

Why (and how to) engage with policy?

CHARLOTTE HUMMA
RESEARCH COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER



Roadmap

- Why engage with policy?
- UK Policy Structures 101
- 5 ways to get your research into Parliament
- Top tips for policy engagement



Why engage with policy?

- Generate impact (outside of academia)
 - REF
 - Institutional strategy
 - Grant criteria
- Change the world

RESEARCH WITH IMPACT

BY CHALLENGING CONVENTIONAL
THINKING AND DISCOURSE, WE
WILL UNDERSTAND AND HELP
SOLVE THE GRAND ISSUES OF
OUR TIME

UK Policy Structures 101



Government

Makes policies and decisions



BUSINESS
SCHOOL

Parliament

Questions policies and decisions

Government does not equal Parliament

Government

- Runs the country
- Sets taxes
- Decides public spending

Parliament

- Scrutiny
- Legislation
- Debate
- Approve spending

Needs your research

Who uses research in Parliament?

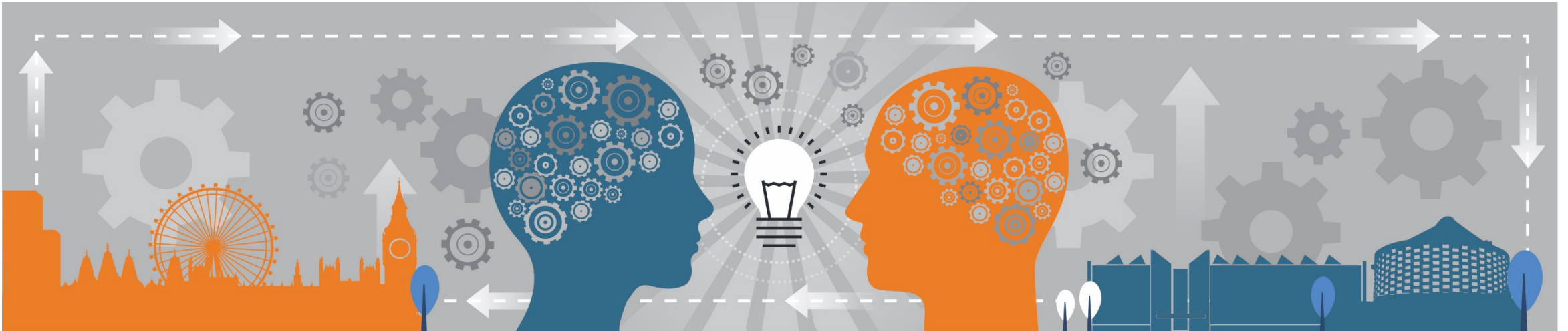
- House of Commons Select Committees
- House of Commons Library
- MPs' Researchers

- House of Lords Select Committees
- House of Lords Library
- Peers' researchers

- All Party Parliamentary Groups (APPGs)
- Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST)

5 Ways to engage with policy processes

1. MPs and peers
2. Political researchers
3. All-Party Parliamentary Groups
4. Select Committees
5. Parliamentary Office for Science and Technology



1. MPs and Peers

- Get in touch directly with MPs and Lords
- Find out more @ MPs & Lords interests and activity:


www.parliament.uk

Debbie Abrahams MP

Constituency
Oldham East and Saddleworth


Address as
Debbie Abrahams

Party
Labour





We are developing a new website. Try it by visiting the [beta version of this page](#).

