WriteToThem - press briefing

Overview

WriteToThem helps people to send a message to the politicians that represent them, even if they don't know who those politicians are.

Users need only input a postcode on WriteToThem's homepage. They will then see a list of their representatives at every level, including local councillors, MP, and MEPs.
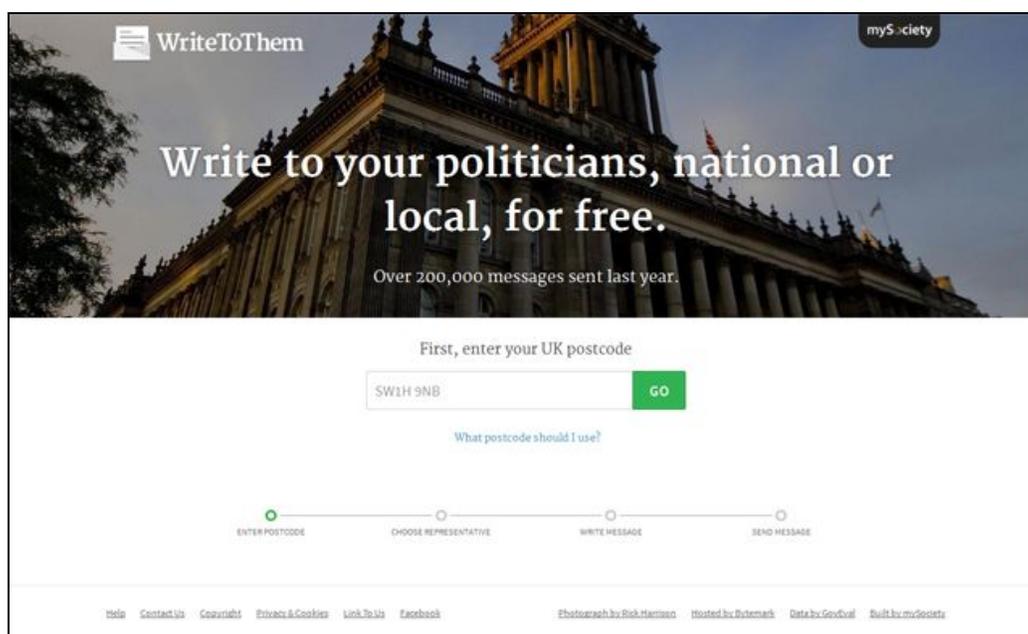
Depending on their location, they may also find London Assembly Members, Members of the Scottish Parliament or the Northern Ireland Assembly.

Users can then choose one of these representatives, and write them a message which is sent by email.

Use for campaigns

If your publication is running a campaign, you may wish to embed WriteToThem on your own website. **Find out more**.

History

mySociety built WriteToThem to open up access to a simple civic right - the right to have one's opinion represented.

Many people are unaware that they have this right; furthermore, most people cannot name their MPs*, let alone who represents them in the local council or in Europe. WriteToThem circumvents this issue by requiring just one simple piece of information — your postcode.

The site launched in 2005, growing out of the earlier volunteer-built site FaxYourMP.
Like all mySociety sites, the code is open source and may be used or adapted for free.

Facts and figures

Launched: 2005
URL: www.writetothem.com
WriteToThem FAQs
Read more about WriteToThem on the mySociety website
WriteToThem is just one of mySociety's several online democratic tools.

*78% of the UK population cannot name their representative in Parliament, according to the Hansard Society Audit of Public Engagement 2013 (PDF).

Attribution and formatting conventions

- Please include a link to WriteToThem and/or mySociety in any article mentioning the site.
- You may take screenshots of the site for press use.
- WriteToThem is written as one word, but note the capitalisations.
- WriteToThem's logo can be found on [mySociety's press page](#).

Statistics

Two weeks after writing a message via WriteToThem, users are sent a questionnaire email which asks whether or not they received a response.

mySociety run statistics based on these questionnaires annually, putting the results into a 'responsiveness table' - see these [here](#).

Caveats

Before writing a story about the most and least responsive MPs, please consider the following:

- People are surveyed initially **after 2 weeks**, and if they didn't answer, were surveyed again **after 3 weeks**.

  Because of this, and because of the way different people interpret the survey, care should be taken when interpreting the figures.

- Remember, too, that WriteToThem is not the only means by which MPs receive mail.

- Nor should the league table be taken as a ranking of MP's "laziness" - MPs perform many other duties beyond responding to mail.

- Before preparing this table, we contact the lowest performers to ensure that we had the right email addresses for them.

Make contact with a user

If you would like to interview one of our users, please contact press@mysociety.org, and we will put out a request via social media.

In return, we require a press mention or credit for WriteTothem.

Make contact with the team

We are happy to participate in interviews, or answer questions about the website and its place in society. We cannot give opinions about individual MPs, or anything that will compromise our position of political neutrality.

In the first instance, please contact press@mysociety.org.