

## 'Influencing Policy' Topic Group Meeting

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2015

### Attendees

Charlotte Thorley (chair)	Marianne Baker	KS Bhui
Caroline Brennan	Gioia Cherubini	Stephen Duffy
Dr Tiina Eilola	Bryony Frost	Olivia Festy
Peter Hajek	Janelle Jones	Emma Mason
Isabelle Mareschal	Magda Osman	Dan Taylor

### Apologies

Jack Cuzick	Sophie Harman	Katharine Jenner
Graham McGregor	Michael Pluess	
Peter Sasieni	Nick Wald	

### Actions

1. The CPE will work with senior management to promote a broad understanding of what public engagement entails, including policy engagement. This is intended to be used by Schools and Institutes to inform workload planning and reward and recognition.  
  
This is amidst concerns that the definition of public engagement used at School/Institute level can be limited, meaning that not all types of engagement are being rewarded and supported.
2. The CPE will ensure that their website advertises relevant existing opportunities and schemes relevant to policy engagement, such as the Royal Society Scientist-MP partnership scheme. They will link with the communications teams' channels to advertise these internally as they come up.
3. The CPE and BDU will continue to identify develop relationships with those who are influential in lobbying for policy change, such as civil servants, NGO's and lobbying groups. If members of the group are interested in exploring particular relationships, they should speak to the CPE and BDU teams to see if these already exist, and how they could be facilitated if they do not.
4. The CPE and BDU will create a set of online case studies or top-tip guides to share pathways to influencing policy from experts that have already done so within QMUL by the next meeting.

5. The CPE to continue their work addressing internal process issues that affect engagement, such as variable financial management (eg restrictions on the use of EDAs), inflexible procurement and research grants application processes. The CPE to feed back any regulations and policy that they come across, particularly with regard to the use of EDAs.
6. CT to feed concerns around the limited resource for PR activities and web presence into meetings of senior management, to aid the case for supporting policy engagement communication activities.
7. DT to share information with the group about existing opportunities for QMUL staff to share opinion and expertise on policy, such as the CPE and PR team blogs by the end of April.
8. The CPE to explore existing good practice in evidencing the impact in policy engagement, such as reviews of REF impact case studies. They will share these with the group at the next meeting for discussion.
9. CT (and potentially a small subset of the group) to discuss the possibility of forming a policy research group in the future, which could sit in a cross-disciplinary initiative, such as the Life Science Initiative. CT to raise at LSI management board.

The group will re-convene to discuss these topics after 3 months.

Any developments and further actions that arise will be fed back through the group.

BDU – Business Development Unit  
CPE – Centre for Public Engagement  
CT – Charlotte Thorley  
DT- Daniel Taylor