Contact Details



Parliamentary
House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA
Tel: 020 7219 1041 Fax: 0207 219 2405
Email: abrahamsd@parliament.uk

Constituency
Lord Chambers, 11 Church Lane, Oldham, OL1 3AN
Tel: 0161 624 4248
Email: abrahamsd@parliament.uk

Web & Social media
 Website: www.debbieabrahams.org
 Twitter: [@debbie_abrahams](https://twitter.com/debbie_abrahams)

Biography **Parliamentary Activities** **Election Results**



Electoral history

Constituency	Date
Member for Oldham East and Saddleworth	Jun 2017 -
Member for Oldham East and Saddleworth	May 2015 - May 2017
Member for Oldham East and Saddleworth	Jan 2011 - Mar 2015

Parliamentary career

Post	Date
Shadow Secretary of State for Work and Pensions	Jun 2016 - Mar 2018
Shadow Minister (Work and Pensions)	Sep 2015 - Jun 2016

Select committees

Committee	House	Date
Work and Pensions Committee		Jul 2015 - Oct 2015
Work and Pensions Committee		Jun 2011 - Mar 2015

Political Interests

Health, education, child protection, inequality

2. Libraries and researchers

- Send in your research
- Both Houses have libraries
- E: Papers@parliament.uk



3. All-Party Parliamentary Groups

- Offer to present your research to a relevant APPG
- APPGs hold meetings with invited speakers
- ! Check active / funding !
- ! No official status!

