



HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT  
OUTREACH SERVICE



# Parliament and academic research

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# How does Parliament use research?

- House of Commons Library
- House of Lords Library
- Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology
- Public Bill Committees
- Pre-legislative scrutiny
- House of Commons Select Committees
- House of Lords Select Committees

# House of Commons and House of Lords Libraries

- Provide specialist impartial information and briefing service for MPs, Peers, their staff, committees and staff of the Houses
- Produce wide range of briefing material
- Available online at [www.parliament.uk](http://www.parliament.uk) under research publications

# Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST)

- Aims to help parliamentarians examine science and technology issues effectively through independent, balanced analysis of public policy issues related to science and technology
- Produces briefings, organises events and assists Select Committees
- Employs POST Fellows (PhD students) to work on POST notes

# Public Bill Committees (House of Commons)

- Both Houses refer legislation to committees for detailed discussion and approval
- If the Bill starts in the Commons the committee is able to take evidence from experts and interest groups from outside Parliament

# Pre-legislative scrutiny

- The Government occasionally give a Bill to a Committee for pre-legislative scrutiny before it is introduced to Parliament
- The Committee are able to take evidence from experts and interest groups outside Parliament

# All Party Parliamentary Groups

- Informal groups of MPs and Peers focused on subjects or countries
- Some meet regularly, hold events, produce reports and run inquiries
- Allow Members to:
  - develop their knowledge
  - meet other interested Members
  - show their interest

# How do individual Members find research?

- Library briefings and POST notes
- Select Committee evidence
- All Party Parliamentary Groups
- Personal contacts/word of mouth
- Social media profiles



# House of Commons and House of Lords Select Committees

- Both Houses establish Select Committees to conduct inquiries and to produce reports on a range of matters, from the conduct of Government to specialist subject areas
- Invite evidence from witnesses, and also employ subject specialists for particular inquiries or on a more permanent basis

# Select Committees

- Cross-party and non-partisan
- Set own agenda of inquiries
- Gather written and oral evidence
- Then produce evidence-based reports
- Reports not binding on Government but it has to reply in detail

# Submitting research as evidence to a Select Committee

- Use the terms of reference: you need to tailor your research to the specific inquiry
- Answer the questions posed in the Call for Evidence – but you do not have to answer all of them
- Write for an intelligent non-specialist: be clear and brief; avoid jargon
- Use empathy: what will best assist Committee members reach conclusions/recommendations?

# Working with Parliament

- Look out for relevant Select Committee inquiries and submit evidence
- Offer to host a visit for a Select Committee
- Suggest a subject for a Select Committee inquiry to the Clerk
- Submit evidence to a Public Bill Committee/Pre-legislative Scrutiny Committee
- Work with POST/Libraries on briefings
- Develop relationships with individual Members

# Where can I get information?

- [www.parliament.uk](http://www.parliament.uk) and @UKParliament
- **Commons Information Office**  
020 7219 4272 [hcinfo@parliament.uk](mailto:hcinfo@parliament.uk)
- **Lords Information Office**  
020 7219 3107 [hlinfo@parliament.uk](mailto:hlinfo@parliament.uk)
- **Parliament's Outreach Service**  
020 7219 1650  
[parliamentaryoutreach@parliament.uk](mailto:parliamentaryoutreach@parliament.uk)