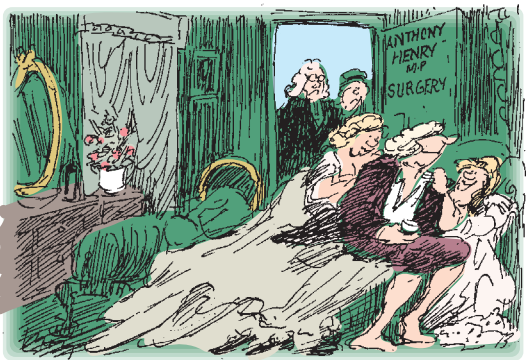


Constituency surgeries



Constituents can usually raise relevant problems with their MP via letter or at regularly held *surgeries*

This was not so in the pre-1832 ***pocket boroughs*** with a small electorate that could be bribed or coerced. MP Anthony Henry put the case in 1714: *'Gentlemen, I have received your letter about the excise and I am surprised at your insolence at writing to me at all. You know and I know that I bought this constituency...(and) am determined to sell it... May God's curse alight upon you all, and may it makes your homes as open and as free to the excise officers as your wives and daughters have always been to me while I represented your rascally constituency'*