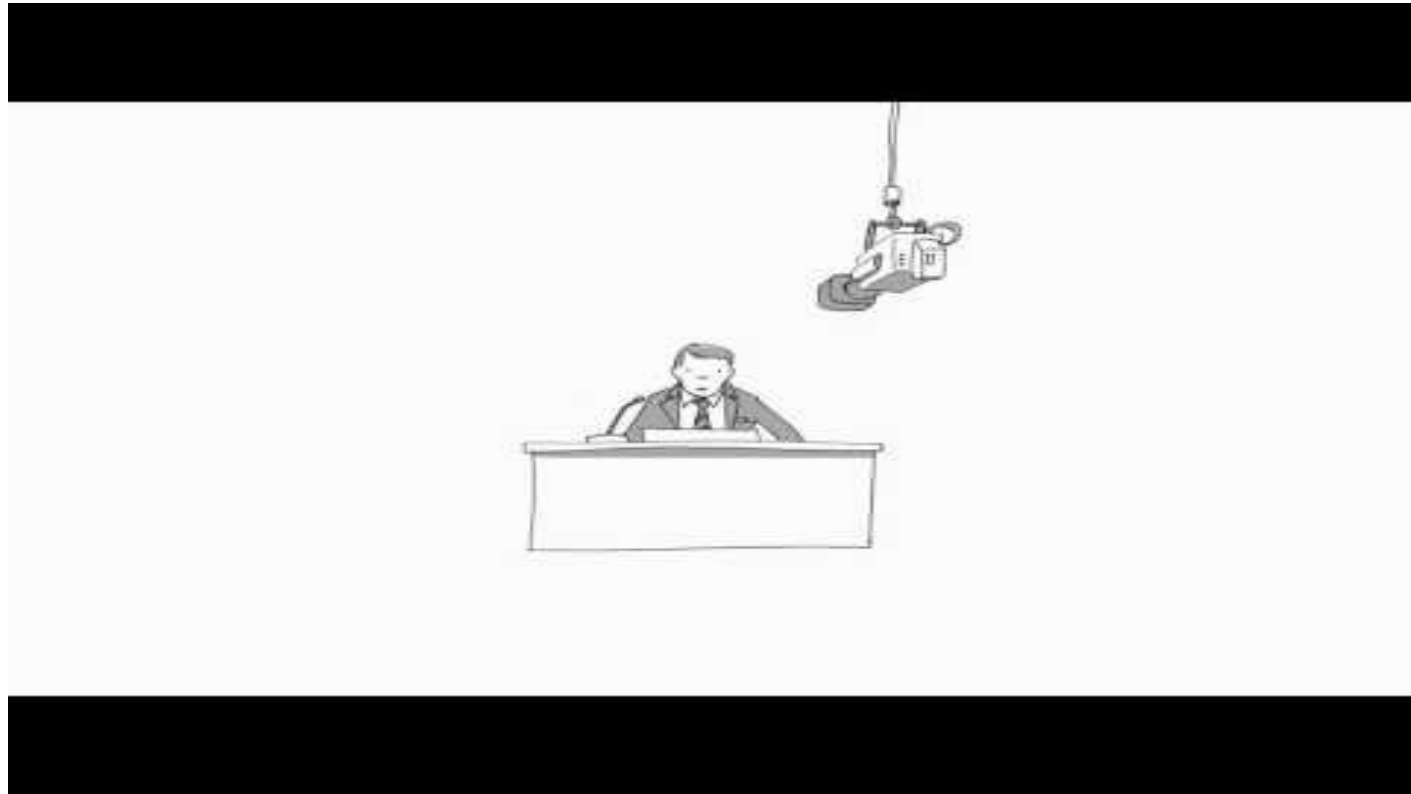


Transport Safety



4. Working with Select Committees

- Submit evidence
- Act as Special Advisor
- Video
- Find out more via:
 - Twitter
 - Website (A-Z or committee page)
 - Political monitoring service



5. Parliamentary Office for Science and Technology

- Contribute to a POSTnote
- Attend an event
- Become a Fellow

- Physical sciences and ICT
- Social Sciences
- Energy and environment
- Biological sciences and health

Flexible Electricity Systems



The electricity system of Great Britain (GB) is becoming increasingly decentralised, with more complex patterns of power production, transportation and consumption. New types of flexibility are being developed to manage these changes. This POSTnote reviews ways of developing flexibility, as well as the technical and economic barriers to doing so.

Background

The electricity system of England, Scotland and Wales (GB) has historically developed around a 'centralised' system, where a small number of large power stations provide the majority of electricity supply. Centralised power has been transported in one direction from generators to distant consumers via the transmission and distribution networks (Box 1). However, three processes are driving new long-term changes in the system:¹⁻⁵

- **Decentralisation.** Small power generation (such as solar panels or combined heat and power plants), situated close to consumers, are providing an increasing proportion of GB power supply.
- **Decarbonisation.** In order to meet long-term carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions reduction targets in the power sector, 'fossil fuel use (particularly coal) is declining'.¹ This is in part being replaced by intermittent renewable generation (POSTnote 464) which is decentralised.
- **Digitisation.** Ageing electricity networks and ICT infrastructure are being upgraded, increasingly using data and automated processes to make the system work more efficiently. This includes the rollout of 'smart' electricity meters.

Much of the new generation capacity is weather-dependent, meaning supply does not necessarily coincide with demand.

Overview

- Changes to power, heating and transport require a more 'flexible' electricity system, where sources of supply and demand can be rapidly adjusted to help balance the grid.
- Flexibility may offer a more secure supply and consumer savings. Some users will benefit more than others, however, and flexibility may present cyber security issues.
- Supply-side sources of flexibility include more flexible generation, electricity storage, and interconnection.
- Demand-side flexibility provide incentives for consumers to increase, decrease or move the timing of their demand at key times.
- Network operators' roles are changing to facilitate flexibility. Some networks will need strengthening with new lines, but in places local flexibility solutions could offset this.

Decentralised power can flow in multiple directions across the network between dispersed generators and consumers.⁶ These factors will present challenges for balancing supply and demand.^{5,9-12} Furthermore, the use of electricity to supply future heating and transport is expected to increase. This may require that parts of the network be 'strengthened' (by increasing their capacity with new wires and cables ('lines'), or reducing peak power flows across them).¹³

A more 'flexible' system is being developed to address these challenges.¹⁴ According to the energy regulator Ofgem, flexibility is the ability to rapidly adjust supply or demand in response to a signal (such as changing prices) to help manage the electricity system.¹⁵ New and established technologies are increasingly providing system flexibility, and the roles of network operators are changing. This POSTnote examines these sources of flexibility, changes to the networks, and potential associated policy challenges.

