

How to write a letter to local press

The letters page of your local newspaper or community magazine is a great place to spark up a conversation about electoral reform and demonstrate demand for a change to the voting system. Get your letter published and you might inspire someone else to write in and respond, even if it is to share an opposing view.

Where should you start? Talk about the situation in your constituency, whether it has been a safe seat for many years or if [your MP supports Proportional Representation](#). This makes it relevant to other readers, so if you live in Harrogate, write about election results in Harrogate. Throw in an emotive quote about how this makes you feel and editors will be more inclined to publish your point of view.

Set the scene but keep the letter short - around 200 words maximum - and stick to your main point. If you haven't done this before we have a template letter below which you can adapt as well as using our [mythbusting web page](#) for inspiration!

Dear Editor,

Leaving politics to one side at a time of national crisis is the right thing to do in the midst of a pandemic. But when this is all over we will need to rebuild so much of our society, and that includes our democracy. The 2019 general election result alone shows it is time we changed our current voting system because it simply isn't working.

The system called First Past the Post skews the results in every constituency, including **[XXX insert your constituency]. Add a comment on the disproportionate general election outcome from 2019 and why it's important / what impact that has had locally.]**

That's why people in **[insert city/town/village]** should call on **[insert name of your MP]** to back Proportional Representation. We need a Parliament in which seats match votes, where people feel fairly represented and not locked-out of decision-making.

That's why I support [Make Votes Matter](#), the movement for Proportional Representation. I urge all voters to get behind the campaign for fair votes. It's time we channelled our efforts into winning real democracy.

Ends



Supporters who have had letters published in their local newspaper or community magazine are included on our [media coverage page](#). Don't forget to send us a copy if you get your letter published.

You can find details on how to submit letters by looking up your paper's 'Contact us' section on their website.

Here's an example from the Express & Star in Wolverhampton:

A screenshot of a web browser showing the 'Contact Us' page for the Express & Star newspaper. The browser's address bar shows 'expressandstar.com/contact-us/'. The page has a red header with the newspaper's name and navigation links. The main content area is titled 'Letters to the editor' and provides instructions on how to submit letters, including contact details and a complaints section.

Contact Us | Express & Star

Jobs | Classifieds | Offers | Book an ad | Digital Editions | Announcements | Directory | Login

Express & Star

News Sport Entertainment Services

Letters to the editor

Letters MUST include the writer's name, address and telephone number.

Letters will only be published anonymously in exceptional circumstances.

The editor reserves the right to condense or amend letters.

Write to: Letters, Express & Star, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Email: letters@expressandstar.co.uk

Complaints

We take complaints seriously and are happy to clarify errors that may occur in the Express & Star.

We abide to Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO) rules and regulations and the Editors' Code of Practice that IPSO enforces.

To make a complaint and read more about IPSO, please [see this page](#).