The role of the researcher in public policy: how researchers can reach policymakers

Ilaina Khairulzaman

ilaina@senseaboutscience.org

@SenseScienceEU / @_ilaina
SENSE about SCIENCE
Because evidence matters
Mobile phones cancer inquiry
Evening Standard, 17th Jan 2003

New evidence ‘shows MMR link to autism’
Daily Mail, 9th Aug 2002

Trials of GM crops bring new fears of 'Frankenstein' food
Daily Mail, 30th Dec 2002
This site is to help people make sense of published survival data about children’s heart surgery in the UK and Ireland.

Our website will help you:

- understand how the NHS monitors children’s heart surgery
- explore what survival rates can and can’t tell you
- explore published data for hospitals in the UK and Ireland

What do we mean by survival rates?
Why are survival rates after children’s heart surgery hard to interpret?
How does the NHS monitor them?
“This has been a humbling and invaluable experience. I thought I know something about communicating statistics, but sitting listening to enthusiastic users struggling to understand concepts made me realise my inadequacy.”

**Professor Sir David Spiegelhalter**
Professor of public understanding of risk, University of Cambridge
Effective public engagement

Effective public engagement in 5 steps

1. Scoping
2. Involving people
3. Planning
4. User-testing
5. Dissemination
ASK FOR EVIDENCE

VOICE OF YOUNG SCIENCE
www.senseaboutscience.org
EVIDENCE MATTERS

21st June 2017

www.senseaboutscience.eu  @SenseScienceEU
We expect the commission to use evidence when making policy.

We expect commissioners to explain their reasoning.

We expect parliament to seek and to scrutinise reasoning behind policies.
To help MEPs scrutinise the proposals from the European Commission

Informs and influences policies and laws

Demonstrates the societal impact of research
The routes in – how policymakers get evidence

- Correspondence with individual MEPs
- Committee hearings
- MEP Initiatives
- European Commission proposals
- Public consultations
- Intergroups
- European Parliamentary Research Service
- Third party – charity, think tank, evidence broker
Top 10 tips

Making connections:
- Be visible
- Find the movers and shakers
- Find allies
- Use institutional networks
- Find your MEP

Presenting research:
- ‘So what?’
- Where is your topic in the policy cycle?
- Understand the policymaking process
- Be brief
- Provide context
The role of the researcher in public policy: how researchers can reach policymakers

Ilaina Khairulzaman

ilaina@senseaboutscience.org

@SenseScienceEU / @_ilaina