

# Policy Impact Unit – Update

January 2024.



## Re-Imagining the Future of Biopharma Digitalisation

On the 24<sup>th</sup> of January, FTHM Hub and Accenture hosted a workshop on *Re-imagining the Future of Biopharma Digitalisation*, under the UCL-Accenture Innovation Partnership. The event provided industry professionals, academics and policymakers with an opportunity to identify how data digitalisation can enhance development, technology transfer, and manufacturing in the biopharmaceutical industry – as well as inform a future roadmap for digitalisation in biopharmaceutical manufacturing. PIU co-designed the event, supported with facilitation and chairing, and will lead on writing the follow up report.

## PIU's January highlights also included...

- Launched the Policy Engagement Advisory Group for the [Festival of Engineering 2024](#), including delivering a Policy Priorities workshop. If you would like to get

involved please [get in touch](#), or follow [this page](#) for opportunities and to submit ideas.

- Submitted written evidence regarding the [Criminal Justice Bill](#) to the Public Bill Committee, who are scrutinising the Bill this week.
- Contributed to a new Report by [PETRAS](#) on the [Future challenges of IoT Cybersecurity in UK industry sectors](#).
- Secured and facilitated a meeting with officials from [DEFRA](#), [DESNZ](#), [BEIS](#) and [DLUHC](#) to showcase a transformative new model for material flow analysis developed by the [Circular Economy Centre for Mineral-Based Construction Minerals](#). Check out the Centre's new page on [Project Impact](#) which includes a new policy briefing on landfill tax supported by PIU.
- Shared research led by [Maitrei Kohli](#), which leverages the power of AI to support timely interventions and better management of Alzheimer's disease, to the [Westminster Hall Debate on New Dementia Treatments](#).
- Contributed to the London VAWG Prevention Survey led by the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime ([MOPAC](#)) VAWG Team to inform the refreshed [VAWG Strategy 2022-2025](#), on behalf of the [Gender and Tech Research Group](#) – a follow up meeting will take place this week.
- Supported an application for the UKRI Future Leaders Fellowship Impact Prize showcasing the work of [Dr Leonie Tanczer](#).
- PIU's [Future Forum - Report on Health Inequalities](#) has been listed as a main resource in the NHS National Healthcare Inequalities Improvement Programme and the Future NHS Platform. The Future Forum, delivered by PIU in collaboration with [IHE](#) and [Ine Steenmans](#), also enabled engagement this month with Tower Hamlets exploring how PIU could mobilise UCL research for their [Health Determinants Research Collaboration](#), and a meeting with the [GLA](#)'s Strategy Team to discuss areas of common interest on health inequalities with support from [Alice Mortlock](#).
- The Consultation response for [Ending Violence Against Women and Girls in Northern Ireland](#) was published this month. Since its submission we have met

with officials in Northern Ireland to discuss the research in more detail, and how it can help shape their approach.

- Submitted a response to the [Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reporting Scope 3 Emissions](#) consultation, and liaised with the Scottish Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee following up from oral [evidence provided by Dr Feja Lesniewska](#) in December – an opportunity extended following a [consultation submission supported by PIU](#).

## Opportunities



- **Join our Team! We are currently recruiting** for a new Policy Adviser who will have a particular focus on the Circular Economy, Net Zero and Sustainability - [Details are available here, with applications open until 8th February](#). **Please share!**
- In partnership with UKRI, UK Parliament is expanding its network of [Thematic Research Leads](#) into new policy areas including AI and Digital, Climate and Environment, Crime and Justice, Transport, and Health. Applications are open until 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2024.
- New Select Committee Inquiries now taking evidence include [Resilience to extreme weather](#), [NHS leadership, performance and patient safety](#), [The future of news impartiality trust and technology](#) and [The impact of industrial action on university students](#).
- A call for evidence has been published for [Cyber Governance](#).

