

# SUPPORTING A BETTER DEAL FOR FISHERMEN

**#fairfishing #seaofopportunity**

**Lobby day • 10 October 2018**

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## Briefing for members

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The National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations



**SCOTTISH  
FISHERMEN'S  
FEDERATION**

## BRIEFING FOR MEMBERS' LOBBY OF PARLIAMENT

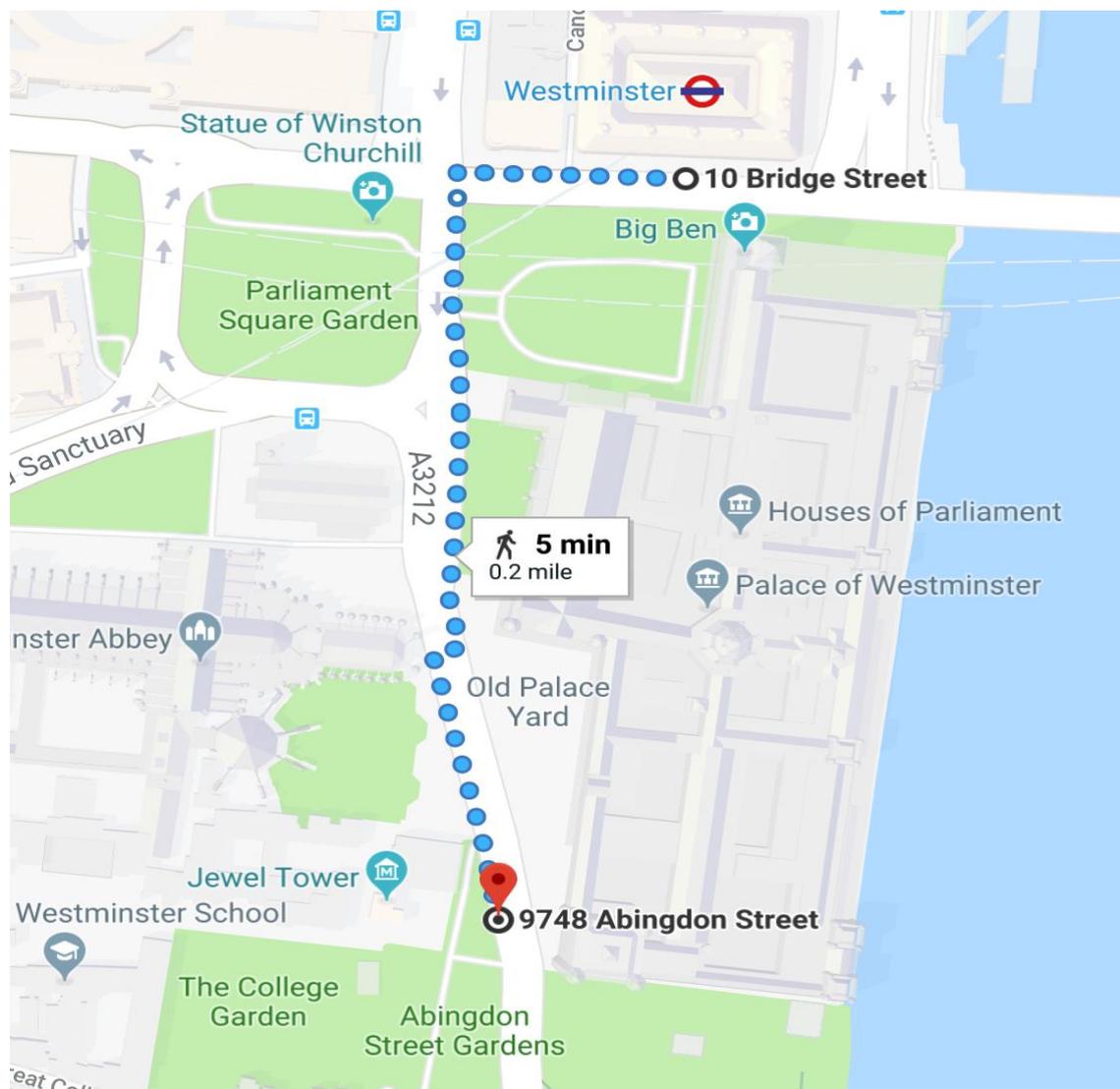
Thank you for taking part in the NFFO and SFF joint Lobby Day of Parliament. This is a major event for us to secure commitment from a number of parliamentarians to work for the best possible deal for the UK fishing industry after we leave the European Union.