Grid Balancing and Flexibility

National electricity demand broadly follows a predictable pattern each day, with peaks in the early evening and lows in the early morning.¹⁶ Electricity supply and demand are matched on a second by second basis.¹⁷ National Grid, the system operator, is responsible for this 'grid balancing' (Box 2).¹⁸ Increasing system flexibility will allow National Grid to

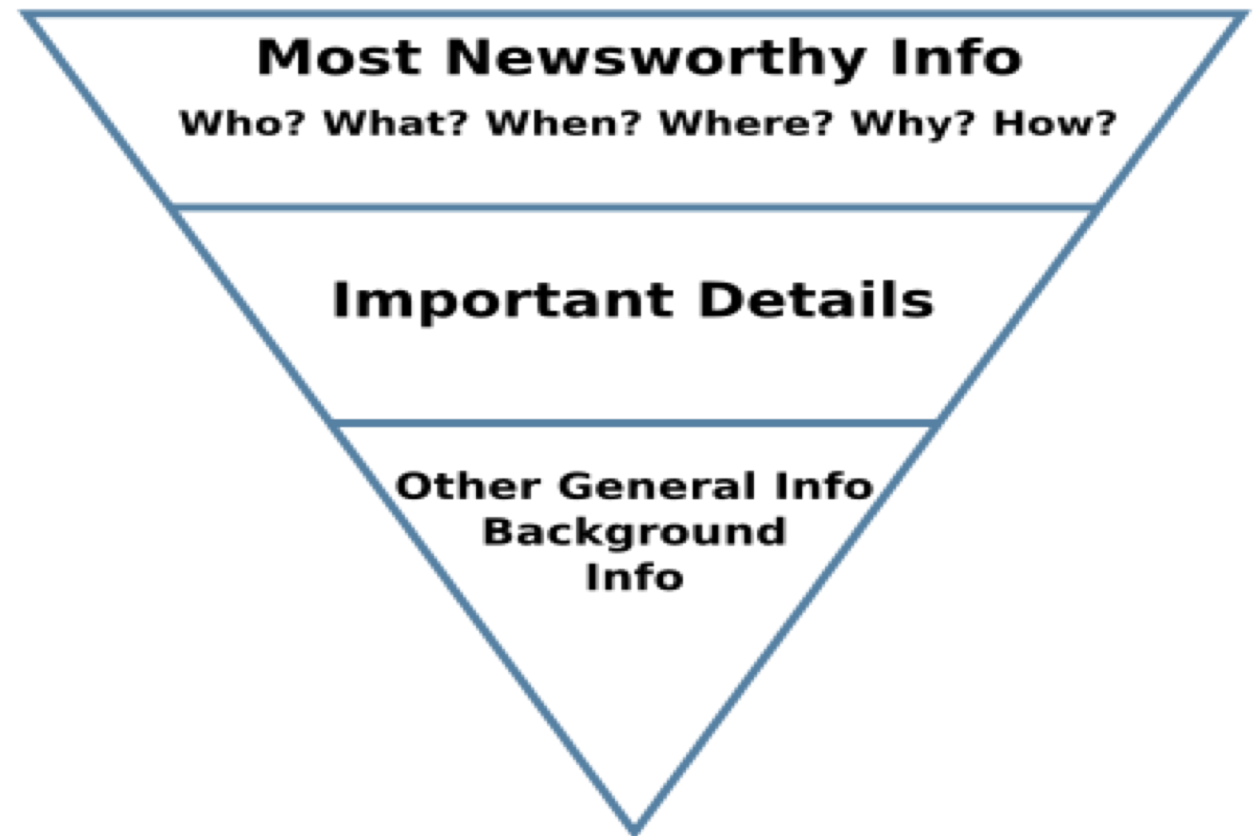
Key to success

- Targeted to the audience
- Solutions not problems
- Stick to criteria
- Get in early
- Publish in non-academic formats



Make headway with headlines

- No one will read your journal article
- Publish newspaper-esque articles



Non-academic publications

- Blogs
- Videos
- Podcasts
- Research and Policy Briefings

[blogs.sussex.ac.uk/policy-engagement/
Resources for researchers](https://blogs.sussex.ac.uk/policy-engagement/Resources%20for%20researchers)



Humanitarian Corridors: safe and legal pathways to Europe

SUMMARY

The Humanitarian Corridors (HC) initiative offers vulnerable refugees a safe and legal pathway to Europe. Launched in 2016, the project was a response to the growing number of individuals dying in the Mediterranean Sea while attempting to reach Europe and the lack of existing legal migration routes. The HC program with full cooperation from the Italian state, but is not state funded. This entirely financed by a private sponsorship scheme outlined in a Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Italian government and three religious or which proposed the original project and committed to fund it. In March 2016, the French government signed a similar HC agreement proving that this is a model that can now be adapted to suit other countries in mainland Europe.

