

A guide on engaging your local MP on worker shortages

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Overview

In the last couple of months, the REC campaigns team has been developing a campaign on labour shortages where we aim to secure meaningful and practical policy actions from Government that will boost our members' ability to fill vacancies for clients. The campaigns team will be engaging MPs and Peers on this issue - but local MPs care what their constituents think so we need your help in reaching out to them.

A member of the REC campaigns team will be happy to join any meetings members secure with their MPs. The template below is a guide but don't be afraid to tailor it to your needs - especially if you already know your MP. We can help with making sure you have the right evidence and data to use to back up your arguments, but we know that you have the frontline insight your MP will want from a business in their own constituency. If there are further questions, please get in touch with us via policy@rec.uk.com

Letter

Please find a template letter to reach out to your local MP with a view to arranging a meeting between your organisation, the REC, and the MP. You are welcome to replace the letterhead with your own and tailor it to suit your business. The letter should be emailed as a PDF attachment with covering email (example below).

[Title][Firstname][Lastname] MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

[Date] [Month] 2021

Dear [title] [Lastname] MP,

I am writing to request a meeting to discuss our growing concern about labour and skills shortages in [constituency / region]. I am a member of the Recruitment & Employment Confederation (REC), which is leading a campaign on this issue.

I [own / manage] [company name], a recruitment specialist in [industry], delivering employment and staffing solutions for people and businesses in [constituency]. Over the last couple of months, we have faced acute labour and skills shortages where there are simply not enough candidates to meet demand from employers. No doubt, you will have seen the media coverage about the shortages of drivers in the UK. Although a significant issue, we want to stress that labour shortages are not confined to one sector. Our business, our clients and fellow recruitment businesses are all experiencing the same challenge, and with vacancies at an all-time high and still rising, we want to speak to you to share our ideas and hear yours about how to handle this situation. Our economic recovery depends on us getting this right.

A recent survey by the REC confirmed the scale of the issue, with nine out of 10 recruiters reporting labour shortages are a predominant concern for their businesses. 65% of respondents claimed skills shortages are a factor affecting recruitment businesses the most when sourcing suitable candidates right now. The wider survey analysis can be viewed [here](#).

The REC, the leading voice of the UK's recruitment industry, is working with us and others to secure meaningful actions from government that will alleviate this shortage, inform decision makers, and make sure we don't end up here again.

Every 21 seconds someone finds a permanent role through a UK recruitment agency. And every year, around 280,000 people use temporary work to help support them while they care for their families. Our industry directly employs 119,000 people, has close to 1 million people on a temporary or contract assignment on any given day, and helps over a million jobseekers find a permanent job every year across the UK. As such, the recruitment sector will play a vital role in tackling this issue.

[Name] in my office, copied, will be happy to arrange a meeting at a mutually convenient time.

Yours sincerely,
[name]
[job title]
[Address]

Email Draft

[Subject] Meeting Request: Labour and skills shortages issues

[Recipient] Please type your postcode [here](#) to find contact details for your local MP. Please copy policy@rec.uk.com into emails to parliamentarians.

Dear [firstname],

As a constituent, I am getting in touch to request a meeting to discuss the ongoing labour and skills shortages affecting businesses in [constituency]. Please find attached a letter setting out further detail about this issue.

I [own / manage] [company name, link to the website] a recruitment specialist in [industry], delivering employment and staffing solutions for people and businesses in [constituency].

In recent months, our business has been challenged by significant labour and skills shortages, and we find ourselves increasingly unable to provide candidates, resulting in a domino effect in other sectors, for consumers and on the wider economy. That's why we are working with our membership organisation, [the Recruitment and Employment Confederation \(REC\)](#) to deliver meaningful solutions to tackle these critical issues. An REC survey of members on this issue confirmed how significant it is. You can view their analysis [here](#). We'd appreciate 30 minutes of your time to discuss these challenges and the potential solutions.

[Name] in my office, copied, will be happy to arrange a meeting at a mutually convenient time.

Regards,
[firstname]