

**Bridging research and policy**

**Information and analysis at the heart of our parliamentary democracy**



# Information and analysis

- Evidence and research in the House of Commons
- Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology
- House of Commons Library
- Knowledge Exchange Unit

# Evidence and research in the House of Commons

---

# What does the UK Parliament do?



- Represents the people
- Checks and challenges the work of the Government (scrutiny)
- Makes and changes laws (legislation)
- Debates the important issues of the day (debating)
- Checks and approves Government spending (taxes and budgets)

# What is the UK Government?

The party or parties who can command the confidence of the House of Commons forms the Government.

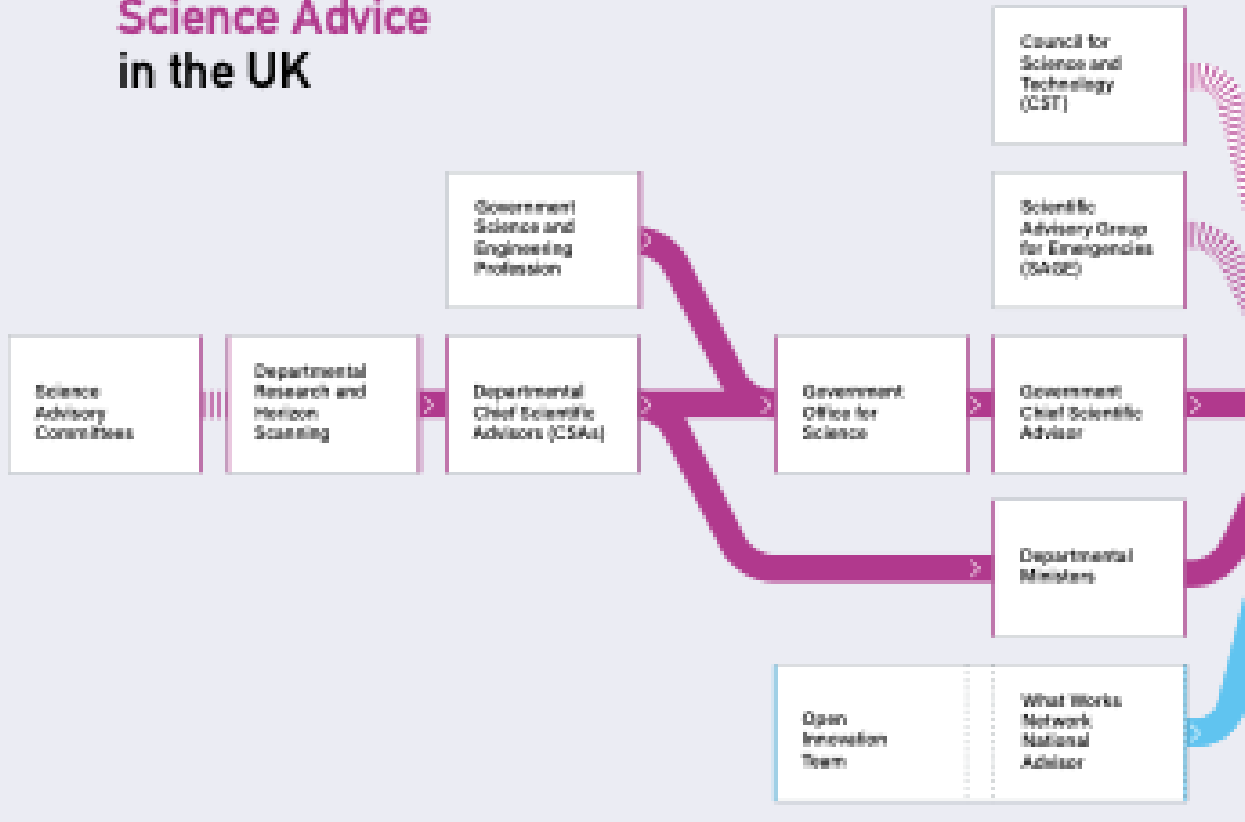
The Government:

- runs public departments and public services (e.g. Home Office)
- proposes new laws to the UK Parliament
- is accountable to Parliament



# Science advice

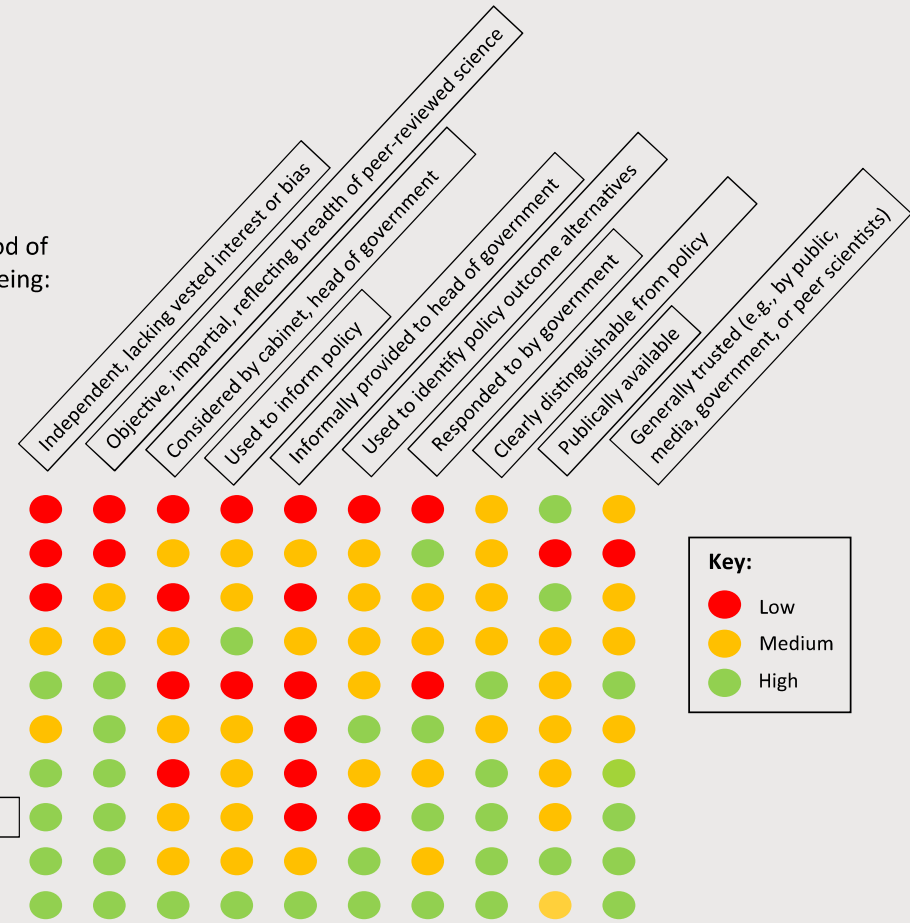
## Science Advice in the UK



General likelihood of science advice being:

