



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

What you told us about how we can make it easier to get involved with the Scottish Parliament



Easy read booklet

Who we are



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

We are the **Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee** of the **Scottish Parliament**.



A **committee** is a small group of people who are **Members of the Scottish Parliament** also called MSPs.



The Scottish people decide who is a **Member of the Scottish Parliament** by voting for them in elections.



The **Scottish Parliament** makes laws in Scotland. It speaks out for the people of Scotland.

What this booklet is about



We know some people are more likely to get **involved** with the work the Scottish Parliament does than other people.



Involved means join in and be part of something.



We want people from all over Scotland to tell us what they think about the work the Scottish Parliament does.



We want people to tell us what they think when the Scottish Parliament talks about new laws or **policies** that might affect their lives.



Policies are ideas or plans used to make decisions.



In spring 2022 we started an **inquiry** to find out how we can make it easier for people to get involved with the work the Scottish Parliament does.



An **inquiry** is when we find out information about something.

Questions



1. What do you think about it?

Good

Bad

Not sure

At the start of our inquiry we asked people from all over Scotland to answer some questions.



More than 460 people and organisations answered our questions.



This booklet is about the most important things people told us.

What people told us



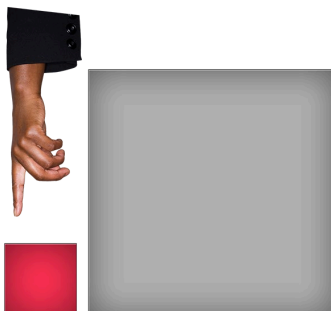
People with **protected characteristics** are **under-represented** in the work the Scottish Parliament does.



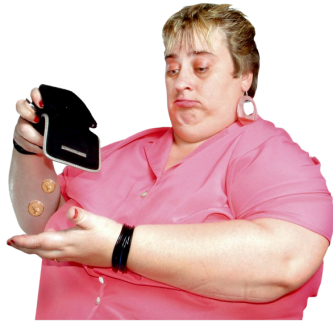
Protected characteristics are some things about you that make you who you are, like your age, race or disability.



If you have protected characteristics you might not get treated the same way as other people.



Under-represented means there are not enough people with protected characteristics involved with the work the Scottish Parliament does.



People who have a **low income** are most likely to be under-represented in the work the Scottish Parliament does.



Low income means you don't earn much money.



People from **disadvantaged backgrounds** don't think there's any point in being involved with the work the Scottish Parliament does.



If you're from a **disadvantaged background** it means you might live in a bad area, have a low income and not have good education and job chances.



Education is an important part of making it easier for people to get involved with the work the Scottish Parliament does.



Cross-party groups are important because they help **minority groups** and people with protected characteristics get involved with the work the Scottish Parliament does.



Cross-party groups are groups of MSPs and other people who are interested in a subject and meet to talk about it.



Minority groups are people who live where most of the people around them are from a different background or religion.



The Scottish Parliament needs to do more to tell people about the work it does so more people can get involved.



This is important because people who get involved say it's a good thing.



People want to trust MSPs and the work they do more.



If people trust MSPs they are more likely to get involved with the work the Scottish Parliament does.



People don't think their MSPs understand them or what their communities need.



This means people are less likely to get involved with the work the Scottish Parliament does.



It needs to be easier for lots of different types of people to get involved with the work the Scottish Parliament does.

What happens next



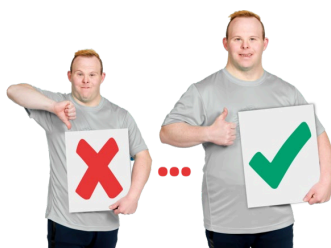
Our inquiry has not ended. We are still finding out information.



A small group of people from different parts of Scotland will meet at the Scottish Parliament in October and November 2022.



They will talk about our inquiry and tell us their ideas to get more people involved with the work the Scottish Parliament does.



When our inquiry ends, we will use what we found out to tell the Scottish Parliament what it can do better.

Find out more



If you want to find out more about what we do, or find out how to tell us what you think



write to us at this address
**The Citizen Participation and
Public Petitions Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP**



send an email to this address
petitions.committee@parliament.scot



or call this telephone number
0131 348 5254



If you want to call using British Sign Language (BSL), go to this website
contactscotland-bsl.org



You can write to us in any language.