

Engaging and Influencing Policy Makers

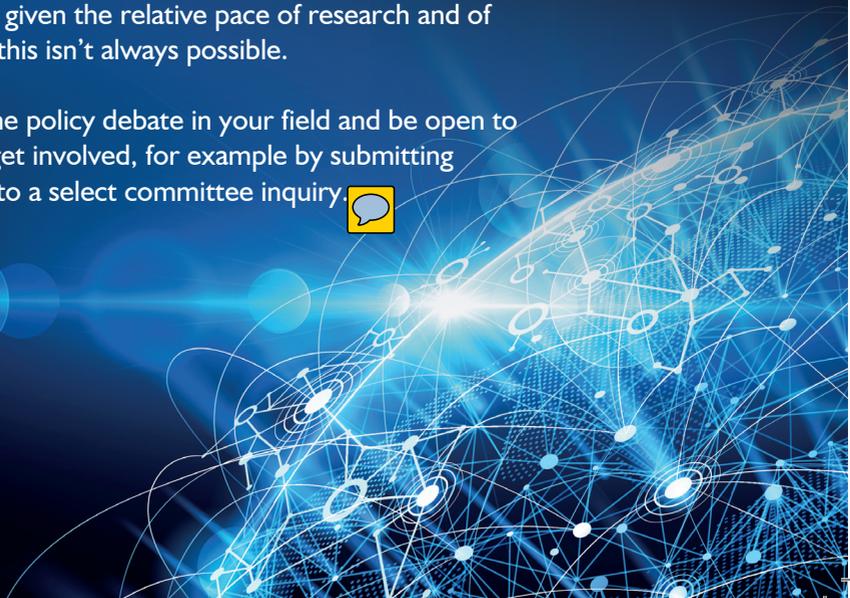
There are many ways to enter the policymaking process and many routes to influence. 'Policymakers' means more than just MPs; it includes:

Officials in Parliament
Central and local government
Non-departmental public bodies
Non-ministerial departments, and
Regulatory bodies.

Policy influencers include think tanks, charities, pressure groups and political parties.

Ideally you will involve policymakers in your project from the outset. However, given the relative pace of research and of the policy world, this isn't always possible.

Keep an eye on the policy debate in your field and be open to opportunities to get involved, for example by submitting written evidence to a select committee inquiry.



Top tips

1. Build engagement with policymakers and influencers into your project plan from the start
2. Be brief. Policymakers do not have time to read lengthy documents. Four sides is plenty, bullet points are ideal
3. Be clear about your findings, your messages and any recommendations
4. Consider the policy makers' motivation. Explain what you can do for policymakers, how your input will take their agenda forward and how it could support their priorities
5. Understand the timing of the policy process and try to align your contribution accordingly. Remember that agendas can quickly change – keep up to date
6. Be proactive and look for new opportunities

Innovation, Impact and Business support

We can help you by:

1. Identifying likely partners and stakeholders and to start to develop or to strengthen relationships
2. Giving advice and support to help you embed policymakers and other stakeholders in your research
3. Notifying you of, and supporting you with, responses to requests for written evidence by Parliamentary Committees and opportunities to comment on legislation passing through the House of Commons
4. Advising you on giving oral evidence
5. Advising you on how to engage with All Party Parliamentary Groups

Contact:

Name: Jess Hurrell, Impact and Partnership Development Manager (Government, Crime, Justice, Law)

Email: Jess.Hurrell@exeter.ac.uk

Phone: 01392 726209

Twitter: [@UofE_Solutions](https://twitter.com/UofE_Solutions)