



HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT  
PARLIAMENTARY OFFICE OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



Department of *Science, Technology,  
Engineering and Public Policy*  
UCL STEaPP



# The Impact of Social Science Research on Parliament

17 June 2016

# Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST)

Bicameral institution of Parliament that supports and advances the use of research evidence in Parliament.

Core activities include:

- Produces briefings (POSTnotes), organises events (bringing in external stakeholders), and assists Select Committees
- Longer-term horizons, peer review central
- Running ESRC-funded research programme to study the use of research within Parliament
- Providing training about using research and research methods
- Runs fellowship schemes (PhD students on fully funded 3-month placements)



# Studying the use of research in Parliament

**Wider study aims:** To understand how research feeds into existing Parliamentary processes, including impact of POST.

As part of this

**Analysis of REF Impact Case Studies** to

identify the frequency and nature of references to Parliament.

1. Who is engaging with Parliament (subject areas and institutions)?
2. Which areas of Parliament are being engaged with?
3. How are researchers engaging with Parliament?
4. What impacts are reported?

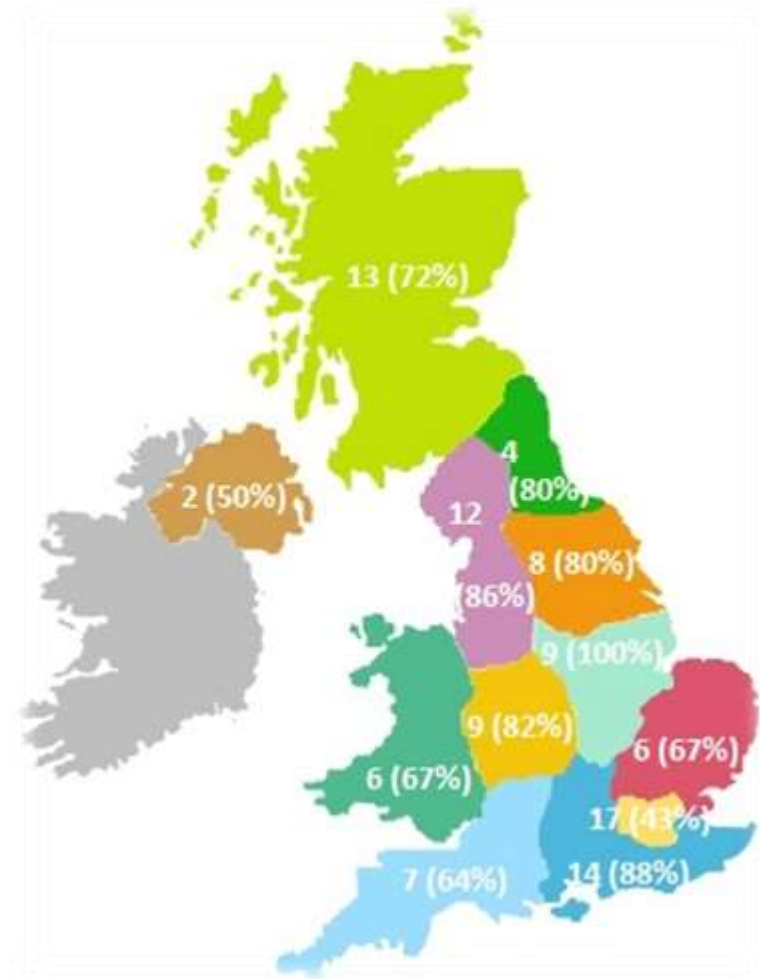


# Social science and Parliament

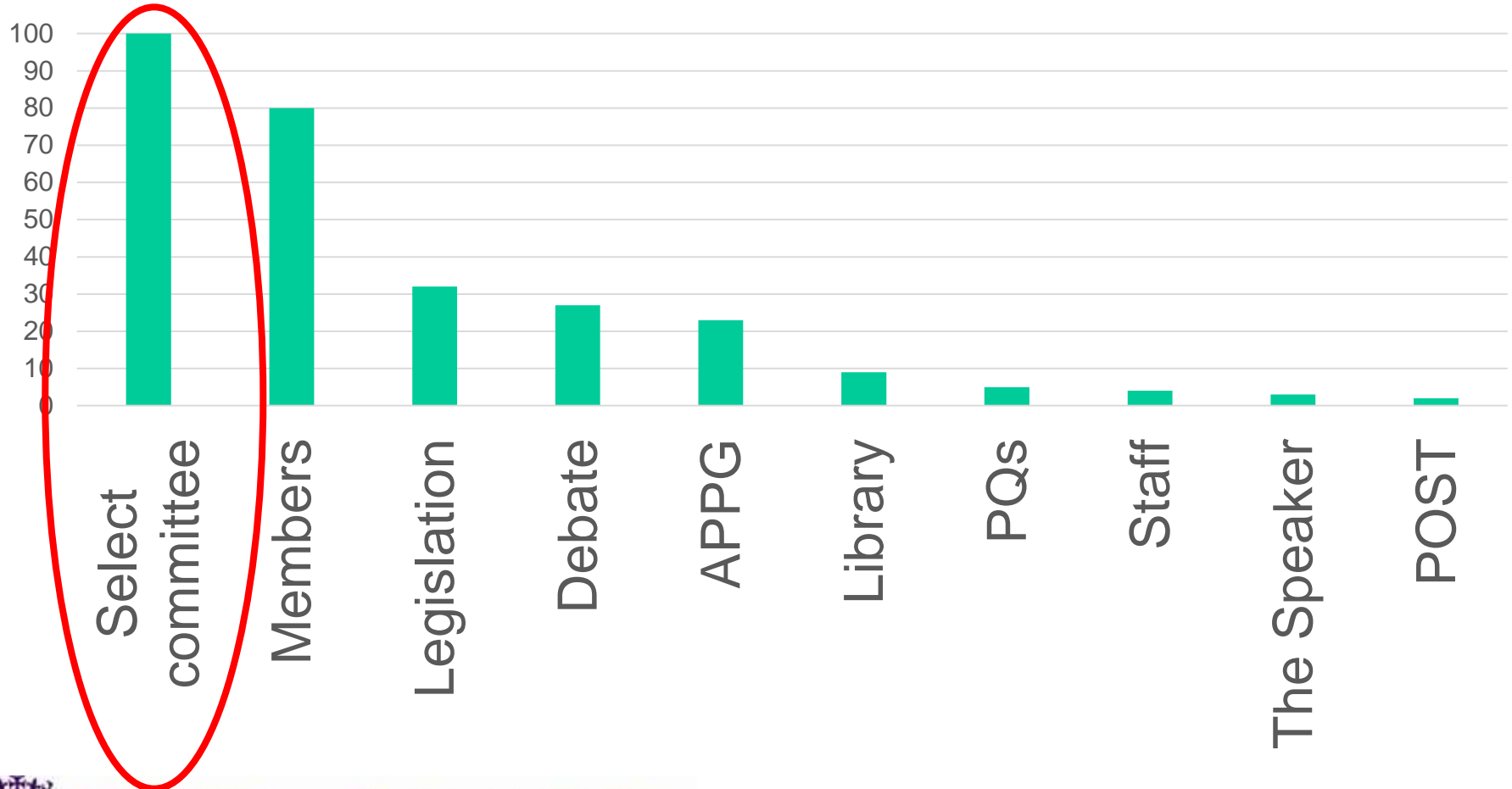
- 45% of all case studies referring to Parliament (across all Panels) came from the social sciences
- 32% of case studies in Panel C engaged with Parliament (N= 629)
- References found in all UOAs
- 107 institutions



