

Policy collaboration and knowledge exchange for waste and resources

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What's evidence got to do with policy?

In the 70s and 80s there were many programmes driving collaboration between policymakers and academia. These were followed by strong voices for 'evidence-based medicine', 'evidence-based policy', indeed "evidence-based everything" *

But numerous surveys and experiences have shown that not all policymakers regard evidence as the main driver for policy change

Many policymakers never received training to do policy, or work with scientific evidence

There have been attempts to professionalise and rationalise policymaking, e.g., through defined processes such as the policy cycle, or structured groupings, e.g., policy strategy units, the nudge centre

Policy "solutions" sometimes appear prior to any rigorous demonstration of their need – "policy needs to be designed not just conceived" (Institute for Government, 2011, *Policy Making in the Real World*).

Policy Skills and Knowledge Framework (2013) defined policy in terms of three areas – evidence, politics and delivery – "policy is political...democracy at work" A skilled policymaker would be one who can "bring together evidence, politics and delivery to support ministers".

* Davies, H, Nutley, S, Walter, I., 2008, Why 'Knowledge Transfer' is Misconceived for Applied Social Research, *Journal of Health Services Research & Policy*, 13, 3, 188–19

A familiar story: evidence is not the only driver for policy change

The evidence does not speak for itself: The role of research evidence in shaping policy change for the implementation of publicly funded syringe exchange programs in three US cities

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 Article Info

policy change process. Interviews were transcribed and analyzed for common themes pertaining to applications of research evidence.

Results

In Baltimore and Philadelphia, the typological approaches (instrumental and symbolic/conceptual, respectively) to the applications of research evidence used by harm reduction proponents contributed to the momentum for securing policy change for the implementation of syringe exchange services. Applications of research evidence were less successful in DC because policymakers had differing ideas about the implications of syringe exchange program implementation and because opponents of policy change used evidence incorrectly or not at all in policy change discussions.

Conclusion

Typological applications of research evidence are useful for understanding policy change processes, but their efficacy falls short when sociopolitical factors complicate legislative processes. Advocates for harm reduction may benefit from understanding how to effectively integrate research evidence into policy change processes in ways that confront the myriad of factors that influence policy change.

Keywords:

[Research evidence](#), [Injection drug use](#), [HIV](#)

Placement fellowships

Seems obvious that one way around the difficulties of engaging with policymakers is placement fellowships – integrate, build trust, grow the evidence etc

We found that the fact that a placement fellow sits in a department doesn't prove that evidence will be better used

Make sure the role is defined – avoid being just another pair of hands on the deck

Knowledge of the policy process being conducted is important

Don't become too compliant – ask questions

Where is evidence used in government?

Parliamentary Office of Science & Technology

SELECT committees

Departmental policy teams

Consultations

All Party Parliamentary Groups

Chief Scientific groups and Go-Science

Established policies in agencies (delivery)

Ministerial offices (+ special advisors)

Parliamentary questions

Identifying users of knowledge and evidence for waste and resources

All Party Parliamentary Groups (no formal function but may participate in seminars etc): Agroecology for Sustainable Food and Farming; Air Pollution; Biomass; Environment; Food Waste; Limits to Growth; Steel and Metal Related Industries; Water; Renewable and Sustainable Energy; Sustainable Resource (secretariat run by <http://www.policyconnect.org.uk/>)

POST will receive ideas for a POSTnote online; they run seminars and events for MPs; they have a forward look plan, e.g., they'll do a POSTnote on energy efficiency shortly

Parliament.uk website www.parliament.uk has much information and a search facility:

Bills before parliament – e.g., UK Environmental Protection (Maintenance of EU Standards) Bill 2016-17 – a private members bill led by Geraint Davies Swansea West; the bill is to safeguard EU standards for water, air, soil, flood protection, and climate change, after Brexit. Second Reading in HofC on 2 December 2016

Gov.uk policies page allows searches but returns a range of material, some more like news stories - <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies>

Legislation www.legislation.gov.uk allows searches of legislation, including secondary legislation (e.g., statutory instruments)

A search of the term 'sustainable' in all legislation 1990-2016 = >200 hits

"circular economy" in all legislation 1990-2016 = 0 hits

waste and resources in all legislation 1990-2016 = >200 hits

phosphate in all legislation 1990-2016 = >200 hits



'phosphate' search on legislation.gov.uk

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- Geographical Extent
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- Draft Legislation
- Impact Assessments

General search

Title: (or keywords in the title)