Source of science advice:

- Individual scientist: advocate
- Industry and/or business group
- Nongovernmental organization
- Science technology committee
- Individual scientist: nonadvocate
- Government scientists
- Supranational organization
- Legislatively responsible committee
- National academy
- Chief science advisor

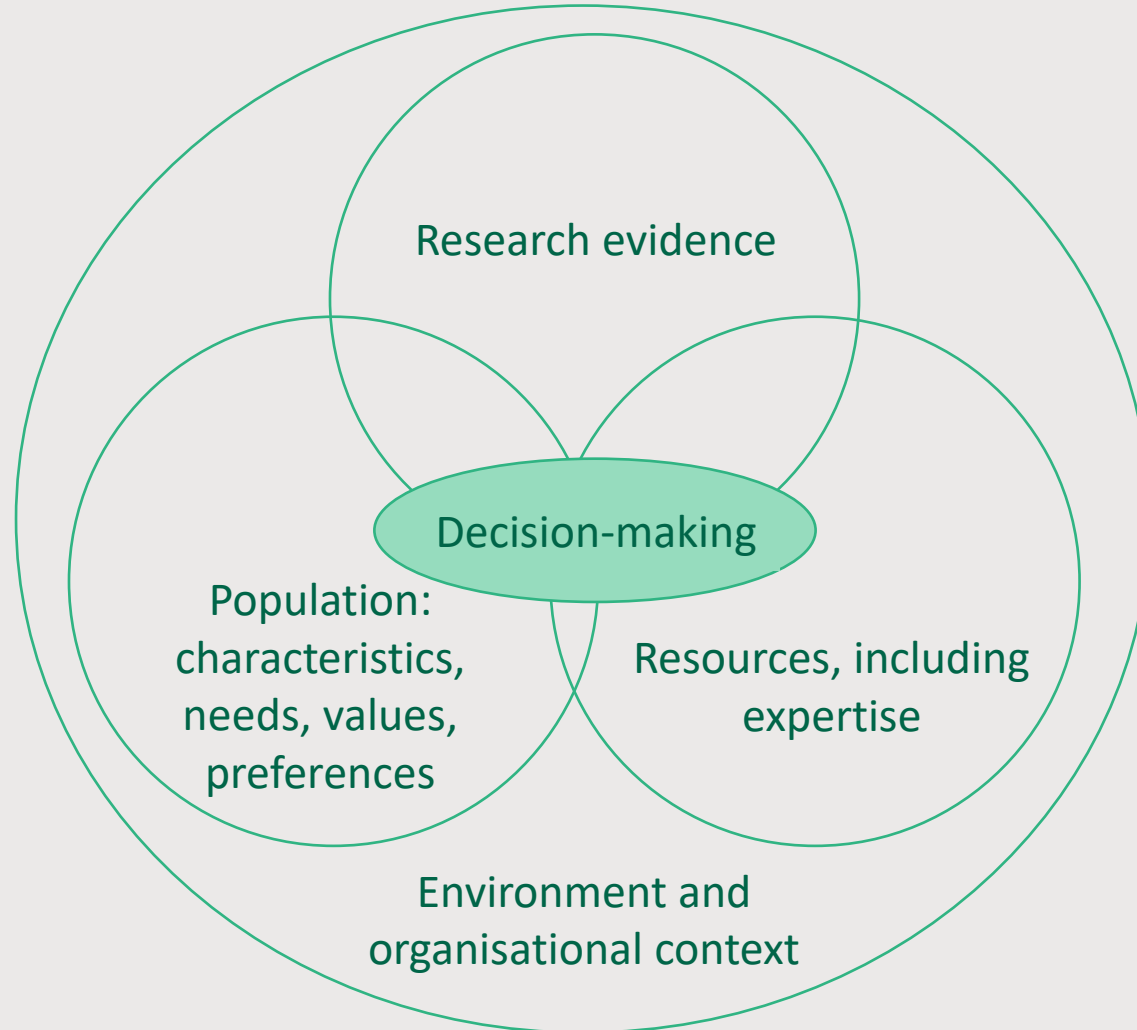


**Key:**  
 Red: Low  
 Yellow: Medium  
 Green: High

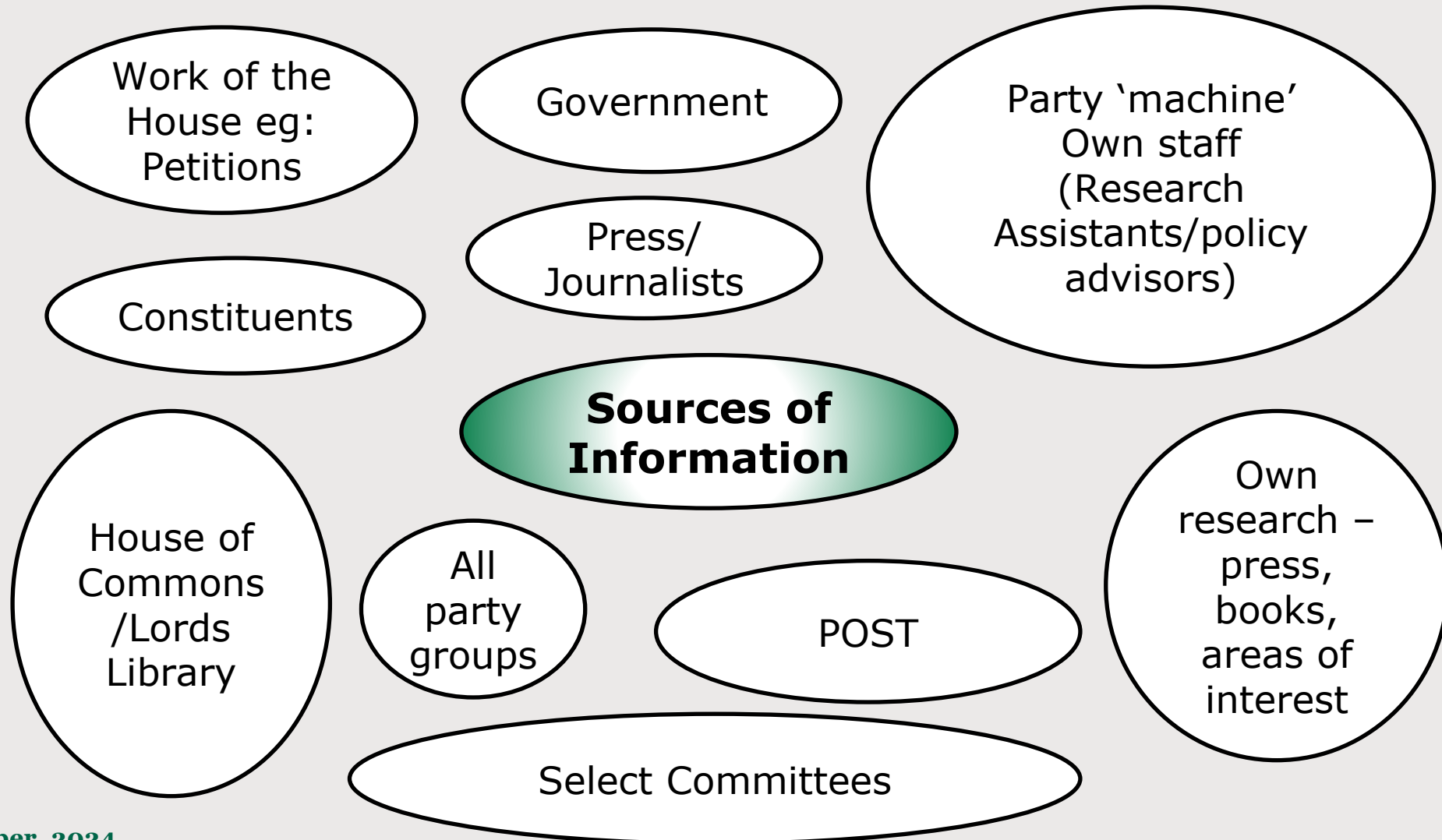
Trends in Ecology & Evolution

Figure 1. Models for the Communication of Science Advice, Ranked in Ascending Order of Subjective Likelihoods of Achieving Desirable Outcomes.

# Evidence-informed policy-making



# Where do MPs get information?







Biological sciences and health



Digital and physical sciences



Energy and environment



Social sciences

**UK Parliament**  
POST  
Cyber Security of Consumer Devices

**Overview**

- There is a growing UK market for internet-connected devices such as smart home appliances and home monitoring systems.
- The poor cyber security of these devices can lead to data loss, privacy infringements, risks to physical safety and security, and the widespread disruption of online services.
- A lack of economic incentives, fragmented industry standards, and some user behaviours contribute to poor cyber security.
- The UK Government has produced a voluntary Code of Practice for industry, which it may decide to enforce through regulation. It is also developing a labelling scheme to help inform consumers.
- Challenges include the complexity of supply chains, difficulties assessing security, and a shortage of other security expertise.

**Device Adoption**

- A 2018 survey of 3,750 consumers by Ofcom found that the most common connected devices in the UK include:
  - Smart TVs - in 82% of households surveyed
  - Wearable devices - in 20% of households, including fitness trackers that monitor factors such as physical activity and location
  - Smart speakers - in 13% of households, which can react to voice commands and be used to control other devices.

**Other applications for connected devices include home monitoring systems (such as those for heating systems, lighting systems, burglar alarms and cameras) and smart appliances such as kettles and fridges. These can often be remotely monitored or controlled by users for greater convenience or security.** A 2018 survey of 1,000 consumers by the trade body techUK found that ownership of these products is growing more slowly than for the most prevalent devices (laptops). Consumers most often cited cost as the main barrier to purchasing devices (41%), followed by privacy (21%) and cyber security concerns (16%).