

Using the UK research base to support evidence-based policymaking 9th March 2017

CONDITIONS FOR USE OF TRANSCRIPTS:

This document is intended to provide a timely reference for interested parties who are unable to attend the event to which it refers. Some portions are based on transcripts of proceedings and others consist of text submitted by speakers or authors, and are clearly marked as such. As such, apart from where it is indicated that the text was supplied by the speaker, it has not been possible for the transcript to be checked by speakers and so this portion of the document does not represent a formal record of proceedings. Despite best endeavours by Westminster Forum Projects and its suppliers to ensure accuracy, text based on transcription may contain errors which could alter the intended meaning of any portion of the reported content. Anyone who intends to publicly use or refer to any text based on the transcript should make clear that speakers have not had the opportunity for any corrections, or check first with the speaker in question. If in doubt please contact the forum first.

Contents

About this Publication	3
<u>Agenda</u>	4
Session Chair's opening remarks	
Lord Mitchell, Member, Joint Committee on the National Security Strategy (transcript)	6
Bringing parliamentarians and science together	
Dr Caroline Kenny , Social Science Adviser, Parliamentary Office for Science and Technology (transcript)	8
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 (transcript)	11
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 (transcript)	13
Communicating the evidence: when science-backed policy meets politics and public opinion	
Professor John Newton, Chief Knowledge Officer, Public Health England (transcript)	15
Engaging citizens in the demand for evidence-based policy	
Síle Lane, Director of Campaigns and Policy, Sense About Science (transcript)	17
Questions and comments from the floor with Dr Caroline Kenny , Social Science Adviser,	-,
Parliamentary Office for Science and Technology (transcript)	19
	15
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 (transcript)	25
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 (transcript)	27
<u>Holding Government to account on evidence-based policy: opportunities for academics to utilise Select Committees</u>	
David Slater, Clerk, Environmental Audit Committee, House of Commons (transcript)	29
<u>Reflections on giving evidence to a Select Committee</u>	
Professor Martin Williams , Professor of Air Quality Research, Environmental Research Group,	
King's College London (transcript)	31
Questions and comments from the floor (transcript)	33
Session Chair's closing remarks	
Lord Mitchell, Member, Joint Committee on the National Security Strategy (transcript)	41
Session Chair's opening remarks	
Baroness Young of Old Scone, Member, House of Lords Science and Technology Committee (transcript)	43
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 (transcript)	45
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 (transcript)	47
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 (transcript)	49
Going beyond data - using behavioural insights to achieve policy goals	
Dr David Halpern, Chief Executive, Behavioural Insights Team (transcript)	51
Questions and comments from the floor (transcript)	53
'Open innovation: deepening collaboration between academics and policy-makers'	
Chris Webber, Senior Policy Advisor, Cabinet Office (transcript)	60
Questions and comments from the floor (transcript)	63
Session Chair's and Westminster Higher Education Forum closing remarks	US
Baroness Young of Old Scone, Member, House of Lords Science and Technology Committee (transcript)	68
Sean Cudmore, Deputy Editor, Westminster Higher Education Forum (transcript)	69
<u>Comments</u>	70
<u>List of Delegates Registered for Seminar</u>	72
Contributor Biographies	83

Please be advised that speakers' PowerPoint presentations are included within the transcript itself, just beneath the relevant speaker's text. Please note that not all speakers are able to grant permission for us to include their slides.

About this Publication

This publication reflects proceedings at the Westminster Higher Education Forum Keynote Seminar: Using the UK research base to support evidence-based policymaking held on 9th March 2017. The views expressed in the articles are those of the named authors, not those of the Forum or the sponsors, apart from their own articles.

Although Westminster Higher Education Forum is grateful to all sponsors for the funding on which we depend, participation in events and publications is never conditional on being a sponsor. As well as funding ongoing operations, sponsorship enables the Forum to distribute complimentary copies of publications, and offer complimentary tickets for events, to Government ministers, parliamentarians and officials most involved in policy.

This publication is copyright. Its copying, in whole or in part, is not permitted without the prior written consent of the publishers. However, extracts of the text may be reproduced for academic or review purposes, subject to the conditions of use outlined in the previous page, providing they are accurate, are not used in a misleading context and the author, their organisation and the Westminster Higher Education Forum are acknowledged. We would also appreciate being informed.

Westminster Higher Education Forum

UK Headquarters 4 Bracknell Beeches Old Bracknell Lane West Bracknell Berkshire RG12 7BW

T: 01344 864796 F: 01344 420121 publications@westminsterforumprojects.co.uk

Directors

Peter van Gelder Chris Whitehouse