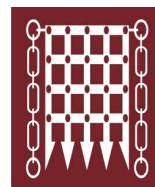


**Westminster Higher Education Forum Keynote Seminar:
Using the UK research base to support evidence-based policymaking**

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 9th March 2017

Venue: The British Medical Association, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JP



**WESTMINSTER
HIGHER EDUCATION
FORUM**

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