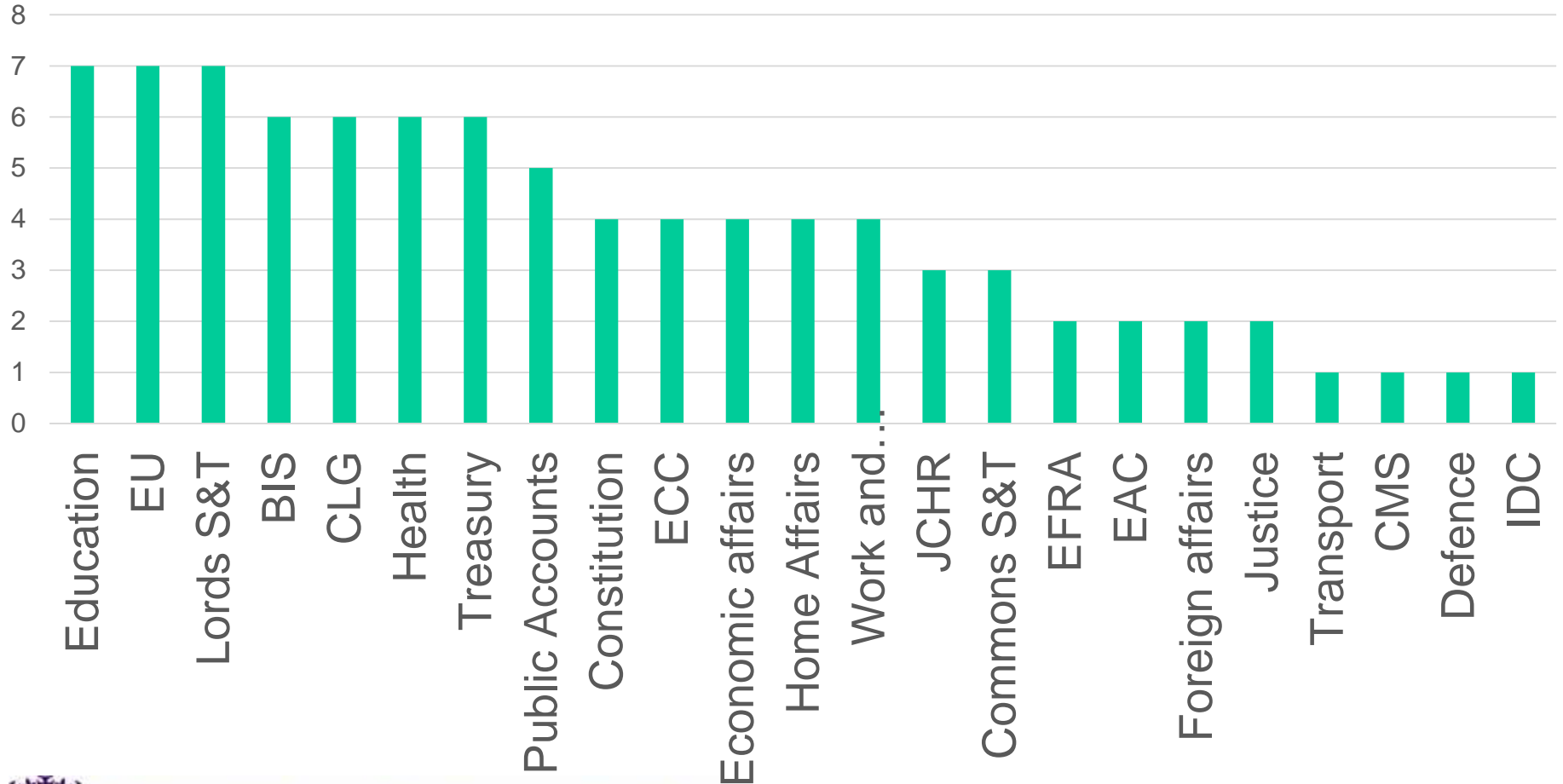
# Who engages with Parliament: the Universities