<sup>14</sup>

**Other applications for connected devices include home monitoring systems (such as those for heating systems, lighting systems, burglar alarms and cameras) and smart appliances such as kettles and fridges. These can often be remotely monitored or controlled by users for greater convenience or security.** A 2018 survey of 1,000 consumers by the trade body techUK found that ownership of these products is growing more slowly than for the most prevalent devices (laptops). Consumers most often cited cost as the main barrier to purchasing devices (41%), followed by privacy (21%) and cyber security concerns (16%).<sup>14</sup>

**POSTNOTE**  
Number 593 February 2019

**UK Parliament**  
POST

**Evaluating UK natural hazards: the national risk assessment**

By Michael Stock & Jonathan Wentworth

POSTbrief 31, April 2019

- Overview
- Background
- Government risk assessment
- Risk identification
- Expert scrutiny
- Limitations of the NIA process
- Other risk assessment methods

reducing the one on consumers to securely configure their own devices.<sup>17</sup> This code was published in October 2018.<sup>18</sup>

reducing the one on consumers to securely configure their own devices.<sup>17</sup> This code was published in October 2018.<sup>18</sup>

reducing the one on consumers to securely configure their own devices.<sup>17</sup> This code was published in October 2018.<sup>18</sup>



Business and transport

Economic policy & statistics

Home affairs

International affairs & defence

Parliament & Constitution Centre

Science & environment

Social & general statistics

Social policy

**House of Commons**  
Library

By Marisa Gover  
16 March 2022

**Nationality and Borders Bill: Progress of the Bill**

**Summary**

1. Background
2. Committee stage
3. Remaining Commons stages
4. Lords amendments

Annex: Public Bill Committee details

[commonslibrary.parliament.uk](https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk)

**House of Commons**  
Library

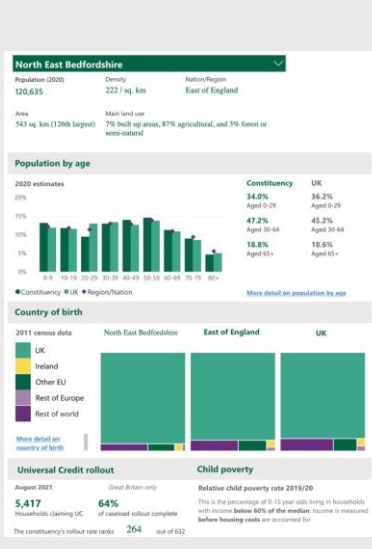
Research Briefing  
By Matthew Peep, David Harter, BigD Francis Deane  
17 March 2022

**Background to Spring Statement 2022**

**Summary**

1. Introduction
2. Economic situation
3. Cost of living: The effect on households
4. Public finances
5. Parliament's fiscal year

[commonslibrary.parliament.uk](https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk)