This briefing is a guide to help you prepare for your meeting with your local MP(s). It includes:

- Joining instructions to help you find the venue
- Top tips to help you get the most out of your meeting with your MP
- Key messages to guide your comments to your MP
- A template press release for you to send to your local newspaper
- A guide around the parliamentary estate

## JOINING INSTRUCTIONS

The NFFO and SFF Lobby Day is taking place from 1-3pm on Wednesday 10 October in Committee Room 10, Houses of Parliament. We would like to have a photo-call outside of Parliament by College Green (SW1P 3JY) at **12 noon**, this has been highlighted for you on the below image next to The College Garden and is a five-minute walk from Westminster Underground Station. Following the photo-call we will enter Parliament.



You will need to enter Parliament through the Cromwell Green entrance ([Number 8 on this map](#)) and go through the airport style security. You do not need ID to get into Parliament, but please have this

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document with you to show the security guards should they have any questions. **We advise allowing for up to 30 minutes for airport-style security.**

Parliamentary staff will be able to help direct you to Committee Room 10 – just look for anyone wearing an official pass around their neck. To get there, you will need to walk through Westminster Hall, turn left up the steps at the end and then straight on into Central Lobby (the midpoint between the Commons and the Lords). Walk straight through Central Lobby and turn right up the staircase you will see on your right. Walk through the doors at the top of the staircase and then straight ahead you will see a reception desk. Turn left at this desk on to the Committee Room corridor. Committee Room 10 is just a few metres down the corridor on the right-hand side.

### **Any questions?**

If you get lost at any point on your way to the room and can't find a Parliamentary staff member to ask for directions, please call Anne Mirkovic on 07977 265 324 and she will help get you on track.

## **RUNNING ORDER FOR THE DAY**

We have the room booked from 1-3pm. Members are meeting with MPs at various points throughout this time. We have also invited key ministers and shadow ministers to address the whole room and are still confirming these arrangements. Below is our current running order of the day.

<b>12:00</b>	Photo Call outside of Parliament with NFFO and SFF Members
<b>13:00</b>	Lobby Day begins in Committee Room 10 – Welcoming remarks by Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (tbc)
<b>13:30</b>	Speech by Deidre Brock MP, SNP Spokesperson for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
<b>14:00</b>	Continuing to meet with specific MPs/ Peers
<b>15:00</b>	Lobby Day ends – Closing remarks by Luke Pollard MP, Shadow Minister for Fisheries (tbc)

We want members to enjoy this day, so please do not feel you have to remain in Committee 10 for the whole two hours. Feel free to wander around the parts of the Parliament estate open to the public (see guide below) or arrive later / leave earlier depending on the timing of your meeting with your MP. There is a café open to the public where members can get lunch – this can be found by walking back to Westminster Hall.

