

BRANCH PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

Purpose of the role:

To lead liaison with and lobbying of Local Councils, MPs, MEPs and other political representatives within the Branch boundaries with a view to supporting CAMRA's campaigns.

Key Activities

- To identify which Local Councils, Parliamentary Constituencies, European Constituencies and other elected constituencies fall within the Branch area.
- To arrange visits on behalf of the Branch to MPs/MEPs constituency surgeries in order to lobby on relevant CAMRA campaigns as and when necessary. This could also include lobbying Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs), Assembly Members (AMs) in Wales and Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) in Northern Ireland.
- To encourage Branch members and public to take part in postcard, letter and e-mail campaigns to lobby MPs, Councillors/ Local Council etc on specific campaigns.
- If time allows, to identify and meet with Prospective Parliamentary Candidates in the run up to a General Elections to elicit support.
- To invite senior local politicians along to relevant events such as CAMRA beer festivals.
- To act as the Branch contact for the central CAMRA Public Affairs Team and to feedback on activities.
- To work with Branch Publicity Officer to publicise where individual politicians have been responsive to CAMRA's lobbying.
- To work with the Branch Pubs Officer to lobby local councillors and Councils to adopt planning policies which give greater protection to public houses.
- To lobby local Councils to take part in the Sustainable Communities Act and to secure a place on the citizens' panel or alternative consultation arrangements.

Code of conduct

- To refrain from putting forward any personal points of view to the media, politicians or others that is against CAMRA's policy or might bring the Campaign into disrepute.

Time Commitment

- This role can take up as much time as you are prepared to give. Circa 2 hours a month is probably a minimum except at key times, such as national or local elections, when a higher level of commitment might be required.
- Attendance at local Branch meetings is useful.

Skills etc needed

- Good writing skills
- Good interpersonal skills
- Access to a computer and the internet
- Ability to act as a spokesperson is usually useful but not always essential.

Support

- Support is available from CAMRA's central Public Affairs Team (including assistance in identifying constituency areas, MPs, MEPs etc).
- Advice and guidance on CAMRA policy is available from Branch committee members and where, appropriate, people who have previously held the post.
- The Campaigner will run articles on best practice, hints and tips from other branches from time to time. If you can sign up by emailing: membership@camra.org.uk, including your membership number and email address.

- The CAMRA website is also a useful source of information:
<http://www.camra.org.uk/publicaffairsofficers>, which also includes a Guide to Effective Lobbying.