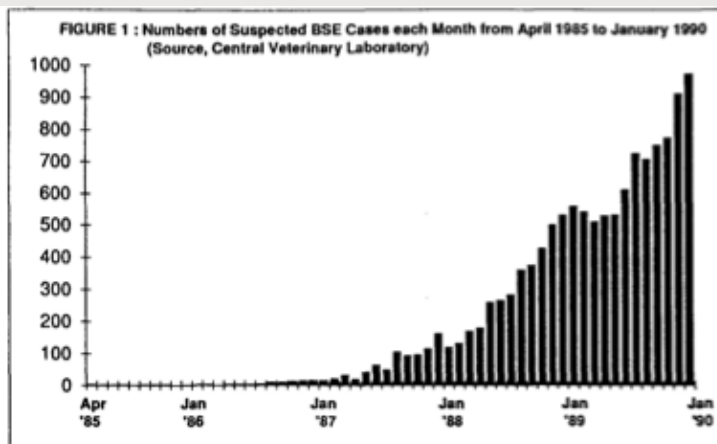
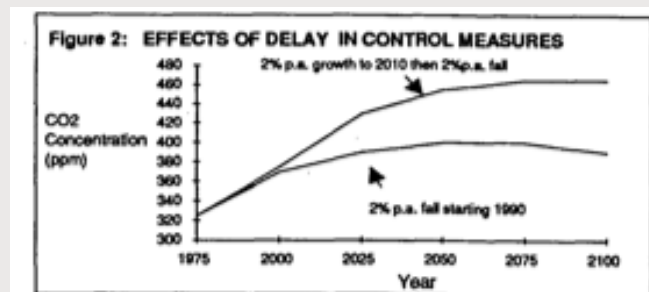
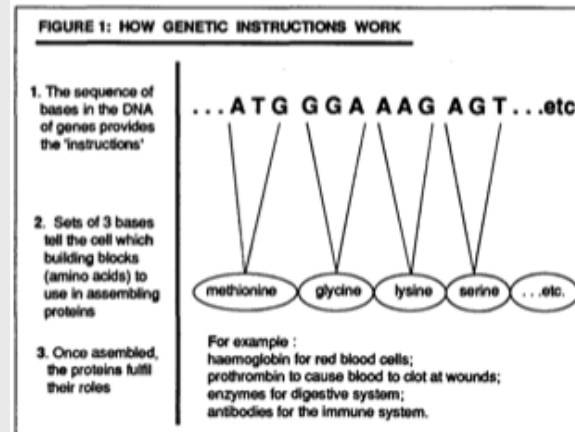
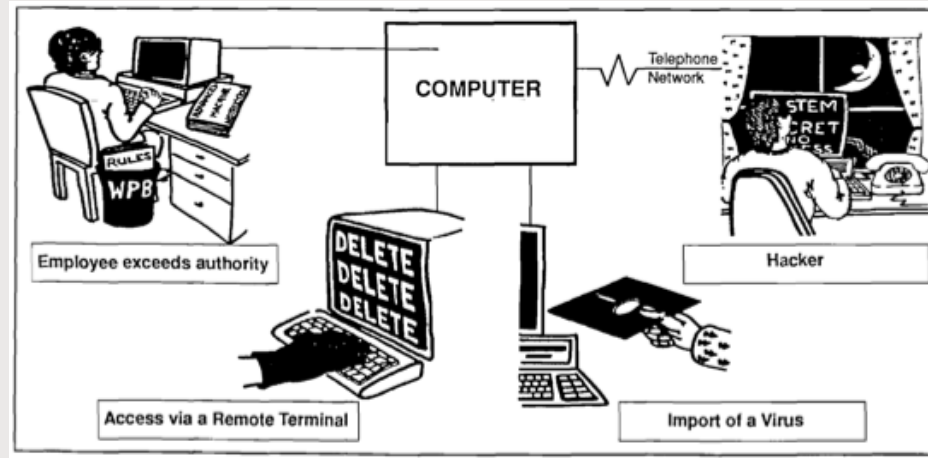
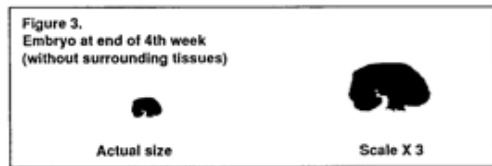
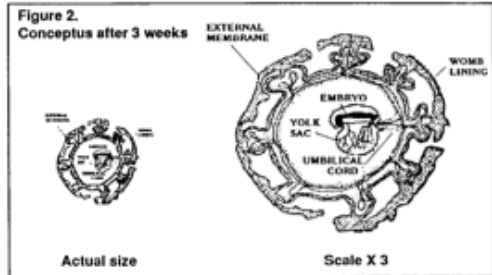
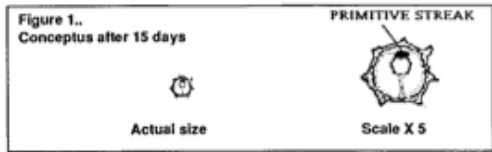




