

**Westminster Higher Education Forum Keynote Seminar: Utilising academic research in policymaking - Horizon Scanning, trend analysis and engagement with academics and business**

Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> November 2014

Venue: Glaziers Hall, 9 Montague Close, London SE1 9DD



**WESTMINSTER  
HIGHER EDUCATION  
FORUM**

Agenda subject to change

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Jane Willis**, Director, Cross-cutting Interventions, Health and Safety Executive
- 9.05 - 9.35 **Government Horizon Scanning**  
*Key outcomes and recommendations from the House of Commons Science and Technology Select Committee report.*  
**Andrew Miller MP**, Chair, House of Commons Science and Technology Select Committee  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.35 - 10.15 **Latest Horizon Scanning activities and examples of best practice**  
**Dr Claire Craig**, Director, Government Office for Science  
**James King**, Director, Science Practice  
**Rear Admiral John Kingwell**, Director, Development, Concepts & Doctrine Centre, Ministry of Defence  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.15 - 11.10 **Futures research - organisation, effectiveness and potential**  
*What is the record of Horizon Scanning within central and local governments in facilitating solutions to long-standing issues facing the UK, and what can be done to boost its effectiveness? How much improvement has been made to coordinating existing Government Horizon Scanning activities across departments since the 2013 Day Review and subsequent Commons Science and Technology Select Committee report? What effect would the relocation of the Government Office for Science (Go-Science) into the Cabinet Office alongside the Strategic Horizons Unit, as suggested by the report have on Horizon Scanning; how feasible would this be? What steps can Government take to increase the transparency of their foresight research whilst maintaining effective safeguards to protect sensitive data? What role can industry play in providing policymakers with sufficient guidance with regards to necessary regulation or deregulation in response to emerging technologies? How can Government and the science community build upon Foresight research in order to position the UK as a leader and coordinator of EU and global level responses to emerging challenges, and opportunities to trial new policy?*  
**Chris Yapp**, Freelance Consultant on Innovation and Future Thinking  
**Geoff McBride**, Horizon Scanning and Futures Analyst, Science and Technology Facilities Council  
**Professor Sarah Curtis**, Executive Director, Institute of Hazard, Risk and Resilience, Durham University  
**Professor Tim O'Riordan**, Emeritus Professor of Environmental Sciences, University of East Anglia  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.10 - 11.15 **Chair's closing remarks**  
**Jane Willis**, Director, Cross-cutting Interventions, Health and Safety Executive
- 11.15 - 11.45 Coffee
- 11.45 - 11.50 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Lisa Ollerhead**, Policy Adviser, Open Policy Making, Cabinet Office
- 11.50 - 12.05 **Bridging the gap between policymakers and the science community**  
**Dr Chris Tyler**, Director, Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST)
- 12.05 - 12.55 **Evidence-based policymaking - utilising academic research to raise the effectiveness of reform**  
*What is the potential of academic research to help Government to identify areas of strategic importance to the UK that may have been overlooked by policymakers? What steps can universities, learned societies and business - and Parliament and Government - take to improve lines of communication and raise awareness of the implications of research that might affect policy developments? Will the 'impact' criteria under the new Research Excellence Framework (REF) succeed in encouraging academics to better appreciate and communicate research with implications for the future of UK policy - and will programmes such as the Civil Service Learning scheme and the Royal Society Pairing Scheme help Government staff to better collaborate and establish links with researchers when designing policy? What progress has been made in strengthening the role of Chief Scientific Advisors in ensuring policy decisions are informed by the best available scientific advice?*  
**Professor David Nutt**, Head, Centre for Neuropsychopharmacology, Imperial College London and Chair, DrugScience  
**Chris O'Brien**, Academic Communications Consultant, Bulletin  
**Dr Wendy Moncur**, Reader in Socio-Digital Interaction, University of Dundee  
Questions and comments from the floor with **Dr Chris Tyler**, Director, Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST)
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Westminster Higher Education Forum closing remarks**  
**Lisa Ollerhead**, Policy Adviser, Open Policy Making, Cabinet Office  
**Alex Kenney**, Senior Researcher, Westminster Higher Education Forum