

## Westminster Higher Education Forum policy conference

Deepening stakeholder involvement in policymaking - learning from the COVID-19 response, streamlining processes, widening the evidence base, and improving communication

Timing: Morning, Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> May 2021

\*\*\*Taking Place Online\*\*\*



Agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**  
Sir Bernard Jenkin MP, Chair, Liaison Committee, House of Commons
- 9.05 **Evidence-based policy and the pandemic - what has been learned and implications for the future**  
Dr Sarah Foxen, Knowledge Exchange Lead, POST  
Dr Rowena Bermingham, Covid-19 Science Coordination Team Leader, GO-Science  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Improving the system of evidence-based policymaking - priorities for both deepening and streamlining co-operation between policymakers, businesses and researchers**  
Professor Matthew Flinders, Department of Politics, University of Sheffield and Chair, Universities Policy Engagement Network  
Dr Malcolm Skingle, Head of Academic Liaison, GlaxoSmithKline  
Professor Sarah Main, Executive Director, Campaign for Science and Engineering  
Dr Emma Gordon, Director, Strategic Hub, Administrative Data Research UK, ESRC  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.10 Break
- Widening the evidence base behind policy decisions - drawing on key disciplines, joining up pools of expertise, improving understanding of what works, and the role of local knowledge and place-based policy**
- 10.15 **'Lack of evidence based vaccination strategy fails to protect more lives'**  
Simon Mico, Managing Director and Immunologist, Bio-Diagnostics
- 10.25 **Pushing forward public policy - innovative thinking, experimentation, and evaluating what works**  
Dr Alex Sutherland, Chief Scientist, Behavioural Insights Team
- 10.35 **'Uncertainty and the use of interdisciplinary insights in complex decision-making'**  
Richard Bronk, Author of *The Romantic Economist* and Co-editor, *Uncertain Futures*
- 10.45 **'Crowdsourced data in active travel policy'**  
Thomas Knights, Partnerships Manager, Strava Metro
- 10.55 Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.20 **Chair's closing remarks**  
Sir Bernard Jenkin MP, Chair, Liaison Committee, House of Commons
- 11.25 Break
- 11.35 **Chair's opening remarks**  
Katherine Mountain, Head of SME Insights and Engagement, BEIS
- 11.40 **Learning from international approaches to using evidence to inform policy**  
Frank Zwetsloot, Director and Founder, ScienceWorks
- 11.50 **Priorities for improving the acceptance of evidence-based policy - communicating scientific reasoning to the public, addressing disinformation, and the role of public engagement**  
Tracey Brown, Director, Sense about Science  
Dr Su Anson, Senior Research Manager, Trilateral Research  
Michael Wendling, Editor, Trending and Anti-disinformation Unit, BBC News
- 12.05 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.25 Break
- 12.30 **Evidence-informed policy post-COVID-19 - lessons learned and future directions**  
Dr Ben Taylor, Senior Policy Advisor, Department for Education  
Megan Lynch, Senior Policy Advisor, Department for Education  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Higher Education Forum closing remarks**  
Katherine Mountain, Head of SME Insights and Engagement, BEIS  
Aleksiina Kallunki, Senior Researcher, Westminster Higher Education Forum