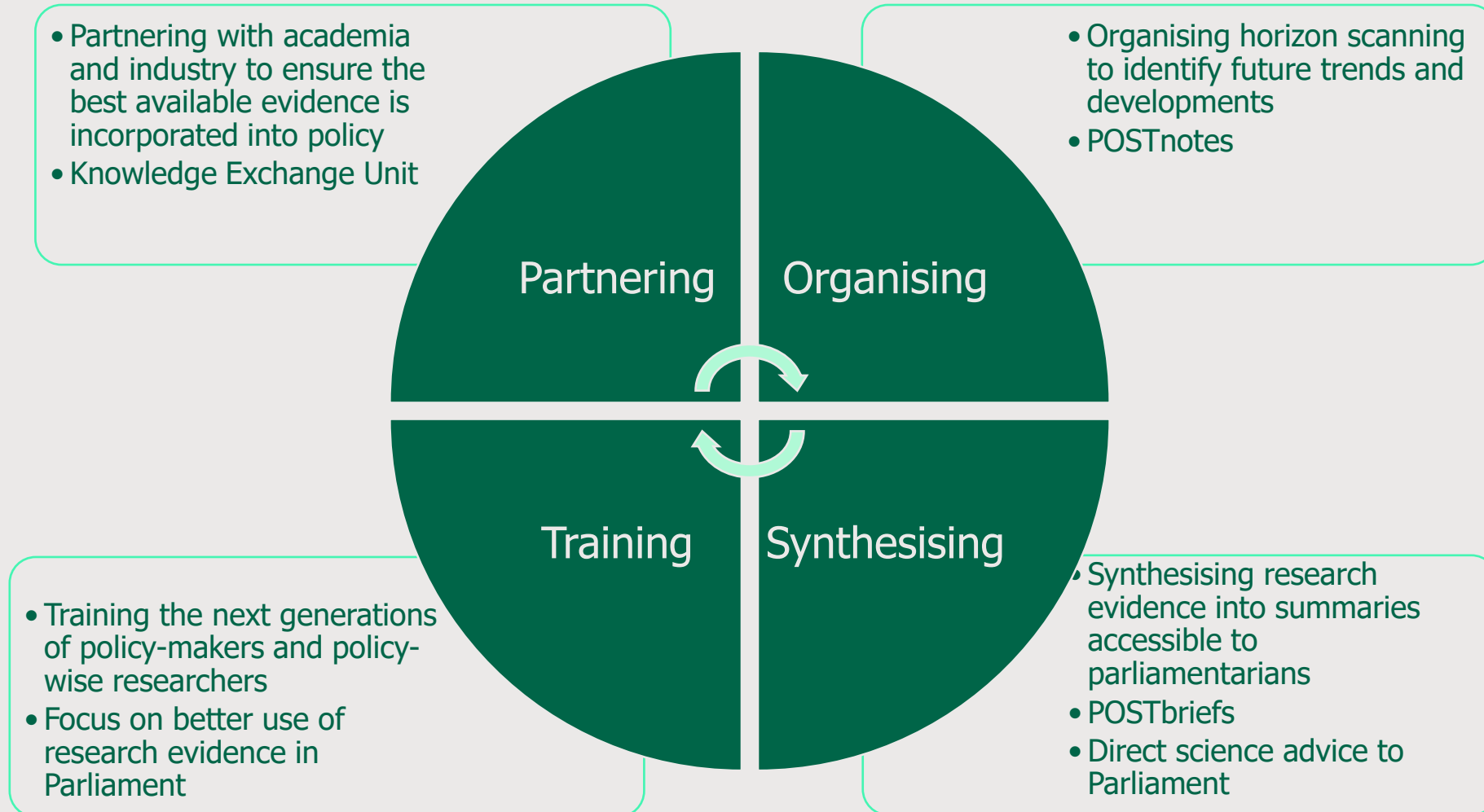
# Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology

---

# Need for legislative science advice



# Bridging research and policy



## Biodiversity net gain



### Overview

- In 2024, mandatory biodiversity net gain (BNG) was introduced as a planning requirement. This is a new process that requires the habitats lost on a development site to be accounted for and losses addressed.
- On the development site, patches of differing vegetation types, such as woodland, are mapped. Data on their size, ecology and location are used to derive 'biodiversity units'. This involves the use of metrics set out in legislation and supplied in spreadsheets.
- A biodiversity gain plan must be submitted showing how at least a 10% gain in units will be delivered over a 30-year post-development period.
- This gain is achieved by enhancing or creating the same types of habitats that will be lost. This can be on the development site, on a separate registered BNG site, or the purchase of statutory credits as a last resort.
- The policy is also intended to ensure a consistent approach to mitigating impacts on biodiversity within the planning system, provide greenspace and economic opportunities for those providing biodiversity units.
- Academic researchers raise concerns about most habitat creation being projected to occur on development sites. They suggest greater biodiversity gains would likely come from requiring the habitat creation to be in areas of strategic conservation importance throughout landscapes.
- Other concerns raised include ecological skills and capacity gaps, and the enforcement and monitoring of the delivery of biodiversity units.

## Automated vehicles



### Overview

- 1 Background
  - 2 How do automated vehicles work
  - 3 Automated vehicle developments in the UK
  - 4 Benefits & Concerns
  - 5 Policy considerations
- References  
Contributors

# Cyber security of elections

Published Thursday, 23 May, 2024

Rapid response Digital technologies

[Dewyani Gajjar](#)

This briefing discusses cyber security risks to elections. It explores the potential impacts on election outcomes and how these risks can be tackled.



## On this page

[The changing threat](#)

[Cyber attack risks](#)

[Impacts of cyber attacks](#)

[Risks of mis- and disinformation](#)

[Impacts of AI-generated fake information](#)

[Policies related to cyber security](#)

[Challenges to addressing cyber risks](#)

[Preventing cyber attacks and tackling disinformation](#)

[Acknowledgements](#)

25 September, 2024

# Green Blue Infrastructure Impacts on Health and Wellbeing; A Rapid Evidence Assessment

Matthew Kirby & Alister Scott



# The Library

---

# History of the Library

- First Librarian appointed 1818
- Main function
  - Place to work
  - Hold items Members wouldn't be expected to hold in their private studies.
- Members Library suite opened 1852
- Research Service created 1945–46



C room, 1896



## Business and Transport

- Employment, pay, consumer finance, business support, taxation, pensions, corporate governance
- Parking, local transport, rail, aviation, roads and vehicles, shipping

## Economic Policy & Statistics

- Financial stats, public spending, local government finances, poverty and wages, skills and training
- UK and international economics, trade policy, state aid, regional development

## Home Affairs

- Prisons, probation, sentencing, police, criminal law, personal injury, anti-social behaviour
- Human rights, terrorism, extradition, intelligence services, nationality, immigration, asylum

## International Affairs & Defence

- Defence, NATO, armed forces, nuclear proliferation, arms trading, UK foreign policy
- International law and treaties, , international organisations, countries

## Parliament & Constitution Centre

- Civil service, central government, elections, political parties
- UK Parliament, constitution, courts, devolution, public inquiries

## Science & Environment

- Fisheries, marine, agriculture and food, environment policy, water, climate change
- Public health and medicine, planning, energy, telecoms, science and technology

## Social & General Statistics

- Crime, police, health, transport, housing, planning, migration, energy, higher education
- Elections, political parties, pensions, schools, defence, social security, public health, justice

## Social Policy

- Social services, care homes, health services, social security, housing
- Higher and further education, education, child maintenance

# Main characteristics of parliamentary research

- Impartiality
- Accuracy
- Timeliness
- Relevance
- Confidentiality
- Accessibility
- Analysis of public domain sources rather than primary research

# How is our work used?

- Plenary debates
- Maiden speeches
- Scrutinising legislation
- Constituents, surgeries
- Drafting PQs
- Media (short deadlines!)
- Select Committee work

# Research requests – Questions we get asked...

- How does the Warm Homes discount work?
- Can I have a brief on Motor Neuron Disease?
- How does the 1779 Inclosure Act relate to my local area?
- What planning and health and safety rules apply to car washes?
- What fishing rights does the UK have?
- How is cannabis made available for medical use?
- Is 5G safe?
- Who owns UK water companies and how much are they worth?
- Does a household have to have a water smart meter?

