



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?

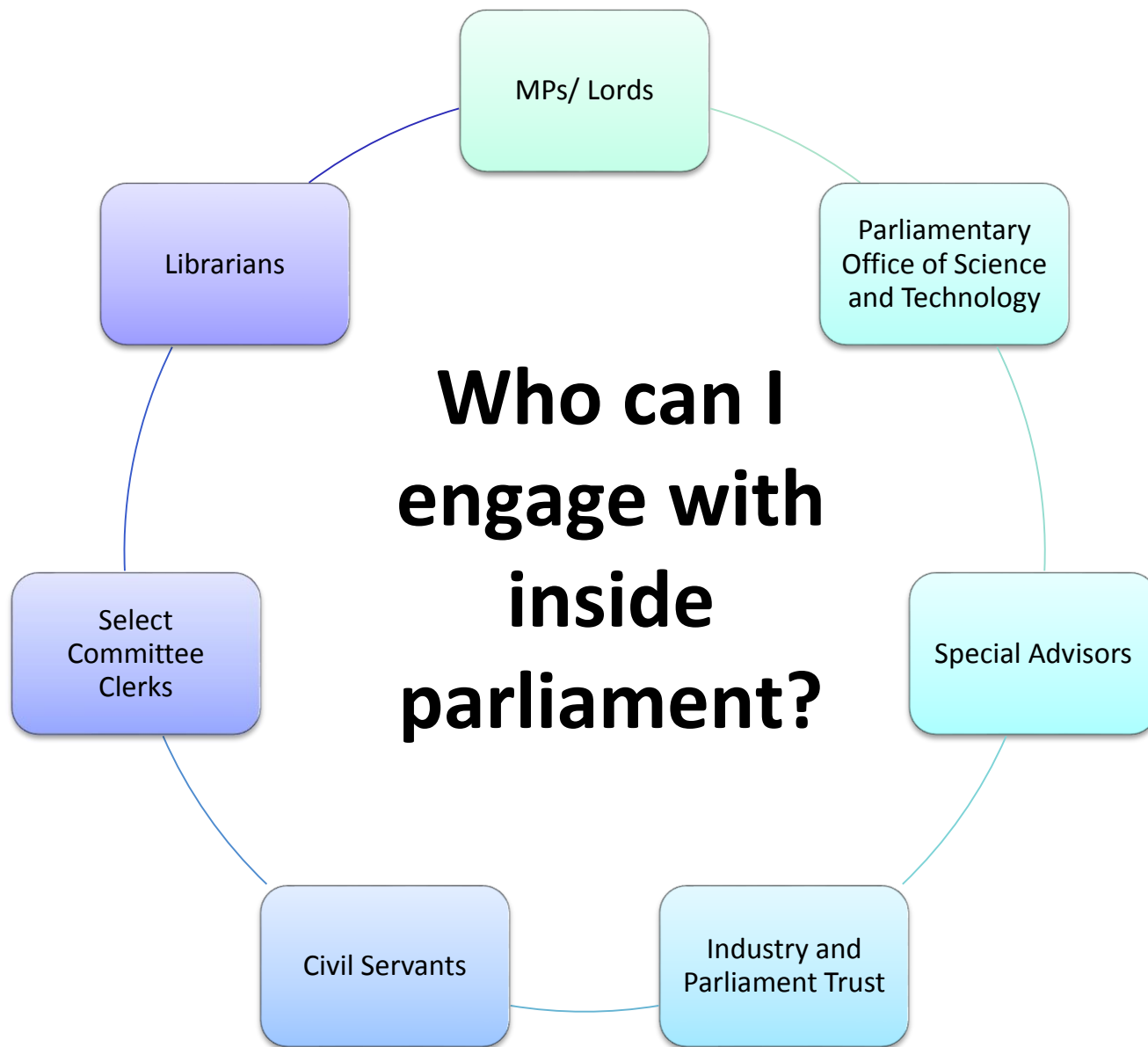
- ▶ Bills
- ▶ White papers
- ▶ Committee papers
- ▶ Internal briefings
- ▶ Commissioned reports
- ▶ Parliamentary debate



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)