ABOUT THIS BRIEFING

This policy brief provides an overview of the Humanitarian Corridors initiative, aiming to communicate its reality as a realistic model for other European countries and further the discussion of how governments can engage regional communities and civil society to create new partnerships to address the global refugee crisis. The briefing is the result of a collaboration between the University of Sussex and the Italian government.

The research brief was commissioned by the Italian government and the University of Sussex. It was written by Dr Alison Phipps and Dr Liz McDonnell at Imperial College London with the following aims:

1) To describe Imperial's 'institutional culture' and the impact this has on equality and diversity;

2) To develop ideas for cultural change.



Supporting cultural change to improve equality and diversity in Higher Education

INTRODUCTION

The UK higher education sector needs a new approach to improve equality and diversity. In September 2016, Business Secretary David Jones asked the representative organisation Universities UK to investigate 'bad culture' and violence against women. This followed recent publicity about survey findings on bullying and harassment in higher education. In addition the shortage of academics from black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) backgrounds has been revisited recently in media debates and by the government. Early in 2016, David Cameron made public statements about the lack of diversity in relation to ethnicity, gender and socio-economic background, amongst students at elite universities.

These conversations are not new and some initiatives have already been implemented to tackle equality and diversity issues. Examples include:

- The Athena Swan charter mark scheme for gender equality
- Widening participation programmes to diversify student recruitment
- Initiatives to increase awareness of potential 'unconscious bias'

It is argued however that these tend to operate at surface level and can actually serve to shut down discussion: the existence of policies and initiatives can be proof enough that institutions are fulfilling their commitments. The persistence of serious equality and diversity issues despite these policies and initiatives suggests there could be deeper cultural issues that are not being addressed.



The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme

Key findings

- On average, the programme boosts the growth rate of real daily agricultural wages by 4.3% per year (see Figure 1).
- The effect is gender-neutral and mainly benefits those doing unskilled labour: its targeted beneficiaries.
- The effect of the scheme on wages depends both on the intensity with which the scheme is implemented locally and on the initial wage rates in the district.
- The programme positively contributes to agricultural wage growth.

The programme to upgrade infrastructure boosts rural productivity.

ICT

Shit Bhattacharya
in Economics
ment of Economics
Building
ity of Sussex
n BN1 9SL
(01273 877276
(01273 873715
S.Bhattacharya@sussex.ac.uk
ge Personal: <https://sites.cony/sussex.ac.uk/~santosh>
ge Sussex: sussex.ac.uk/~santosh
economics/santoshbhattacharya

Summary

There is a clear need in the UK higher education sector for a different approach to equality and diversity issues.

This briefing outlines research being conducted by Dr Alison Phipps and Dr Liz McDonnell at Imperial College London with the following aims:

1) To describe Imperial's 'institutional culture' and the impact this has on equality and diversity;

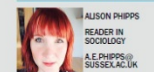
2) To develop ideas for cultural change.

Through the research on Imperial College's institutional culture Dr Phipps and Dr McDonnell have developed an innovative methodology: Grounded Action Inquiry.

This methodology takes Action Inquiry approaches and grounds them in research data. In this case research data about institutional culture.

This brings about cultural change through embedding new modes of thinking and developing appropriate new initiatives.

The implementation of this new methodology will be the subject of the next briefing.



Get out there

What will you do?

- Get on Twitter
- Publish in alternative formats / arenas
- Seize and create media opportunities
- Network