## Research in brief: Quick reads for the 2024 Parliament

A series of short articles on some of the issues that Members of Parliament will have to address in the 2024 Parliament.

### On this page

[Briefings on the topics that matter](#)

[Social policy](#)

[The economy and finance](#)

[Home affairs](#)

[Environment and technology](#)

[The UK's global position](#)

[Supporting the work of MPs](#)

[Full download](#)

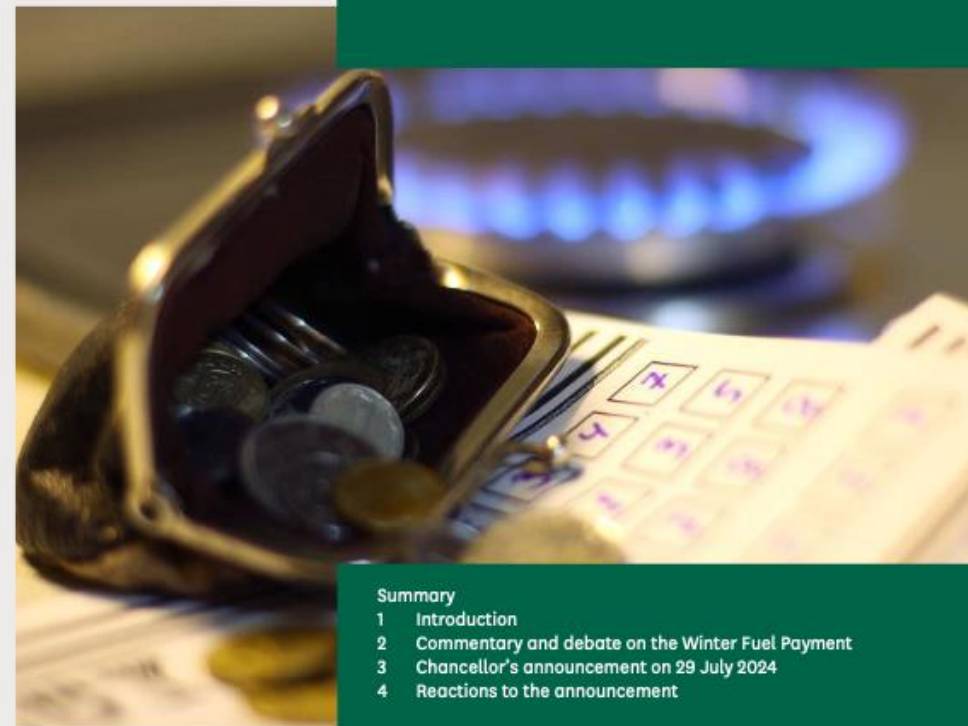
[A summary in British Sign Language](#)

### Research Briefing

9 September 2024

By Andrew Mackley,  
Frank Hobson,  
Steven Kennedy

## Changes to Winter Fuel Payment eligibility rules



### Summary

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Commentary and debate on the Winter Fuel Payment
- 3 Chancellor's announcement on 29 July 2024
- 4 Reactions to the announcement

Research Briefing

2 September 2024

By Alan Walker,  
Suzanna Hinson,  
Philip Brien,  
Peter Brook,  
Ilze Jozepa

## Great British Energy Bill 2024-25

Summary

- 1 Background to the bill
- 2 Great British Energy Bill
- 3 Reaction to the bill
- 4 How bills go through Parliament

Research Briefing

## Environmental standards for new housing

Published Wednesday, 11 September, 2024

[Debate Pack](#) [Energy](#) [Environment](#) [Housing and planning](#)

[Xameerah Malik](#) [Nuala Burnett](#) [Alex Adcock](#)

A debate on environmental standards for new housing will take place in Westminster Hall on Thursday 12 September 2024. Ellie Chowns, MP for North Herefordshire, will open the debate.

### Documents to download

#### Supporting documents

[Parliamentary and press coverage](#) (144 KB , PDF)

### Building regulations

All new housing in England must adhere to building regulations, under the [Building Act 1984](#) and the [Building Regulations 2010](#). The statutory requirements set out in [Schedule 1 to the Building Regulations 2010](#) include water efficiency (part G), drainage and waste disposal (part H), combustion appliances and fuel storage systems (Part J), conservation of fuel and power (part L), overheating (part O) and infrastructure for the charging of electric vehicles

# Results for a UK general election on 4 July

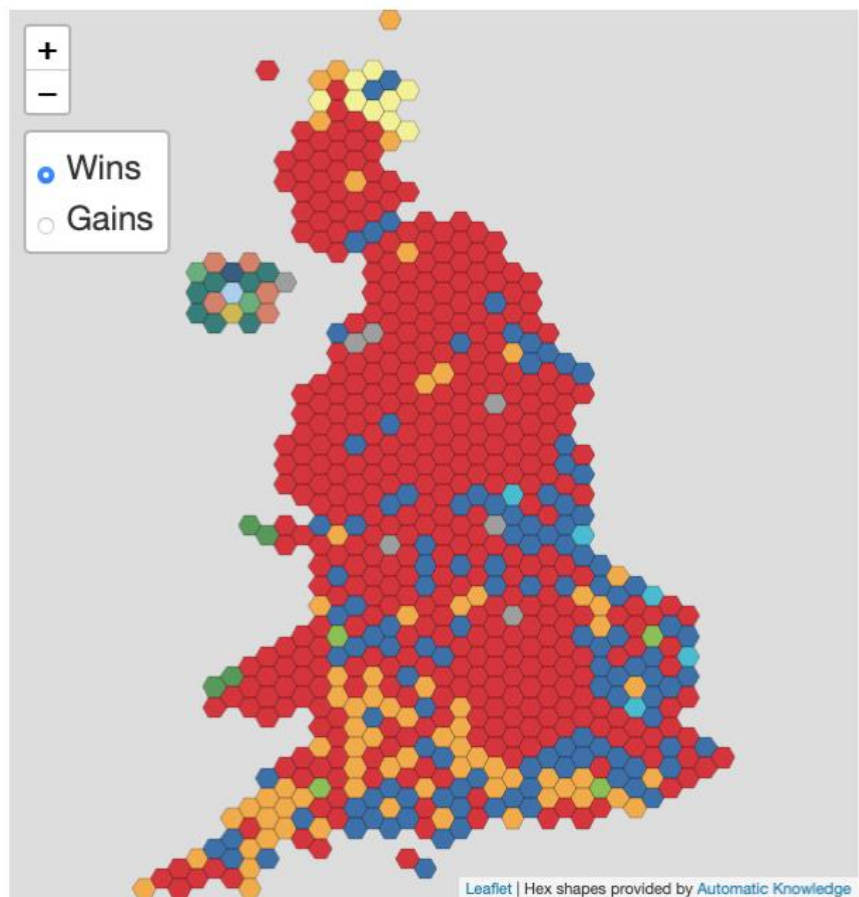
## Map

[Previous general election](#)

[Parties](#) [Constituencies](#) [Map](#) [Majorities](#) [Vote shares of winning candidates](#) [Turnouts](#) [Declarations](#)

A general election to the [59th Parliament of the United Kingdom](#) with an electorate of 48,253,193, held on 4 July 2024.

