# **Template email/letter to MPs on Policing Bill, Jan–Feb 2022**

*Thank you for contacting your MP about the Policing Bill. Please adapt this email/letter to reflect your own experiences and concerns. All text in italics and red needs to be edited or replaced. Please send any queries or replies to* *politics@quaker.org.uk**.*

Dear *<insert your MP’s full name here>* MP

I am writing as a constituent to ask you to support the Lords’ amendments to Part 3 of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill, especially the amendment removing the power to put noise restrictions on protests.

As a Quaker, I care deeply about equality, justice, peace, truth and sustainability. Quakers and others often feel led to take part in nonviolent protest, to champion these values and call for the government to take action. Here you can very briefly describe an example of where you or other Quakers have protested. Try to choose one that will appeal to your MP or at least not put them off. Ideally one that brought about change that they will agree was positive, e.g. ending apartheid in South Africa. You can find out more about your MP at www.theyworkforyou.com.

I was pleased that Peers voted on 17 January to remove some of the worst provisions in the bill. They removed the ability to put noise restrictions on protests. They removed the clause allowing restrictions on public assemblies, and the clause criminalising one-person protests. They also removed provisions for a ‘buffer zone’ around parliament if authorisation is given.

These provisions in the original bill – particularly the noise restrictions – could suppress many nonviolent assemblies and marches. Many expert commentators, including from the police, say these restrictions will be impossible to implement and open to abuse. They are not needed to address the “highly disruptive” protests that ministers refer to, and will have a chilling effect on nonviolent protest.

I ask you to support the Lords’ amendments to Part 3 of the bill. I also urge you to speak out against the disproportionate effect that many aspects of the bill will have on marginalised groups, particularly the impact of Part 4 on Gypsies, Roma and Travellers.

If you like, you can add something here about what this all means to you personally, and the implications for democracy.

In Friendship

*Full name*

*Address* (even if you’re sending this by email, you need to include your address so they know you’re a constituent)

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