## TOP TIPS FOR MEETING YOUR MP

- 1. We will help your MP find you.** For members who are meeting MPs in Committee Room 10, NFFO/SFF will have a table set up by the entrance to greet MPs when they arrive. We will sign them in, and then one of our staff will find you (listen out for people shouting your name) and introduce you to the MP.
- 2. Be clear and concise:** Outline your key concerns and the reasons for attending the NFFO/SFF lobby day. You'll probably only have 10-15 minutes of your MP's time, so prepare your comments and key messages.
- 3. Make it local:** MPs will engage with you more if you explain how the key messages affect the fishing community in their area.
- 4. Stay on message:** Because time is likely to be tight, please keep the conversation on the key messages.
- 5. Yours MP won't be an expert:** use simple explanations and avoid jargon and acronyms.
- 6. Give the MP the parliamentary briefing.** We have produced a briefing for you to give to the MP during the meeting. This has a number of asks of the MP including signing the pledge board and tabling Parliamentary Questions. Please do give this to them and ask them to indicate what actions they would be willing to carry out on your behalf.
- 7. Fill out the checklist.** It is vital we capture information about what MPs say to you during the meeting, and what actions from the MPs briefing they commit to carrying out. We have produced a short checklist for you to complete during or after your meeting with the MP which will be available on the day. Please hand this back to one of the Connect staff members.
- 8. Take a photo:** We will have a pledge board available for you and your MP to have a photo taken with. This is very important, as having a photo makes it much more likely that the MP will share their meeting with you on social media and their website, and the local newspaper is more likely to use your press release if it has a photograph.
- 9. Thank your MP for their time:** We want to build long-term parliamentary advocates for the NFFO/SFF who will raise issues on our behalf in the future. Please show appreciation to the MP for making the time to meet with you.
- 10. Be prepared for timings to change.** MPs are likely to arrive earlier or later than expected. Some may only be able to stay for 10 minutes, others might offer to take you off for a coffee in one of the Parliamentary canteens.
- 11. Have fun.** Whilst the Lobby Day is a serious event, we want members to enjoy their time in Parliament. Please feel free to use the time when you are not meeting with an MP to explore the parts of the parliamentary estate that are open to the public (a short tour guide is included in this document).

## **KEY MESSAGES**

The aim of the Lobby Day is to demonstrate a united UK-wide fishing industry and highlight collaboration between the NFFO and SFF. We are also seeking to secure support from MPs and Peers to work for the best possible outcomes for the UK fishing industry after we leave the EU and to discuss the Fisheries White Paper and the forthcoming Fisheries Bill.

### **Support For The Fisheries White Paper**

- The White Paper enshrines the important elements of a sustainable future for our industry: allowing the UK to become an independent Coastal State and to resist any attempt to link access to our waters to access to EU markets.
- It moves towards a system under which we can catch much more of our own natural resource.
- The NFFO and SFF supports the White Paper's call for annual bilateral fisheries agreements, this is the current EU/Norway model and it has worked very well to manage stocks in the North Sea sustainably.
- These agreements will cover the setting of total allowable catches, quota shares and access arrangements to fish in each other's waters, it will provide the UK the leverage to address the quota distortions.
- The extent that the customs arrangements described in the White Paper can deliver smooth border controls and zero tariffs will be of vital interest to those businesses engaged in selling live and fresh fisheries products into the EU.
- Decoupling trade from fishing rights should be a priority because politically inspired barriers to trade could only be to the disadvantage of everyone in the supply chain.
- There is still a long way to go and we need Parliament to ensure that these aspirations become a reality.

### **UK Policy On Fisheries To Be Determined In The UK**

- Despite only recently promising full fisheries independence on Brexit day on 29 March 2019, the UK Government will now remain part of the common fisheries system until at least 2021, when a transition phase is due to end.
- This means that in effect we will remain part of the Common Fisheries Policy, yet without a direct say in its rules, until the end of 2020.
- The NFFO and SFF are particularly concerned that the government may be subsequently compromised by concessions agreed with the EU as part of the Brexit deal. We are calling on Parliamentarians to make representations and campaign on our behalf to prevent concessions being made.

### **Fairer Quota Shares For The UK**

- The EU's stated preference for a free trade deal in return for access to fish in UK waters and quota shares would be to the continued disadvantage of the UK fisheries industry.
- This would lead to an unbalanced arrangement which would result in 60% of the UK's natural fish resources being given away.
- EU Quotas have granted up to 84% of the rights to fish some local species, such as English Channel cod, to the French, and left as little as 9% to British boats.
- Around two thirds of fish consumed in the UK currently comes from outside EU waters and the majority of what is caught by the UK fleet is currently exported to the EU.
- Future decisions on total allowable catches, quota shares and access arrangements should be made in the normal way through which coastal states work together – i.e. via annual bilateral fisheries agreements, this has been announced in the government's Fisheries White Paper and we are calling on parliamentarians to ensure this is also included in the forthcoming Fisheries Bill.