Keywords in content: (using double quotes around a phrase will give faster results)

Language: English Welsh

Year: Specific Year Range From To

Number: Main

Type: All Legislation All Primary All S

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"SCHEDULE 5 Derogated holdings Regulation 13C

1. The following additional requirements apply to derogated holdings.

Introductory

2. In this Schedule "the occupier" means the occupier of a derogated holding.

Derogation from the measures governing the limit on application of livestock manure

3. An occupier of a derogated holding must ensure that in any calendar year for which the derogation has been granted—

$$A \geq \left(\frac{Ngl}{250} \right) + \left(\frac{Nngl}{170} \right)$$

where—

A is the area of the derogated holding (hectares), as existing on 1 January for that calendar year;

Ngl is the total amount of nitrogen (kilogrammes) in livestock manure from grazing livestock, whether applied directly by an animal or by spreading;

Nngl is the total amount of nitrogen (kilogrammes) in livestock manure from non-grazing livestock, whether applied directly by an animal or by spreading.

4.—(1) In addition to the production of nitrogen spreading plans under regulation 14 (planning the spreading of phosphate fertiliser) the occupier must—

(a) assess the amount of phosphorus in the soil that is likely to be available for uptake by the crop during the growing season ("the soil phosphorus supply");

(b) calculate the optimum amount of phosphate fertiliser that should be spread on the crop, taking into account the amount of phosphorus available from the soil phosphorus supply; and

(c) produce a plan for the spreading of phosphate fertiliser for that growing season.

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Title: Year: Number: Type: All Legislation (excluding draft) Search

Advanced Search

The Nitrate Pollution Prevention (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2015

2015 No. 2020 (W. 308) Table of Contents

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Plain View Print Options

What Version

- Latest available (Revised)
- Original (As made) - English**
- Original (As made) - Welsh

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Status: This is the original version (as it was originally made). This item of legislation is currently only available in its original format.

Information: You searched for provisions that contain the text 'phosphate'. The matching provisions are highlighted below. Where no highlighting is shown the matching result may be contained within a footnote.

Introductory Text

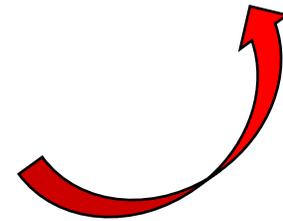
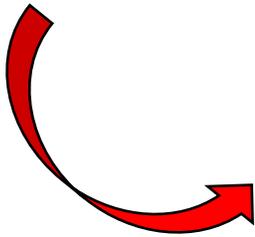
- Title, application and commencement
- Amendments to the Nitrate Pollution Prevention (Wales) Regulations 2013
- Amendment of regulation 6 (interpretation)
- Amendment of regulation 12 (application of livestock manure – total nitrogen limit for the whole holding)
- Insertion of new Part 3A
- Insertion of new Schedule 5
- Amendment of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010

