



Postcards to parliament

Dear Friends,

We now have the results of the last week's Scottish parliamentary elections and over the coming weeks MSPs will begin the task of charting Scotland's path through the next five years. We are encouraging Friends across Scotland to send a postcard to their MSPs congratulating them on their appointment, wishing them well in their endeavours and highlighting our hopes for the future as Quakers.

Roughly a third of this crop of MSPs are new to the parliament, so this is a perfect opportunity to make a connection. Below we have given some information on how to go about this and some guidance on what you could include in your message. You don't need to follow this too closely. Remember the important thing is for you to make a connection with your MSPs.

Practicalities

Who is my MSP?

You will have one constituency MSP and 7 regional MSPs representing you at Holyrood. You can find out the names and details of your MSPs by going to <https://www.parliament.scot/msps> and typing in your post code.

What address should I send the postcard to?

The Scottish Parliament address is:

[Name of MSP]
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

What postcard should I use?

You can use any postcard you like. You may want to make your own. You could choose one from your local area, one that conveys good wishes, or one that expresses your hopes for the next parliament. It is entirely up to you.

What should I write?

The purpose of writing is not so much to provide a to-do list for the new MSPs, but to reach out a hand in friendship. By making a connection at this early point in the parliament, it will be easier to engage with MSPs as issues arise further down the line. Below are a few examples to get you started (please do not copy it word-for-word):

Example 1

Dear [insert name of MSP]

I am writing to congratulate you on your successful election to the parliament. As a Quaker I would like to share my hope with you that this parliament can work towards a Scotland

characterised by peace, equality, truth, simplicity and sustainability (these are Quaker values). I recognise that the role of elected representatives is not an easy one, but wanted to encourage you as you begin the task.

In friendship,
[insert your name]

Example 2

Dear [insert name of MSP]

I wanted to write to you to congratulate you on your election and encourage you as you begin this new session of parliament. As a Quaker I am concerned about [insert issue], and I will be holding you, and your colleagues in the parliament, in the light as you discern Scotland's path these next five years.

In friendship,
[insert your name]

Example 3

Dear [insert name of MSP]

As a Quaker, I wanted to write to you to congratulate you on your successful election to the parliament and to encourage you as you begin the task ahead of you. I recognise that now is probably quite a busy time for you, but I would value the opportunity to meet with you to hear more about you and your hopes for Scotland over the next five years.

In friendship,
[insert your name and]

Don't forget to include your contact details if you would like a reply 😊