### **Support and Sustainability for the UK's Coastal Communities**

- The NFFO and SFF work on many fronts to promote safe working practice and demonstrate and realise a sustainable future.
- The NFFO and SFF commission and undertake a wide range of projects in support of their policy work towards realising a sustainable, viable and safe future for the industry.
- Ensuring future food security, and as an industry minimising our ecological footprint, whilst maintaining the economic viability of the fleets, is all part and parcel of what guides our daily work.
- The NFFO and SFF are pleased the Government's White Paper demonstrates commitment from the Government that they will resurrect and support coastal communities across the UK.

## **TEMPLATE LOCAL PRESS RELEASE**

We encourage you to send a press release to your local newspaper, along with a photo of your MP signing the NFFO/SFF pledge board, to publicise your meeting in Parliament.

**[name of MP] supports a better deal for [area] fishermen**

**[INSERT PHOTO OF MP WITH THE PLEDGE BOARD]**

[name of MP] has met with local fishermen [your name] in Parliament and pledged [his/her] commitment to fight for a better deal for local fishermen after Brexit.

[your name] was taking part in the National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations (NFFO) and the Scottish Fishermen's Federation's (SFF) lobby of Parliament, that saw over X fishermen gather in Parliament to call on the Government and MPs to secure a fair deal for fisheries and help to boost coastal communities.

As part of the event, [name of MP] signed pledged their support for a better deal for Fishermen, this calls for:

- Support for the Fisheries White Paper and [his/her] support in the forthcoming Fisheries Bill
- UK Policy on fisheries to be determined in the UK and not subject to a trade off in the EU
- A fairer quota system for the UK fisheries and free trade in fisheries products
- Support and sustainability for the UK's coastal communities and fishing industry

### **Speaking after the event in Parliament [your name]**

"I am delighted [name of MP] signed the NFFO's and SFF's pledge to demonstrate their commitment to the UK fishing industry and the UK's coastal communities. We have an excellent fishing industry in [your area] and across the country, but for too long our fisheries industry has been left with a raw deal. I am pleased my local MP will fight to ensure that fishermen like myself get the outcome we deserve."

The Lobby event in Parliament was convened by NFFO and SFF who represent the fishing industry across the United Kingdom and are working together to provide a voice for fishermen and lead policy change for the benefit of their members and the wider UK fishing industry.

## **YOUR GUIDE AROUND PARLIAMENT**

### **Elizabeth Tower**

“Big Ben” is the name of the huge hour bell, not the Tower (which is called Elizabeth Tower). Smaller bells are hit at quarter past, half past and the quarter to. No one is sure where Big Ben got its name, but the most likely theory is that it is named after Sir Benjamin Hall, a very tall man who held the position of First Commissioner for Works at the time of constructing the clock tower. Another possibility is that Big Ben is named after a famous contemporary prizefighter, Benjamin Caunt, who was a particular favourite with the builders who constructed the clock tower.

- Big Ben has a large crack in it. The first bell was cracked by Edmund Beckett Denison, later Sir Edmund Beckett, who was the designer of the clock's mechanism (incredibly, Denison wasn't a professional clockmaker - he was a lawyer). In search of finding the perfect note, he hit the bell with a much too heavy hammer and cracked it. A second bell was made, only for Denison to do the same. The manufacturers refused to recast the second bell, so instead it was turned 90 degrees and had a square cut out at each end of the crack to prevent it from spreading.
- The famous “Westminster Chimes” are based on Handel's Messiah and are copied from the Great St Mary's church in Cambridge.
- Big Ben is the largest and most accurate striking mechanical clock in the world. However, old pennies are placed on, or taken off, the top of the clock's pendulum should it need to be speeded up or slowed down.
- There are 334 steps from the base to Big Ben.
- At the top of the tower is the Ayrton Light that is lit at night whenever either House is sitting after dark.
- One-third of the way up the tower is a cell in which MPs and Peers could be detained for various offences within the Chambers. It was last used for this purpose in 1880 when an atheist MP refused to take the oath on the Bible.
- Big Ben was never targeted during the War. The Luftwaffe were able to use the reflection of the clock face as a navigational device.
- The total cost of making the clock and bells and installing them in Elizabeth Tower reached £22,000.
- Up until 2017, Big Ben has struck ever since it was completed in 1858.
- A programme of essential works to conserve Big Ben began in early 2017.
- The total overall cost of the project, including VAT, Risk and Optimism Bias and transferred fire safety work costs, is now estimated at £61m as opposed to £29m as estimated in spring 2016.