Read the [House of Commons Library briefing](#).



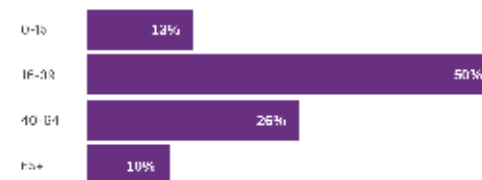
25 September, 2024

## Data for your constituency: Holborn and St Pancras

### Population

The population of Holborn and St Pancras was around 111,930 in 2022.

Population by age in your constituency



### Ethnic group and disability, Census 2021

	Constituency	England and Wales
<b>Broad ethnic group</b>		
Asian	22%	9%
Black	11%	4%
Mixed	7%	3%
Other	6%	2%
White	55%	82%
<b>Disability status</b>		
Disabled	17%	18%

### Get the facts



Scan this QR code to access the Library's constituency dashboards, which provide more detailed, up to date data.



### Geography

Holborn and St Pancras is 9.3 square km, and overlaps with the following upper tier/unitary local authorities: Camden.

Main land use: your constituency is made up of 96% built-up areas and 4% green areas or leisure facilities.

### Economy

Gross Value Added (a measure of economic output) in Holborn and St Pancras was £31.4 billion in 2021.

In July 2024, 5.7% of 16–64-year-olds in your constituency were claiming unemployment benefits.

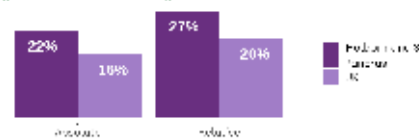
People claiming unemployment benefits July 2024



### Child poverty

In 2022/23, 27% of children in your constituency were in relative poverty. 22% were in absolute poverty.

Child poverty 2022/23  
Ages: 0-15, before housing costs



# Some statistics

- In 2023/24:
  - 17,000 research requests
  - 40 legislative briefings
  - 160 new topical briefings
  - 1000 updates to topical briefings
  - 400 economic indicators
  - 220 debate packs
  - 100 constituency casework articles
  - 88,000 proceedings, questions and papers indexed
  - 5286 new terms in Parliament's Thesaurus
  - 1000 changes to records in MNIS



# Knowledge Exchange Unit

---

# POST's Knowledge Exchange Unit



Promotion of opportunities to engage with Parliament



Training and resources around engagement



Parliamentary Academic Fellowships



Building networks of knowledge mobilisers within universities



Shaping higher education policy and practice:

- Close engagement with Research England, to shape REF2020 Guidelines and Impact Assessor training
- Nominating 7 staff to IA roles
- Close engagement to shape KEF

**Celebrating two years of the Knowledge Exchange Unit in UK Parliament: our achievements, learnings and next steps**

# Promoting opportunities: I

## @UKParl\_Research



The image shows a Twitter profile for the Knowledge Exchange Unit at UK Parliament. The profile picture is a circular image of three women. The header features a banner image of the Houses of Parliament in London. The profile name is "Knowledge Exchange Unit at UK Parliament" with a verified account icon. The handle is "@UKParl\_Research" and it is noted that the account "Follows you". The bio states: "Helping researchers to engage with Parliament: Tweets from Siobhán Conway, Sarah Foxen, Sarah Carter-Bell and Rakhi Biswas Evans". A link to "parliament.uk/research-impact" is provided. The account was joined in November 2018, has 9,632 following, and 16.2K followers. It is followed by Sarah Chaytor, Dr Mahlet ("Milly") Zimeta, and also @mstdn and Scottis... The navigation tabs are "Tweets", "Replies", "Media", and "Likes". A retweet notification is visible at the bottom, showing a retweet from the House of Lords (@UKHouseofLo...).

   **Following**

**Knowledge Exchange Unit at UK Parliament** 

@UKParl\_Research **Follows you**

Helping researchers to engage with Parliament:  
Tweets from Siobhán Conway, Sarah Foxen, Sarah Carter-Bell and Rakhi Biswas Evans

[parliament.uk/research-impact](https://parliament.uk/research-impact)

 Joined November 2018

9,632 Following **16.2K** Followers

   Followed by Sarah Chaytor, Dr Mahlet ("Milly") Zimeta | also @mstdn, Scottis...

**Tweets** **Replies** **Media** **Likes**

 Knowledge Exchange Unit at UK Parliament Retweeted

 **House of Lords**  @UKHouseofLo...  
The #HouseofLords is well pleased to

# Promoting opportunities: II

## Knowledge Exchange Unit

Weekly round-up for knowledge  
mobilisers

19 January 2022

Hello knowledge mobilisers! Wishing you a very happy Thursday.

Below you will find new calls for evidence from select committees and a reminder about an opportunity to apply to be a Specialist Adviser for the Scottish Affairs Committee.

In case you missed it last week, we also include information about the next round of Parliamentary Academic Fellowships, which will open for applications on Monday 31 January 2022. The Fellowships are open to university-based researchers and staff working in knowledge exchange. When the applications open, we'll also be encouraging applicants to contact policy/ impact teams at their university (which may include you) for support or advice in shaping applications.

As there are several opportunities at the moment for researchers/ experts to contribute expertise to Parliament's scrutiny of Common Frameworks, we also outline what Common Frameworks are, and how to get involved.

Please do get in touch with us on [keu@parliament.uk](mailto:keu@parliament.uk) if there's anything you'd like to discuss or you have any questions.

Best wishes,  
Laura, Naomi and Sarah

### Select committee inquiries launched in the last seven days (since 13 January 2022)

Please click the title of any inquiry listed below to be taken to a summary of that inquiry and the full call for evidence. Remember that you don't have to answer every question posed in each call for evidence. And you can also explore [all select committee inquiries currently open for submissions of written evidence](#).

