

Understanding the influences on policy making and policy makers

Thursday 30th September

Central London

Policies originate from diverse sources and involve both policy makers and parties who aim to influence them on every stage of the policy process. This event enables participants from both sides to understand the decision making and influencing powers involved and to make sense of the tactical lobbying interventions that occur throughout the policy making process.

This day will place delegates in a better position to understand the complex maze of interactions they are a part of, including the decision makers such as Downing Street, the Treasury, the Civil Service and Local Government, and those trying to influence them like NGOs, civil society and the media.

Who will benefit from attending?

- Anyone who influences or is being influenced in policy making
- Anyone who wants to complement their knowledge on the policy making process with and understand the broader picture wherein policy making occurs

Objectives & Outcomes

- To be able to interact and contribute to the policy and decision making process more effectively.
- To understand the roles of the key players in the process, including 10 Downing Street, HM Treasury, the Civil Service, Local Government, the media and NGOs.
- To understand where power and influence lie in the policy making process

Organisational benefit

- Participants will return to their workplace with a greater ability to effectively interact with the various players involved in policy making.

Training methods & materials

- PowerPoint supported presentations
- Informal lecture presentations from a former Minister and Permanent Secretary
- All sessions are highly interactive with opportunity to engage with all speakers through Q & A, debate and discussion

AGENDA

“ The seminar was very informative. It gave me a fuller understanding of the policy process and where I fit into it. ”
P Luck, MoJ

Please Note: This is a working agenda and is subject to change.

09:30 **Coffee and registration**

09:45 **Chairman’s Welcome and Introduction**
Matthew Cocks, Senior Civil Servant and Training Consultant (confirmed)

10:00 **Understanding the policy making process**
Matthew Cocks, Senior Civil Servant and Training Consultant (confirmed)

Learning outcomes: - To enable participants to understand the policy cycle and to explain the role of the various political players and policy makers within.

10:40 **The View from the Centre**
Matthew Cocks, Senior Civil Servant and Training Consultant (confirmed)

Learning Outcomes – To make participants familiar with the position of Numbers 10 and 11 Downing Street in formulating policy and the way the world looks from the heart of Government. To enable participants to analyse the interaction between strategic decision and tactical advantage and the implications this has for policy, so that they fully understand how the political world is likely to impact on their work. Participants will also have a clearer idea of areas in which the Cabinet Office may be interested in their policy work.

11:20 **Refreshments**

11:30 **A Ministerial View**
TBC

Learning Outcomes – To increase participants’ knowledge of how ministers view the entire policy and decision making process, so as to understand the political pressures they are

under to deliver. To let participants revise their own role and let them see scope for improving their capacity to predict and support ministerial needs in their work.

12:15 The Civil Service Perspective

Matthew Cocks, Senior Civil Servant and Training Consultant (confirmed)

Learning Outcomes – To deepen participants’ awareness of the vital role played by the civil service in the formulation of policy, their knowledge of departmental agendas and long-term planning, and how the civil service advises and interacts with ministers and special advisers to design, refine and promote policy.

13:00 Lunch

14:00 Local Government and its interaction with National Policy

Dr Peter A. Watt, Reader in Public Sector Economics, Institute of Local Government Studies (confirmed)

Learning Outcomes - To give delegates a profound understanding of the roles local governments play in the development, implementation and maintenance of policy. This session will also clarify how the power balance has shifted over the years and how the roles of the local governments are likely to evolve in the near and further future and how that is likely to impact on the delegates’ work.

14:50 A Policy Campaign Perspective: The View From an NGO

Glen Tarman, Advocacy and Representation Manager, BOND (British Overseas NGOs for Development) (confirmed)

Learning Outcomes – To deepen participants’ knowledge of the influence of NGOs in policy formulation and the various methods they use to varying effect as part of their campaign strategies, and to increase their understanding of the NGO perspective on areas of policy which interact with the NGO’s remit and purposes.

15:30 Refreshments

15:40 The Role of the Media

Peter Riddell, Assistant Editor and Political Editor, The Times (confirmed)

Learning Outcomes – To ensure that participants fully understand the extent to which the media really influences the policy agenda and the extent to which it does not manage to do so. Knee-jerk policy announcements by politicians will be examined so that participants can fully appreciate the extent to which the real world and perceptions of it in the press can impinge upon their work.

16:30 Final Questions & Close