

NINE WAYS RESEARCH GETS INTO PARLIAMENT*

* /nine ways you could get your research into Parliament

Through the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology

- This office provides independent, balanced analyses of topics in science and technology for both MPs and Peers
- The office publishes short briefings on relevant topics and also hosts events
- Input comes from a wide variety of sources including both academics and their research

Through Commons and Lords Select Committee Inquiries

- Committees set an agenda for inquiries they want to carry out
- They also ask for ideas for inquiries on Twitter or their webpages
- They get written and oral evidence from various sources including academics
- The outcome of an inquiry is a report, which Government is obliged to respond to

Through All-Party Parliamentary Groups (APPGs)

- APPGs are composed of MPs and Peers who have an interest in a particular area, e.g. 'the aluminium industry', 'arts, health and wellbeing' and 'biodiversity' (they are a bit like university societies)
- They hold meetings on different topics with invited speakers who are sometimes academic researchers

Through Commons and Lords Library Responses to MPs' and Peers' Questions

- The House of Commons and House of Lords libraries provide a confidential service for MPs, Peers and their staff wherein they can submit requests to the library for answers to questions they have
- Academic research, as well as other sources of information, may contribute to the response

Through the House of Lords Library Current Affairs Digest

- The House of Lords Library publishes a weekly current affairs digest
- The digest summarises articles from a variety of sources including journals, magazines, the press, think tank reports, blog posts and speeches
- Summaries are grouped into six areas: social policy, science, economic affairs, home affairs, international affairs and the constitution

UPDATED

Through Political Researchers

- Some MPs employ researchers to work in their offices, carry out research and gather information for them
- An MP's position in Government, for example 'shadow secretary of state for health', will impact on the sorts of information the researcher is tasked with gathering

Through Commons Research Briefings and Lords Library Notes

- The House of Commons and House of Lords each have a library
- The Commons library has a number of subject specialists who research and write briefings on relevant topics
- The Lords library also produces briefings
- Some of the input comes from academics and their research

Through Commons Debate Packs and Lords Briefing Packs

- When a debate is planned for a particular topic, for example 'shale gas', library specialists quickly compile briefing packs for MPs and Peers ahead of the debate
- Packs may include news items, press releases and parliamentary material
- They may also include information from research centres
- (Lords briefings are not available externally)

Through Direct Correspondence and Engagement with MPs and Peers

- MPs and Peers have specific areas of interest on account of: the nature of their constituency; their political affiliation; or their general interests
- One of the ways they find out more about these areas of interest is through engaging with academics in relevant disciplines