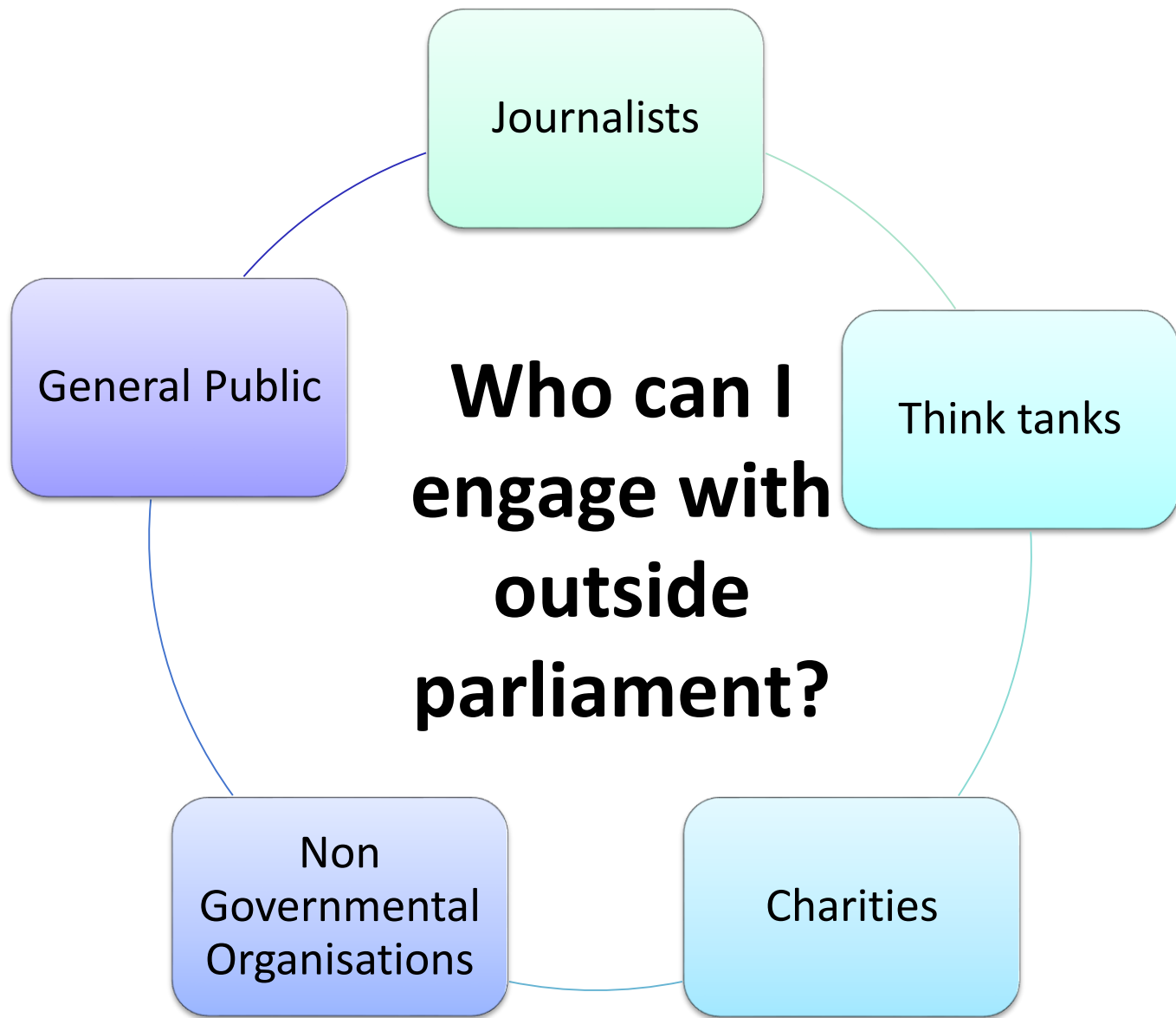




How can I engage inside Parliament?

MPs/ Lords	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Letter to your local MP- Select Committees- Early Day Motions- APPGs- Bill Committees
Select Committee Clerks/ Select Committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Phone/ email- Written/ Oral Evidence
Special Advisors/ Civil Servants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Direct contact- Policy Briefings- Policy events
HoC/ HoL Librarians	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Online articles, blogs, websites
POST/ IPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Events programme- Research articles- Academic fellowships






How can I engage outside Parliament?

Journalists	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Press release- Feature article- Broadcast media
Think Tanks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Policy event- Roundtable meeting- Co-produced research
Charities/NGOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Policy event- Policy briefing- Campaign recommendations- Co-produced research
General Public	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Social Media- Blogs- Public engagement events



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.



Warwick Social Sciences Policy Briefing – 1/2017

WARWICK

Dr Steven Kettell, University of Warwick

A SECURALIST FRAMEWORK

FOR AN INCLUSIVE AND EQUAL SOCIETY

About this briefing


The last few decades have seen significant changes to the landscape of religion and belief in Britain. According to British Social Attitude surveys, the proportion of British adults describing themselves as having 'no religion' rose from 31% in 1983 to 48.9% in 2014.

The Commission on Religion and Belief in British Public Life (CORAB) was established in 2013 by the Woolf Institute to consider the role of religion in contemporary Britain and examine ways of developing an inclusive sense of national identity. Its report, published in December 2015, made 37 recommendations for policy and public life divided into six themes: vision, education, media, dialogue, action and law.

This briefing summarises a response to the Commission's report supported by secularists from a range of spheres, including academics, activists and representatives from Britain's leading campaign groups. The response aims to provide a critical counterweight to the CORAB recommendations and ensure a secular viewpoint can be heard in the ongoing debate about the role of religion in British public life. It emphasises an alternative secularist framework to ensure that the rights and freedoms of all citizens are afforded equal weight and protection.

Policy implications

- The CORAB recommendations promote a defence of religion's importance and influence that is at odds with the realities of modern British society.
- With a growing proportion of Britons now identifying as non-religious, and with levels of cultural pluralism and diversity on the rise, the need for a political and legal system capable of giving equal weight and recognition to all citizens has never been greater.
- Fostering social cohesion and promoting a sense of collective identity requires public discourse to be based on shared values and not founded in religious identities that are often a source of social tension.
- A secular state, impartial to all systems of religion, provides the most effective framework for guaranteeing equality for all citizens and offers the best means of fostering a free, inclusive and democratic society.



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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](#)
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