

MIDLOTHIAN VOLUNTARY ACTION

SOURCES OF INFORMATION - CAMPAIGNING

When campaigning, the following might help:

- Try to get your whole organisation on board, including service users, volunteers, staff, and Board/Management Committee members - it is not useful if somebody is asked for a quote or information and either does not know anything about it or, even worse, disagrees!
- Involve your local MP, MSP and Councillors if possible/appropriate
- Contact other local organisations, for example, through the Voluntary Sector Forum; MVA e-briefings and e-mail lists.
- Contact your local Community Council - contact details available from Midlothian Council, www.midlothian.gov.uk
- Use the local media, e.g. the Advertiser; Evening News; Black Diamond FM; Radio Forth, etc.
- Write a petition - see below.
- Set up a supporters list.
- Take photographs.
- **have a list of people who will be interviewed** (and make sure they are (a) contactable and (b) well briefed).

Organisation/Service	Contact/Website	Notes
<p>Campaigning by Charities - charities have limitations placed on them about the campaigning they can do. The OSCR publication “Meeting the Charity Test Guidance” advises “<i>a charity would be able to engage in advocacy, campaigning or other political activity in order to further its charitable purposes without jeopardising its charitable status. The Scottish charity test therefore does not prevent charities from campaigning or lobbying to change the law or the policy of public bodies where this is in furtherance of their charitable purposes.</i>”</p>		
Charity Commission Guidance on Campaigning and Political Activity by Charities	http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/publications/cc9.aspx	Applies to England and Wales but good general guidance.
Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR)	www.oscr.org.uk	Guidance on what campaigning is allowed by legislation.
SCVO website	http://www.scvo.org.uk/scvo	

	/Information/ViewInformation.aspx?page=&all=False&from=ASR&Info=31 (www.scvo.org.uk)	
Campaign Guidance - a number of organisations publish free Campaigning Guidance on the Internet - e.g. the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE)	http://www.cpre.org.uk/campaigns	Aimed at England so any legal stuff may not apply in Scotland, however, general guidance could be of use.
Campaign Helper	http://www.workwithus.org/campaigning/Default.aspx	Email and marketing service aimed at the voluntary sector - probably most suitable for large well-funded campaigns
Councillors	http://www.midlothian.gov.uk/	Find information on your local Councillors.
MSPs	http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/	Find information on your local MSPs.
Petitions		
Scottish Parliament - Public Petition Committee	http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/vli/publicinfo/htsapp/documents/Howtosubmitapublicpetition.pdf	Information on submitting a petition to the Scottish Parliament's Public Petition Committee
Scottish Parliament - e-petitions	http://epetitions.scottish.parliament.uk/#howtostart	Information on raising an e-petition to the Scottish Parliament.
Writing a petition - guidance	http://www.foe.co.uk/learning/take_it_further/write_petition.html	Friends of the Earth guidance on writing petitions.

Writing a petition - more guidance.	http://www.gopetition.co.uk/howtowriteapetition.php	Go Petition - an international petition hosting portal - has useful information on writing a petition.
Press Releases etc - the Media Trust website includes free info on writing press releases; marketing; Petc.	http://www.mediatrust.org/	

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If you spot any mistakes, or know of something that should be added, please contact Margaret Nisbet, Information Officer, Midlothian Voluntary Action, 4/6 White Hart Street, Dalkeith, EH22 1AE Tel: 0131 663 9471, email: margaret.nisbet@mvacvs.org.uk, website: www.mvacvs.org.uk.

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Midlothian Voluntary Action is registered in Scotland as a company limited by guarantee (No. SC219994), and as a charity (No. SC008286)

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