Signature

SCHEDULE

Explanatory Note

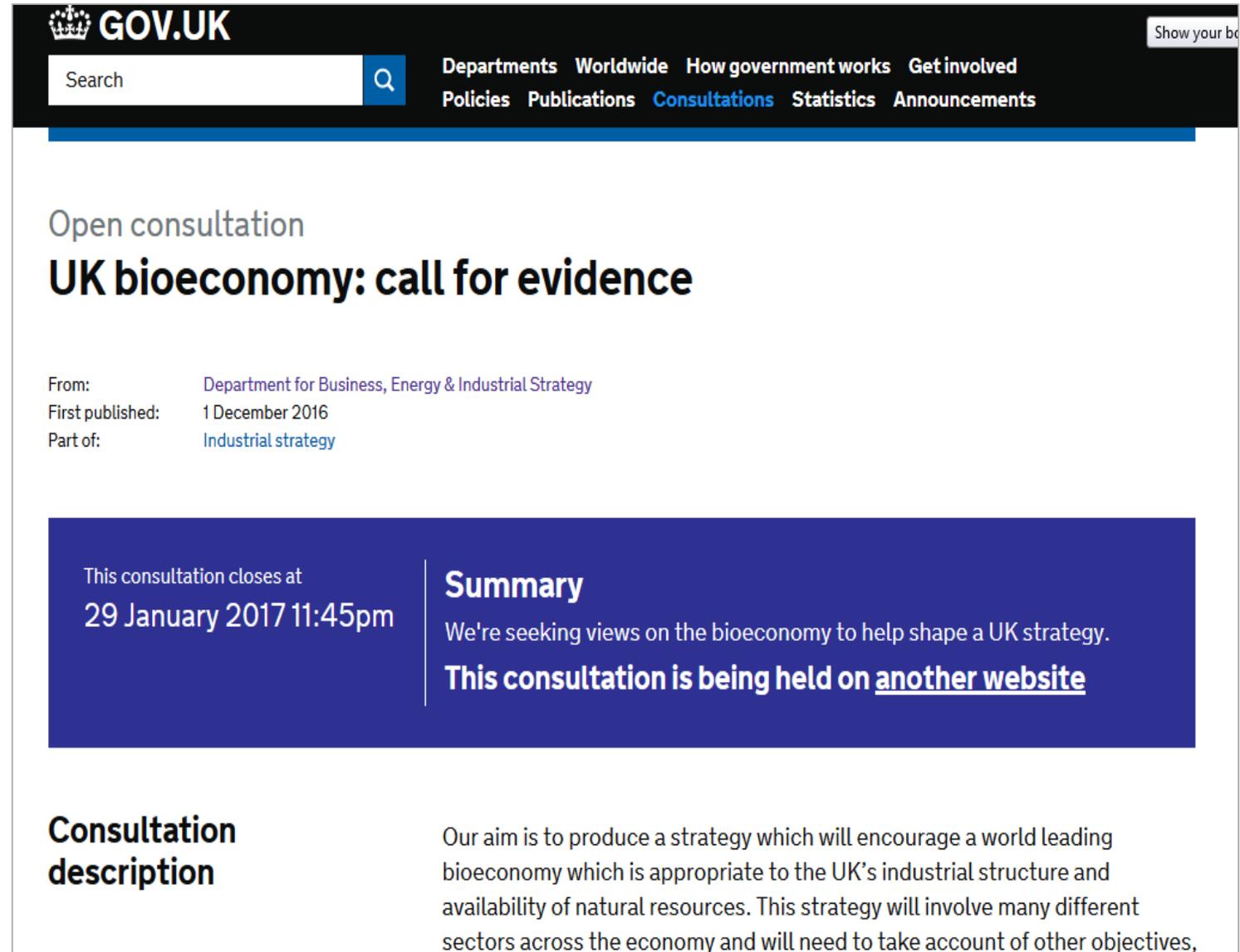
Highlight All Match Case 1 of 24 matches



Consultations can sometimes reveal where some of the policy questions are

There's a searchable webpage here https://www.gov.uk/government/publications?publication_filter_option=consultations

A search of “circular economy” reveals there's a consultation on what a UK Bioeconomy should look like that opens today!



The screenshot shows the GOV.UK website interface. At the top, there is a search bar and navigation links for Departments, Worldwide, How government works, Get involved, Policies, Publications, Consultations, Statistics, and Announcements. The main content area displays an 'Open consultation' titled 'UK bioeconomy: call for evidence'. Below the title, it lists the department (Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy), the publication date (1 December 2016), and the parent document (Industrial strategy). A dark blue banner contains a closing date of 29 January 2017 at 11:45pm and a 'Summary' section stating that views are sought on the bioeconomy to help shape a UK strategy. A key message in the summary is that the consultation is being held on another website. Below the banner, a 'Consultation description' section begins with the text: 'Our aim is to produce a strategy which will encourage a world leading bioeconomy which is appropriate to the UK's industrial structure and availability of natural resources. This strategy will involve many different sectors across the economy and will need to take account of other objectives,'

Some Resources to help with Knowledge Exchange and Impact

Understanding policy aims:

Viewing strategic documents of individual government departments on gov.uk

Searching or receiving alerts from legislative databases, e.g., UK Bills

Or the eur-lex or euro parliament observatory (unless Brexit beats you to it!)

Viewing publications from the work of advisory committees and NDPBs

Partnership initiatives may show policy interest areas, e.g., LWEC or RIDE as it's now known
<http://www.nerc.ac.uk/research/partnerships/ride/>

Viewing policy-focused briefing documents and knowledge exchange/impact web-sites to get ideas:

Rural Economy and Land Use Programme <http://www.relu.ac.uk/>

Sustainable Urban Environment <http://www.urbansustainabilityexchange.org.uk/ISSUESueProgramme.htm>

Knowledge exchange good practice websites such as <http://www.esrc.ac.uk/research/impact-toolkit/tips-for-doing-knowledge-exchange/>

Leveraging through wider society

If policy is politics, which is democracy, then you should find politicians and policymakers strongly influenced by society around them. And you can observe that.

