

STOP SOPA IRELAND



Meeting Your TD

TDs come from a wide range of backgrounds: teachers, farmers, small-town solicitors, even pub landlords. Most of them do their job in politics earnestly but are basically regular people, ready and willing to meet with you.

TDs hold "clinics" to make it easier to meet the people in their constituencies because meeting with residents and addressing their issues is the backbone of their job and how they get re-elected. If you've never met your TD before, though, you may be wondering how it works...

So here's what to expect when you go to meet your TD:

1/ Make an appointment

You can do this by calling your local Fine Gael and Labour TD constituency or Oireachtas offices to request a meeting with them for 5 minutes in person on Saturday, Feb 4th. Our website has details for every TD, and volunteers to help you figure out who to contact if you need help.

2/ Plan on a 5 minute meeting

You may have to wait to get into your meeting, but the meeting itself should not take up more than 5 minutes of your (or your TD's!) time.

3/ Make your point simply

Remember that you are not there to debate the pros and cons of Irish SOPA legislation. You are simply there to deliver in person (where it counts most!) the message that your FG and Labour TDs have lost your vote by standing for Sean Sherlock's antics on SOPA. Say what you have to say, be polite, thank them for their time, and go on to the next TD or the rest of your day.

4/ Tell the world you did your part with the hashtag #SOPAPledge

Post on Facebook or Twitter to tell the world you braved the murky depths of Irish politics to tell your TD their job depends on NO on SOPA Ireland.

Thank you.



What to Say...

It's okay to feel a bit awkward about this. Meeting someone to tell them you no longer support them is not an easy thing to do, which is why every single person who turns out is doing something spectacular.

Remember that you are not there to debate your TD. No matter what he or she says, they can't make you return your support to their party. Just walking in and letting them know they have lost your vote, you have already won.

So, here are six things you might say to your TD:

1. I want you to know that voters who email you are real people. Our voice and our votes count, and I am a real voter you have lost over SOPA Ireland.
2. I watched Sean Sherlock on Tuesday night and I have never been so angry by the end of that charade. I can't support any government that endorses that lack of regard for voters.
3. Both jobs and rights are being put at risk by this SI. That's why I signed the petition. When I seem to care more than my TDs, you lose my vote.
4. I know you probably didn't have any personal involvement with this law. But when I watch voters being treated like this, my vote is the only thing I have left to make myself heard.
5. If the party is not prepared to listen to the legitimate concerns of more than 50,000 Irish voters, I don't know who you think you represent.
6. This is a bad law, when there is a better one available that meets the Government's needs and sorts out my concerns. When Sean Sherlock turned his back on it at the end of the debate on Tuesday, this government permanently lost my support.

Additional resources:

Any of the above points will be enough to carry you through a five minute meeting. But if you want to go in feeling even better prepared, there are two more resources on hand for you.

- [The alternative SI](#) put forth. You can leave a copy with your TD. That is the SI they should be lobbying for.
- [The briefing document](#) provided to TDs makes 10 straight-forward points about the perils of this legislation.