Engaging with Policy Makers

Stephanie Seavers
Impact Officer, Social Sciences
Why engage? Benefits for researchers

- Achieve change and make a real difference to society and people’s lives
- Raise your profile as an expert in your area
- Cultivate lasting networks to further your research and impact
- Uncover new questions that can take your research further
- Shape research priorities in policymaking
Why engage? Benefits for policymakers

- Increase the knowledge of policymakers
- Improve the quality of parliamentary debate (and scrutiny of government activities)
- Help policymakers make informed decisions (these decisions are not solely based on research of course!)
How is research evidence used in Parliament?

- Bills
- White papers
- Committee papers
- Internal briefings
- Commissioned reports
- Parliamentary debate
How does parliament access research evidence?

- Research papers, articles, blogs, websites
- Committee calls
- Policy events
- Civil Servants
- Advisory meetings
- Commissioned research
- Think Tanks
- Press (local and national)
Who can I engage with inside parliament?
# How can I engage inside Parliament?

| MPs/ Lords | - Letter to your local MP  
| - Select Committees  
| - Early Day Motions  
| - APPGs  
| - Bill Committees  |
| Select Committee Clerks/ Select Committees | - Phone/ email  
| - Written/ Oral Evidence |
| Special Advisors/ Civil Servants | - Direct contact  
| - Policy Briefings  
| - Policy events |
| HoC/ HoL Librarians | - Online articles, blogs, websites |
| POST/ IPT | - Events programme  
| - Research articles  
| - Academic fellowships |
Who can I engage with outside parliament?

- Journalists
- Think tanks
- Charities
- Non Governmental Organisations
- General Public
# How can I engage outside Parliament?

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<td>- Public engagement events</td>
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Translating your research

- Be brief! Think about your audience and what they want to know. Why is your research relevant to them?
- Get yourself connected: parliamentary alerts, hansard
- Hone your skills: media queries, blogs, online articles
- Develop a following: social media
- Optimise your web presence.
Top Tips

- Take time: developing contacts takes time and perseverance
- Don’t wait: policymaking won’t wait for your research to be finalised or published.
- Be adaptable: sometimes policymaking changes path unexpectedly. Stick with it and remain part of the conversation.
Opportunities

- POST fellowships: next ESRC PhD students call summer 2017
- Attend a select committee hearing
- Visit parliament
- Internal and external training (POST, IPT, Parliament Universities Programme)

Next parliament training event: How you can affect Parliament - Engaging with politicians and policy makers, Birmingham 28th June 2016
Useful links

- Subscribe to Parliament Alerts
- Search Parliamentary Material
- Topical Issues
- Hansard
- Inquiries A-Z
- Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology
- POST Notes
- Research briefings
- Petitions – UK Government and Parliament
- Organograms of Government departments