

Here are some tips so you can write your own letter to your local MP either their constituency office or their Westminster office.



Their Westminster address will be:

Mr/Mrs/Ms xxxx MP (check if they are a Sir / Rt Hon xxxx MP)
House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

1. You can say something about yourself – maybe something about your background, **but be brief.**
2. Make the request – will this be to raise the issue?
3. **Highlight the dangers of releasing sky lanterns:**
 - **Unpredictable as you cannot control where they land**
 - **Fire risk to buildings, standing crops, hay/straw stacks**
 - **Kill or injure farm livestock, horses and wildlife**
 - **Litter problem**
 - Mistaken for distress flares (significant risk to the proper and effective operation of coastal rescue services)
 - Danger to marine animals
 - Safety risk to aviation (due to possible ingestion into engines when airborne. Whilst aircraft are on the ground, sky lantern debris can pose a risk to taxiing aircraft and cause delays to take-off and landing.)
 - Launching a lantern in an inappropriate location or during unsuitable weather conditions, or in any manner that results in damage to persons or property may make you liable for criminal charges or civil claims for damages.
4. Briefly include any personal experience.
5. **What do you want your MP to do?**
 - Lobby your council to introduce a voluntary ban on the release of sky lanterns (from council land).
 - Raise the issue with the media.
 - Speak publicly (at a meeting).
6. Round off with a simple conclusion which shows that you expect a reply, 'I look forward to hearing from you'.
7. Thank the MP for helping you before signing off.
8. **Keep the NFU informed** - if you write to your MP or meet them, make a point of copying the correspondence or sending the details to the NFU Government and Parliamentary Affairs (GPA) office and your NFU local branch to keep them informed.

For further tips on how to contact your MP and what they can do for you, please visit the NFU website <https://www.nfuonline.com/about-us/our-offices/westminster/lobbying-resources/how-to-contact-your-mp/>