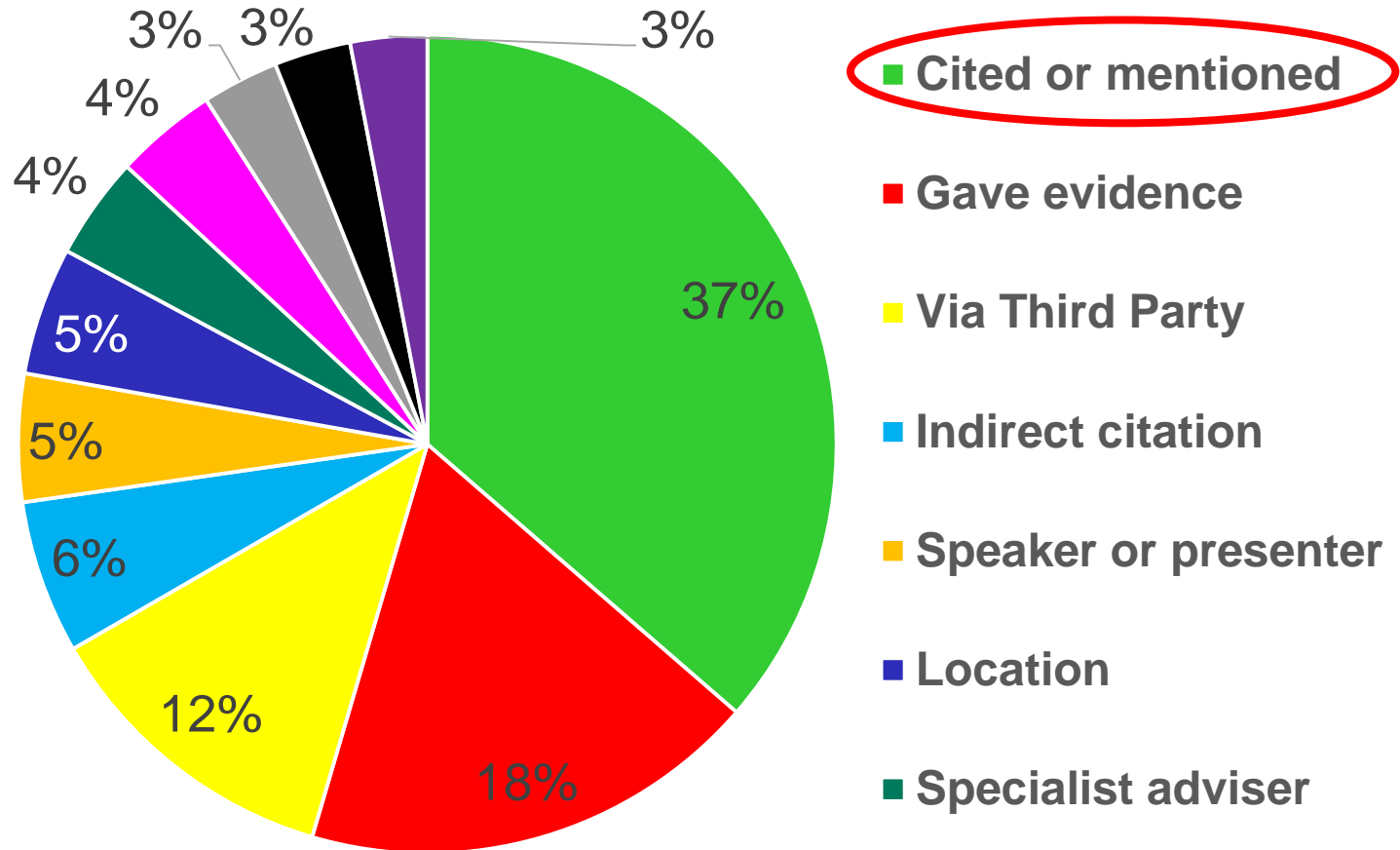
# Areas of Parliament being engaged



# Which select committees?

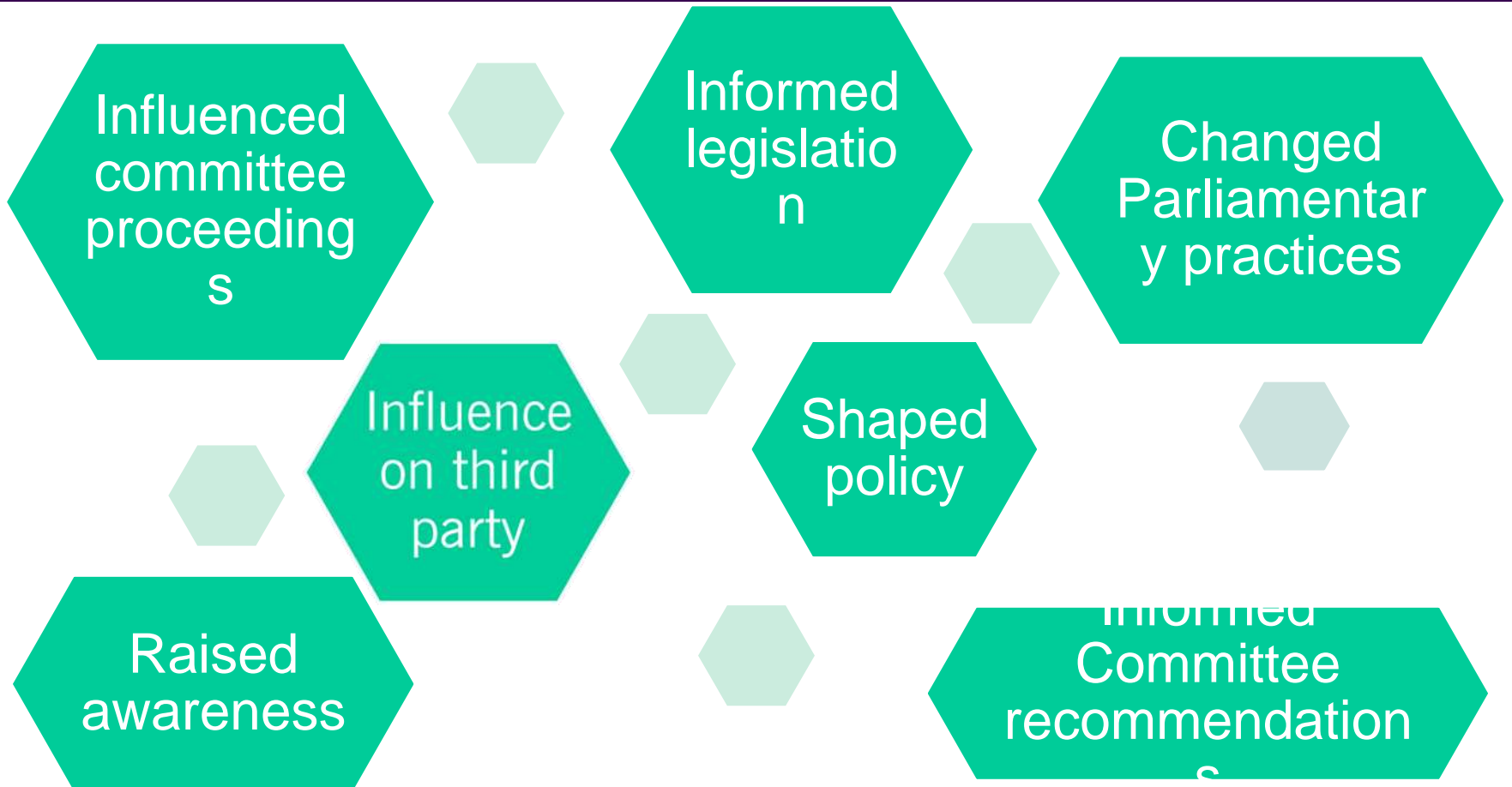


# How are academics engaging with Parliament?





# What impacts were reported?



# POST Fellowships

- PhD students sponsored by learned societies and research councils
- ~25 per year, 3 month placement during PhD (some
- Spent writing POSTnote or working with select committees (and libraries)
- Young researchers bring new ideas and link us to new scientific networks and reinforce existing ones
- Improves policy awareness for their future careers in academia or other research careers (comms, policy)



# Contact

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