Westminster Higher Education Forum Keynote Seminar:
Using the UK research base to support evidence-based policymaking

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 9th March 2017
Venue: The British Medical Association, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JP

Agenda subject to change

8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee

9.00 - 9.05 **Chair’s opening remarks**
Lord Mitchell, Member, Joint Committee on the National Security Strategy

9.05 - 9.20 **Bringing parliamentarians and science together**
Dr Caroline Kenny, Social Science Adviser, Parliamentary Office for Science and Technology

9.20 - 10.10 **Breaking down barriers to a culture of evidence-based policymaking**

- **Key challenges for embedding evidence-based policy across Government**
  Jonathan Breckon, Director, The Alliance for Useful Evidence

- **Managing culture clashes - how can academics better understand the needs of policymakers and their processes?**
  Professor Mark Shucksmith, Director, Newcastle University Institute for Social Renewal and Trustee, Carnegie UK Trust

- **Communicating the evidence: when science-backed policy meets politics and public opinion**
  Professor John Newton, Chief Knowledge Officer, Public Health England

- **Engaging citizens in the demand for evidence-based policy**
  Síle Lane, Director of Campaigns and Policy, Sense About Science

Questions and comments from the floor with Dr Caroline Kenny, Social Science Adviser, Parliamentary Office for Science and Technology

10.10 - 11.00 **Demonstrating research ‘impact’: how can academics influence better policymaking?**

- **Is REF driving academics to focus on informing policy?**
  Phil Sooben, Director for Policy and Resources and Deputy Chief Executive, Economic and Social Research Council

- **Achieving ‘impact’ in public policy: a case study**
  Dr Rachel Aldred, Reader in Transport, University of Westminster and Winner, Economic and Social Research Council 2016 Prize for Outstanding Public Policy Impact

- **Holding Government to account on evidence-based policy: opportunities for academics to utilise Select Committees**
  David Slater, Clerk, Environmental Audit Committee, House of Commons

- **Reflections on giving evidence to a Select Committee**
  Professor Martin Williams, Professor of Air Quality Research, Environmental Research Group, King’s College London

Questions and comments from the floor

11.00 - 11.05 **Chair’s closing remarks**
Lord Mitchell, Member, Joint Committee on the National Security Strategy

11.05 - 11.35 Coffee

11.35 - 11.40 **Chair’s opening remarks**
Baroness Young of Old Scone, Member, House of Lords Science and Technology Committee

11.40 - 12.30 **Embedding evidence-based working within Government**

- **Using data and evidence to improve local government decision-making**
  Professor Catherine Staite, Director, Institute of Local Government Studies, University of Birmingham

- **The case for greater use of Randomised Controlled Trials in policymaking and the barriers to their use**
  Professor David Torgerson, Director, York Trials Unit, University of York

- **Going beyond data - using behavioural insights to achieve policy goals**
  Dr David Halpern, Chief Executive, Behavioural Insights Team

- **What Works Centres - their role in policymaking, the impact so far and what more can be done**
  Nancy Hey, Director, What Works Centre for Wellbeing

Questions and comments from the floor

12.30 - 12.55 ‘Open innovation: deepening collaboration between academics and policy-makers’

- **Questions and comments from the floor**
  Chris Webber, Senior Policy Advisor, Cabinet Office

12.55 - 13.00 **Chair’s and Westminster Higher Education Forum closing remarks**
Baroness Young of Old Scone, Member, House of Lords Science and Technology Committee
Sean Cudmore, Deputy Editor, Westminster Higher Education Forum