These days, people obtain and share a lot of information on the web, and you are all probably reaching out through electronic media to some extent.

Does the chaotic blog-war scenario lend itself well to scientific discussion though? Do cyber dog-fights produce real answers?

Can work at the higher level of politics to influence at the ministerial level and to some extent civil service teams.

Do users prefer to read where you prefer to write?

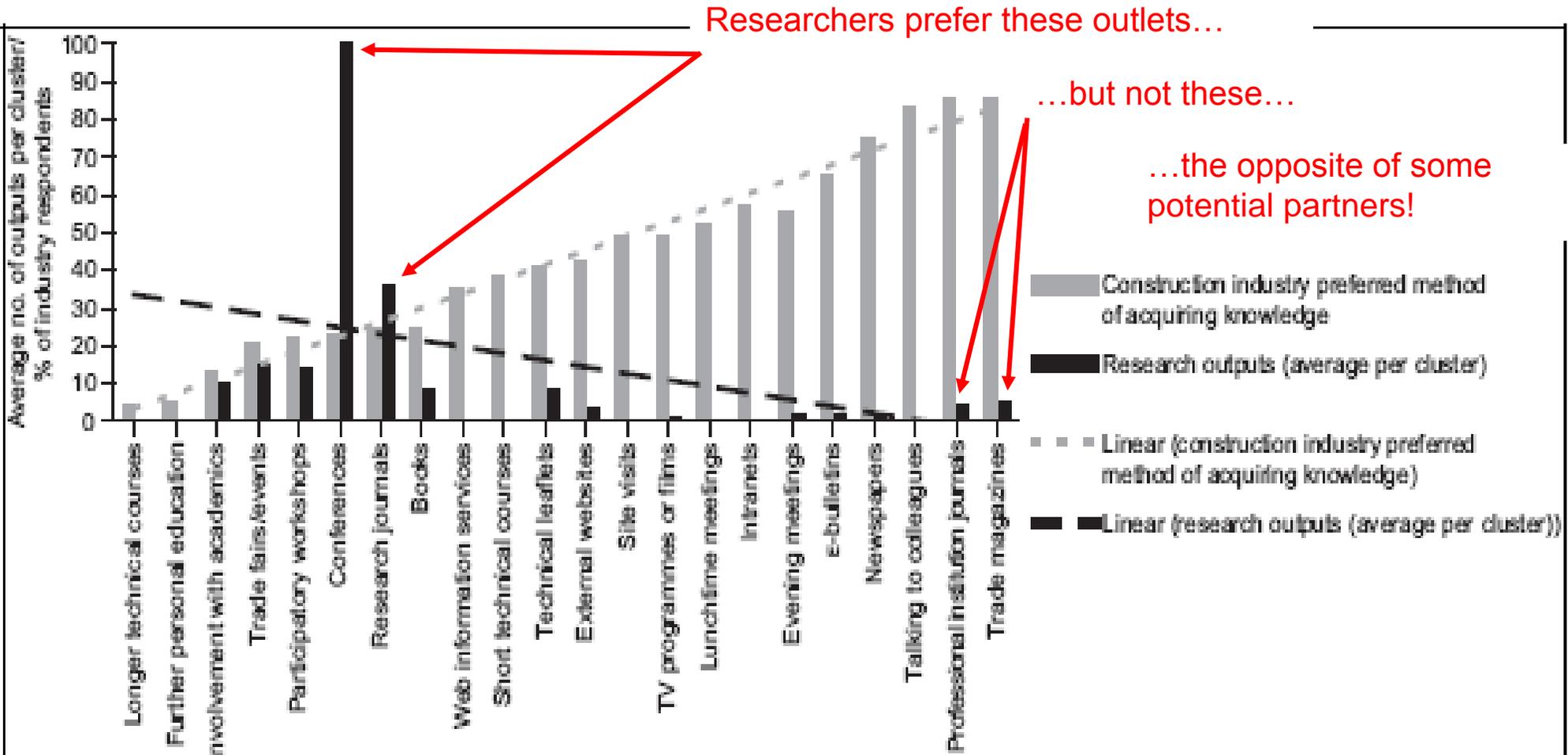


Figure 3. Comparison of dissemination practices by Sue consortia with knowledge access practices by construction industry practitioners

Moncaster et al. 2010. Knowledge exchange between academia and industry. *Engineering Sustainability* 163 Issue ES3