- The [Senedd are seeking examples of policy interventions](#) available to devolved governments which will stimulate behaviour change in response to the climate emergency, as well as create more sustainable local communities – such as low carbon homes, and transport solutions.
- [Access Innovation Funding](#) is available for knowledge exchange initiatives and knowledge transfer partnerships. If you think this could be a good opportunity for you, but you would like some support or collaboration with the PIU to shape ideas – please get in touch.

## STeAPP Public Policy



This month, we came together as a [Department](#) to celebrate our [tenth anniversary](#). Real world impact through policy engagement was a founding principle of STeAPP, and we have championed innovative approaches to policy engagement ever since – disrupting orthodox models of university-based impact.

Just this past year we have contributed to cybersecurity standards in the UK, science policy in Latin America, space policy in the Middle East, transport policy in New Zealand, climate negotiations at COP28, and post-COVID industrial capabilities in southern Africa. Together with the PIU we have hosted a variety of knowledge exchange events, contributed to multiple UK government consultations, facilitated and

appeared at Select Committee hearings and influenced the design of policy agenda at a local, national, and international level.

As important as it is to reflect, we are very much looking to the future, including supporting the Festival of Engineering this summer, the continued success of our new [Science and Engineering for Social Change BSc](#), and leveraging our collective expertise to help tackle some of the most significant and pressing challenges faced by policymakers.

Dr Ine Steenmans – Director of Public Policy, STEaPP

### Coming up!

- PIU have been accepted to deliver a seminar at the academic-policy engagement conference [EngageLive!](#)
- Following a presentation delivered by PIU to a US delegation last year, which included the White House Gender Policy Council, we have been invited to present at [NoMore!](#) Week – which has a global audience – where we will discuss, alongside [Madeleine Janickyj](#), a new study on tech abuse from the [Gender and Tech Research Group](#). We are also meeting with the Home Office in February to discuss early findings of this study, and how it can shape their approach to tackling gender-based violence.
- A Policy Masterclass for the Department of Computer Science will take place this Spring – details to follow!
- The next Future Forum is set to take place on 21<sup>st</sup> March, focused on the Circular Economy. Further details will be live in early February, but if you are interested in finding out more, or have a policy contact who may be interested please [get in touch](#).
- Delivering a session on presentation skills to STEaPP's MPA students, and the second phase of our policy training to the Cybersecurity CDT.

- Delivering a seminar on architectures for science diplomacy, following the [Publication in Global Policy](#) in 2023.
- Publishing our blog for World Cancer Day, highlighting research from the [FTHM Hub](#).
- Development and delivery of a policy engagement plan for the Festival of Engineering 2024, which will include a launch event at the House of Commons on 15<sup>th</sup> July.

And much more!

We are also looking forward to welcoming our new Policy Adviser, [Anca Tacu](#), to the team (pictured below) who will be supporting the [Vax-Hub](#).



## **Work with us!**

Our team provide professional policy engagement expertise and skills to help increase the use of research-based evidence by policymakers. We have an excellent track record, and a proven model.

We can deliver sustained programmes of activity based on the needs of policymakers which maximises the value of engagement, while providing dedicated time and resource to ensure impact.

Not only do funders expect impact-generating activities to feature in research grant proposals, but initial decisions taken for [REF2029](#) include the re-introduction of an 'impact narrative' worth at least 5% of each Unit of Assessment's overall score – 'to recognise and reward approaches to maximising the impact of research.'

Find out more about how to [work with us here](#) or [get in touch](#) to discuss further. If you have a Departmental or group meeting, we would be happy to come along and talk more about the work we do – and how colleagues can get involved, just let us know!

### Why are you receiving this?

*If you have received this, you were on the distribution list for the previous PIU updates which were sent quarterly by email. This is a new format which will be sent more regularly, but it contains the same key PIU developments. We welcome feedback on this new format, if it is helpful, and what you would like to see in future updates.*

*If you have moved role or would prefer not to receive updates please [email us](#). Equally, know someone keen to hear from us? Please pass on our details.*

**Thank you!**