### **Westminster Hall**

Just before entering Westminster Hall through its north entrance there is an ideal selfie spot where Big Ben and the London Eye will both be in the background. You are allowed to take photos inside Westminster Hall too.

- Westminster Hall is the oldest (and grandest) remaining part of the original Palace of Westminster and one of the most significant buildings in Europe, historically, politically and architecturally.
- It has survived fires, floods, death watch beetles, explosions and World Wars. It has been home to law courts, bookstalls and has seen the passing of 34 monarchs and the trial of King Charles I.

- It has also seen the trials of famous figures from history such as Sir William Wallace Sir Thomas More, Bishop John Fisher and Guy Fawkes.
- The son of William the Conqueror, William Rufus, began building Westminster Hall in 1097.
- The most impressive aspect of Westminster Hall is its self-supporting hammer beam roof built over 600 years ago. It is the largest medieval wooden roof north of the Alps - making it one of the largest ancient buildings in Europe with an undivided interior.
- Leather tennis balls have been found up in the roof that are believed to have belonged to Henry VIII.
- The Hall has also been used for the lying in state of monarchs and significant Parliamentarians such as Sir Winston Churchill.
- During the fire in 1834, saving Westminster Hall was prioritised over all other parts of Parliament. The same happened during the Blitz, with other sections of the estate sacrificed in order to create a break to stop the fire from spreading to the Hall's roof.

### **St Stephens Hall**

This space is where the former House of Commons sat before it was destroyed in the 1834 fire. You are allowed to take photos inside St Stephens Hall.

- When Parliament first formed it could be called into being by the King wherever he might happen to be, but as it grew in importance it gradually came to be the norm that it met in Westminster, with the Commons ultimately finding a permanent home in St Stephen's in about 1550.
- It was in St Stephens that Charles I attempted to arrest five Members of the House of Commons for high treason. The MPs, however, had been tipped-off about King Charles's plan. They fled through a back exit and were sailing away on the Thames by the time the monarch entered the Chamber.
- Brass studs have been placed in the floor to mark the position of the Speaker's chair and the table on which the Despatch Boxes were placed. If the current House of Commons is in use by the MPs, a parliamentary assistant should get the constituents to stand on these studs as this will allow them to experience how close the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition stand against each other at the Despatch Box.
- The statue of Falkland behind the brass studs on the government side of St Stephen's has a crack in the sword blade. This damage was caused when a suffragette, having chained herself to the statue in protest at the lack of votes for women, had to be freed by police smashing through the sword.

### **Central Lobby**

This is the midpoint between the Houses of Commons and Lords and the place where any member of the public can come to request a meeting with their MP. You are **not** allowed to take photos here.

- Many members may recognise Central Lobby as it's the only place in the Palace of Westminster where film crews are allowed to record. The camera wires are always visible under the radiator to the right of the Commons entrance, and most days senior TV news reporters can be seen practising their lines or broadcasting live.
- Above the four doorways in Central Lobby are mosaics depicting the four patron saints of the United Kingdom. The story goes that:
  - St George for England is above the corridor to the Lords because they believe they are better than everyone else
  - St Andrew for Scotland is above the corridor towards the bars because Scots enjoy a drink

- St David for Wales is above the corridor to the Commons because the Welsh love the sound of their own voice
- St Patrick for Northern Ireland is above the exit to St Stephen's because the Irish are unsure about whether they want to stay in Parliament.
- Every day when the House of Commons is sitting, business in the Chamber is begun by the Speaker processing from his office (which is underneath the Speaker's residence) through Central Lobby and into his chair in the Chamber. He will be accompanied by the Serjeant at Arms carrying the Mace as well as the Speaker's Chaplain who will lead the five-minutes of prayer's before business begins. It is during this procession that the security guards famously shout "Hats off strangers!"