



# Making science accessible ...to policy makers

Earli SIG 22 conference

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# What is Policy?



# Who should I influence?

# Who should I influence?

- Ministers
- MPs/Peers and their staff
- Political parties
- Select Committees
- Civil Service
- Regulators
- Devolved Parliaments



How do I influence policy makers?

# How to influence

- Submit to consultations
- Write to a Minister
- Write to your MP
- Invite to an event
- Publish briefings

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**Implementation of T Level programmes**  
27 May 2018 DfE Consultation outcome

**Accessibility of public sector websites and apps: new duties and**



# Some advice...

1. **Identifiable** – clearly state what policy you're trying to influence
2. **Transparent** – openly discuss methodologies, limitations and weaknesses
3. **Minimise bias** – don't be tempted to let political preferences slip into evidence
4. **Timely** – policy process moves fast, don't miss the window to influence
5. **Accessible** – explain your findings in a way that is as simple as possible, but no simpler

**“What makes an academic paper useful for health policy?”**

BMC Medicine, 2015

Professor Chris Whitty

# Who can help?

# Who can help?



## **Learned Societies**

*e.g. Physiological Society*

## **National Academies**

*e.g. Royal Society*

## **Campaign Groups**

*e.g. CaSE, Rowntree Foundation*



# What is Wellcome doing?

# What is Wellcome doing?

- Running training courses
- Supporting internships
- Using our Policy team better
- Influencing assessment processes
- Helping researchers channel their voice



# Don't get demoralised



Evidence is only one  
piece of jigsaw

But that doesn't mean we  
shouldn't engage