- [Commercial insurance and reinsurance regulation](#) | Industry and Regulators Committee | Deadline for evidence submission: Friday 11 February 2022
- [UK trade negotiations: Agreement with India](#) | International Trade Committee | Deadline for evidence submission: Sunday 13 February 2022
- [NAO Estimates 2021-22](#) | Public Accounts Committee | Deadline for evidence submission: Monday 14 February 2022
- [Building Safety: Remediation and Funding](#) | Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee | Deadline for evidence submission: Wednesday 16 February 2022
- [The role of the military in countering migrant crossings \(Operation Isotope\)](#) | Defence Committee | Deadline for evidence submission: Tuesday 25 January 2022

### Reminder - Apply to be a Specialist Adviser on Hydrogen and Carbon Capture in Scotland

The House of Commons Scottish Affairs Committee is inviting applications from individuals for the role of Specialist Adviser to the Scottish Affairs Committee for its inquiry into Hydrogen and Carbon Capture in Scotland.

This could be the role for you if you have knowledge of hydrogen and carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS) in Scotland, their potential and research taking place.

The role is likely to run from February 2022 until September 2022. The overall commitment is likely to be no more than around 10 days. You would be paid a daily honorarium on the basis of work done.

The deadline for applications is midday on **Monday 24 January 2022**.

Find [more information on the role, the knowledge and skills required, and how to apply](#).

**Why should I engage?** Being a special adviser provides a great opportunity to work closely with a committee, informing its work and approach to an inquiry – such as inquiry focus, selection of oral witnesses, and report development and conclusions. [Find out more about why to engage with Parliament here](#). [And find more on engagement for impact here](#).

**More information:** [watch a short video with researchers who've been specialist advisers talking about their experience](#)



## A short guide to producing research to support the work of UK Parliament

This guide aims to help researchers produce research that is useful for the UK Parliament. It provides insights that researchers can draw upon across the span of a research project; from the early stages when proposing a project, through to the final stages of disseminating findings.

### Overview

This guide covers:

1. what the UK Parliament does
2. how the UK Parliament uses research
3. what the UK Parliament is interested in
4. how your research could feed into the UK Parliament
5. what makes research useful to the UK Parliament
6. tips on producing research that is useful to the UK Parliament
7. where to find further information

### What does the UK Parliament do?

The functions of the UK Parliament are to represent the people, scrutinise the Government, debate important issues and pass legislation.

### How does the UK Parliament use research?

There are several kinds of research users in Parliament:

### What research is the UK Parliament interested in?

Parliamentarians, their staff and parliamentary staff are generally interested in research that is relevant to current issues on the parliamentary agenda, or the current work of Government. In addition, MPs are interested in research related to issues that affect their constituents.

There are various ways to find out what Parliament is

- [Parliament for Researchers - how to engage with the UK Parliament](#)
- [Parliament for Early Career Researchers - how to engage with the UK Parliament](#)
- [Parliament for PhD students - how to engage with the UK Parliament](#)
- [Parliament for Knowledge Mobilisers - how to support your institution's engagement with the UK Parliament](#)
- [Parliament for Academic Librarians](#) (40 minutes long)

## Sessions on a range of topics related to engaging with Parliament

- [Parliament for Researchers - how to work with select committees](#)
- [Parliament for Researchers - exploring select committee evidence](#) (54 minutes long)
- [Parliament for Researchers - how to write for a parliamentary audience](#)
- [Parliament for Researchers - how to engage with devolved legislatures](#) (58 minutes long; approx 15 minute section on each devolved legislature)

[parliament.uk/research-impact](https://parliament.uk/research-impact)

# Parliamentary Academic Fellowship Scheme

[POST's Parliamentary Academic Fellowship Scheme - UK Parliament](#)



## POST's Parliamentary Academic Fellowship Scheme

The Parliamentary Academic Fellowship Scheme runs on a rolling basis, as Parliament identifies a need for academic expertise.

The Scheme provides a unique opportunity for researchers to learn about how research feeds into practice and the challenges faced by decision-makers, as well as increasing opportunities for researchers from all disciplines to engage

# Where next?



Creation of the Policy, Research and Analysis Community



Parliamentary Academic Fellows and Thematic Research Leads



Engaging students in impact, policy and knowledge exchange



Continue to strengthen connections with the research community

# Impartial research and information

## Research in brief: Quick reads for the 2024 Parliament

A series of short articles on some of the issues that Members of Parliament will have to address in the 2024 Parliament.

[View](#)



commonslibrary.parliament.uk

### Featured research

Information and analysis on legislation, policy areas and topical issues



**Research for Commons business** >  
View research covering all major bills, the top



**Advertising of HFSS food and drink to children** >



**Regional and National Economic Indicators** >



# Sourcing reliable and impartial scientific research for Parliament

## Latest research

Read our analysis of new and emerging research areas



### **Biodiversity net gain** >

This POSTnote outlines the mandatory biodiversity net gain policy introduced in England in 2024 and the risks and challenges for delivering its objectives.

[Environment](#), [Transport and infrastructure](#)



### **Trust in News Providers** >

This POSTnote examines trends and patterns in trust in news providers, factors associated with trust, and areas for consideration in the debate about how to improve trust.

[Digital technologies](#)



### **Enhanced rock weathering: Potential UK greenhouse gas removal** >

This POSTnote outlines the benefits and challenges of using enhanced rock weathering as a GGR approach for addressing emissions from UK hard-to-abate sectors.

[Environment](#), [Food security](#)





[Browse more research](#)

post.parliament.uk


# Research impact at the UK Parliament

Everything you need to know to engage with Parliament as a researcher.

Provided by Parliament's Knowledge Exchange Unit - Sarah CB, Rakhi, Michelle and Jenny

<b>Why engage with Parliament?</b> >	<b>What interests Parliament?</b> >
 <p>Read some of the reasons to get involved with Parliament</p>	 <p>Find out about what Parliament is interested in</p>
<b>How Parliament uses research</b> >	<b>Ways to engage with Parliament</b> >
 <p>Learn more about how different people in Parliament use research</p>	 <p>Discover the different actions you can take to get involved with Parliament</p>

### Twitter



Contact the Knowledge Exchange unit: Sarah Carter-Bell, Rakhi Biswas Evans, Michelle Ntow and Jenny Chapman. Email: [keu@parliament.uk](mailto:keu@parliament.uk) Follow us on Twitter: [@UKParl\\_Research](https://twitter.com/UKParl_Research)

[Find out more](#)

### What does the UK Parliament do?



# Thank you

**Subscribe: [commonslibrary.parliament.uk](https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk)**

**Follow: [@commonslibrary](https://twitter.com/commonslibrary)**

