.gov.uk).

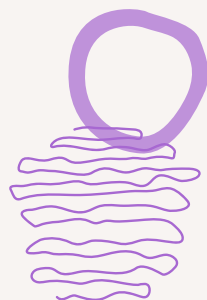


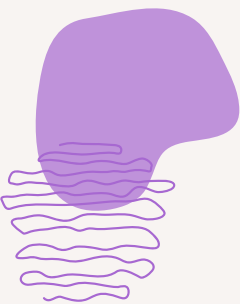


## Tips on contacting your MSP or Councillor

Most contact with MSPs or Councillors is done by email, phone or post.

- Try to be as clear as you can and don't be tempted into giving lots of information that isn't needed at this stage. Your MSP or Councillor is more likely to help you with your problem if they can clearly understand the situation.
- If they need more of the background or details later, they will ask you.
- Try to be clear what you are asking the MSP or Councillor to do. For example they might give you advice on what to do next, look into something for you, or contact someone about the problem.





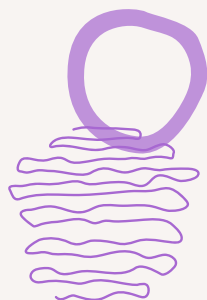
# Surgeries

After you contact your local MSP or Councillor you might want to arrange to meet up with them to talk more about the issues you are experiencing.

You may have a constituency office in your local area where you can reach your MSPs or Councillors. MSPs and Councillors also hold surgeries.

Surgeries are a time and place when people can come and speak to MSPs and Councillors about any issues affecting them.

You can find out the surgery details for your Councillors by searching for this on your Council's website.





We hope you find  
this helpful!

Moments of Freedom

