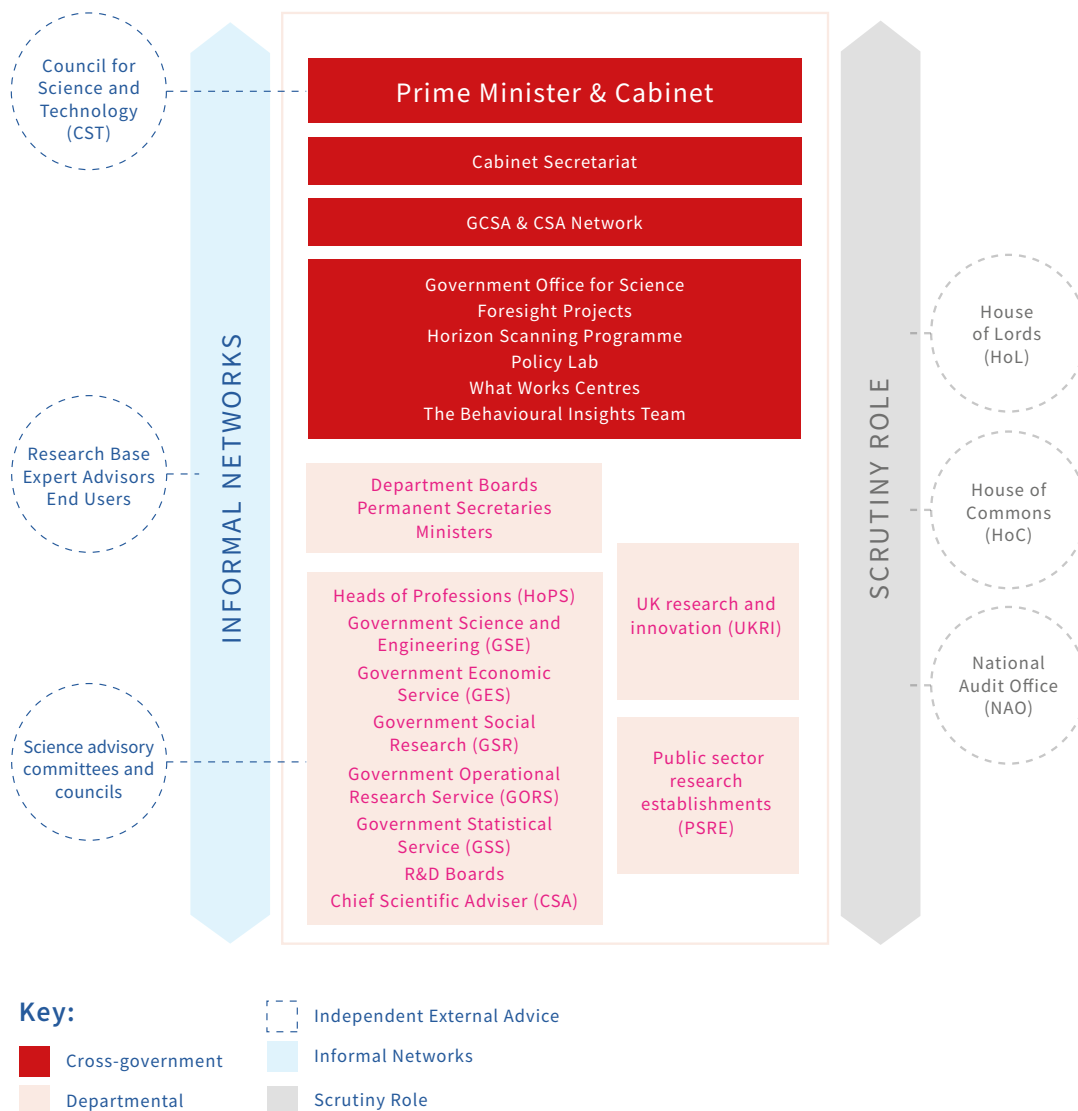


Champion the use of evidence in policymaking

We want to see government taking an increasingly evidence-informed approach to policymaking so that expertise, evidence and knowledge can be used to make policies smarter and, ultimately, lives better.

UK Government Advice Architecture



Policy decisions are made in light of many factors - evidence is only one. Social, ethical, legal, political, technological and cultural factors all play a role. Decisions that are made based on rigorous and objective evidence are seen to produce better outcomes. Robust evidence can give credibility and weight to decisions in politically fraught policy areas and help build public understanding and support. Also, using evidence to make policy decisions helps ensure transparency at all stages of the process.

The UK Government's science advice structures and mechanisms are viewed favourably by the international community. However, there could be significant gains from being more strategically joined-up across government, and from ensuring there are people equipped with the necessary skills and appropriate agency to bring evidence to bear on decisions at every level, from policy development and programme evaluation, to science advice at the highest levels of government.

In an age of fake news and widespread misinformation we ask for government to take a lead on using evidence well. For those in scrutiny roles, we ask for you to consistently challenge poor practice and champion the good use of evidence.

Recommendations



Advice Architecture

1. The GCSA and GO-Science should be located centrally in the Cabinet Secretariat, alongside other cross-cutting government functions.
2. Each government department must appoint a CSA who sits on the Department's Board and put in place succession planning to ensure the post is continuously occupied.
3. Establish robust science advice structures in the Department for Exiting the EU and Department for International Trade.
4. The House of Commons Science and Technology select committee should undertake an inquiry on government practice against government guidelines on 'the use of science and engineering advice in policymaking'.



Supply and Demand

5. The CSA should oversee and publish an annual update of their department's 'research areas of interest'.
6. Cabinet Office should develop UK procurement guidelines for commissioning research informed by best practice.

7. Cabinet Office should oversee the creation of a cross-departmental database of government research.

8. Chief Scientific Advisors in consultation with Heads of Profession should monitor skills needs of the department and make recommendations for training.

9. UKRI should expand and encourage exchange programmes and secondments into departments.



Evaluation and Accountability

10. Departments should establish and publish an evaluation strategy and report annually to their Departmental Board on progress.

11. Robust plans for evaluation should be a requirement for business case approval and published alongside policy or programme announcements.

12. The remit of Scientific Advisory Councils should be expanded to include independent scrutiny of evaluation.

13. When policies are announced, the underpinning body of evidence should also be published.

14. All independent evaluations should be published within 12 weeks from the date of completion.

We are keen to work with others within government, Parliament, the research community and elsewhere to improve the use of evidence in policymaking. Please do get in touch to help us make the #CaSEforEvidence.

To read the full CaSE Evidence report, Improving the use of the evidence in UK government policymaking, visit sciencecampaign.org.uk

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About CaSE

The Campaign for Science and Engineering (CaSE) is the UK's leading independent advocate for science and engineering. Our mission is to ensure the UK has the skills, funding and policies to enable science and engineering thrive.

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