



## UNITE 'LIGHTEN UP CAMPAIGN' LOBBY OF PARLIAMENT

Wednesday 25 March

**Photo Opportunity – 12.30 - 1.45 pm Parliament Square (near Churchill statue), opposite House of Commons, Westminster**

**Lobby 2.30 - 4 pm Committee Room 11**

### **How to lobby MPs**

The purpose of lobbying is to make sure MPs and government are aware of the experiences of Unite members when they make decisions that affect our lives.

### **Write to your MP**

Write a letter to ask your MP for an appointment on 25 March (see model letter). To find the name and address of your MP call the House of Commons information line on 020 7219 4272 or look at [www.locata.co.uk](http://www.locata.co.uk) you can also email your MP through this website.

If they are available they should respond with a time. If they are not available you should receive a response informing you of this. It would be helpful if you could make an arrangement to see your MP locally or at one of their surgeries if they are not available on the 25th.

### **The green card system of lobbying**

If you do not receive a reply from your MP or do not get a chance to write to them then you can use the green card system (although it is always best to try to get an appointment). This allows you to fill in an appointment card in Central Lobby (the main central area of Parliament where the public can meet MPs) and the staff in the House will attempt to find your

MP to see if they are available to meet you. You should wait in Central Lobby while your MP is found. This may take some time so please be patient. Sometimes your MP will be available and will come to Central Lobby to meet you, but sometimes they will not and will send back a message saying they cannot meet you.

### **When you meet your MP**

Unite already lobbies government at a national level. However the lobbying done by individual members is crucial as it provides MPs with a personal dimension. You should always stress how the government's action (or inaction) affects you, your family and friends (especially if they have a vote in the MP's constituency).

The use of personal experience will make the MP aware of the issue on a more human level rather than just the figures and the policy. If the MP supports our case then you are giving them ammunition for the case, if they do not support you then you are making them respond on an individual level rather than the abstract political level. Remember our case is fair and we already have some support in the House therefore anything you can do to help one MP be supportive or to change support into activity is a bonus for our campaign.

**Have fun lobbying!**