

Policy Impact Unit – Update

May 2024.



[On the Campaign Trail](#)

[They say a week is a long time in politics, and that feels particularly true as we reflect on the month of May – with policy positions rapidly evolving and announcements hitting the headlines every day as the election heats up. At PIU we have pivoted much of our work to respond to this rapidly evolving landscape and will continue to adapt over in the coming weeks. If you have any questions around engagement during this time, please do reach out.](#)

[PIU have been on a campaign trail of our own this month – building new relationships with policymakers and showcasing our work. We kicked the month off speaking about PIU's model and impact story at NCPPE's Engage Conference in Bristol, and wrapped it up at a knowledge exchange and networking event hosted by POST – with much more in between! \(see below for more details on what we've been up too!\)](#)

[The showcasing is set to continue, as we have confirmed two more policy engagement events for the Festival of Engineering, focused on AI, Deepfake Technology, productivity, and future skills needs. If you work in one of these areas and would like to know more, please get in touch.](#)

PIU's May highlights also included...

- The UN have now published the PIU-led [Policy Brief](#) on vaccine technology. The brief informed discussions at the [9th UN Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#). More about this in [UCL News](#). A longer version of the policy brief which includes more details about the interview findings that informed the brief has been published [here](#).
- Supported and submitted contributions to the House of Lords Science and Technology Committee's [Engineering Biology Inquiry](#)
- Delivered a policy overview at FTHM's [FTHM](#)'s annual showcase, as well as contributing to discussions on reimbursement and regulation of advanced personalised medicines manufacture
- Responded to the POSTNote on [Digital Disengagement and Digital Reluctance](#)
- Represented VaxHub at a roundtable organised by independent think tank [Reform](#), exploring vaccine uptake - including the role that academics, and community engagement might play. The roundtable discussions will inform a paper on vaccine uptake which will be published in July.
- A member of our team has been nominated for a 2024 [Professional Services Award](#) for *Delivering excellent systems and processes in support of UCL's vision* – good luck to all nominees!
- Supported colleagues at a [Met4Tech](#) webinar on Roadmaps, supported the Chemicals Centre (Sheffield) with their policy recommendations – we will be cited in their report later this year, and attended the UCL Grand Challenge of Climate Crisis workshop to shape the upcoming strategy.
- Facilitated UCL representation at the City AI and London Data Economy Workshop, resulting in contribution to the draft AI and the City Data Economy statement of intent – London's vision for a leading data economy.
- We have welcomed three new temporary members of staff to our team this month, alongside [Dr Ine Steenmans](#), including students from the [STeAPP MPA](#) who will gain real-world experience in novel policy engagement methods, evaluation, toolkit development and much more. Welcome!
- Delighted to announce we will be hosting a screening of [Another Body](#) on 17th July, followed by a panel discussion on Deepfake Policy with support from [Sophie Compton](#) – If you work in this space please [Get In Touch](#)
- PIU will host ARI Live! On the morning of the 17th July at Mary Ward House, focused on the impact of artificial intelligence on productivity and future skills needs – and breakout sessions on social impacts, healthcare, and police. If you work in any of these fields and would like to be involved please [reach out](#).

Opportunities

- A series of workshops on [Transforming Impact](#) through knowledge exchange will take place from 10th June, spaces are still available.
- Applications now open for the [REF2029 Advisory Panels](#)
- Interested in how data is used in local decision making? This [workshop from ONS on June 5th](#) might be for you
- The FCDO are seeking a new [Director of Research Commissioning Centre](#)
- Government's Open Innovation Team are offering PhD placements, which have a strong track record on supporting careers into policy – details can [found here](#).
- POST have three [Fellowships](#) open, in chemical or process engineering, food science and technology, and ecology.

STeAPP Public Policy

This month at STeAPP we.....

- Presented in closing plenary at **INGSA** – International Network of Government Science Advisers – conference in Kigali. [\[GM\]](#)
- Appointed to the [advisory board](#) of the **Erasmus+ ENGAGEgreen project** led by 6 EU universities developing academia/policy engagement. [\[JCM\]](#)
- Led a **Government Skills and Campus Unit** Theory of Change workshop for evaluation of Civil Service Line management training. [\[IS\]](#)
- Led **Royal United Services Institute** breakfast briefing for policy makers, policy advisors and industry “*Mitigating Climate Change and Threats to Global Security*”. [\[NM\]](#)
- Held discussions with the **Welsh Government** about intersectionality and the possibility of jointly hosting a learning (*lunch?*) from intersectionality based policy approaches workshop. [\[JC\]](#)

- Organised an online workshop with **The Good Investors** on their theory of change for investing in food system futures, as part of [Deep transitions Lab](#). [BG]
- Spoke at **The Royal Society** for members of The Foundation For Science and Technology about [Empowerment and Ethics at the Edge: the Benefits and Risks of Edge Technologies](#). [PN]
- Co-published case study chapter '[The Gauteng City Region Observatory](#)' for the **Institution of Engineering and Technology** practice-focused publication '[Empowering Smart Cities through Community-Centred Public Private Partnerships and Innovations](#)'. [CW]
- Met with the Director General of the **Rwanda Water Resources Board** to co-produce a proposed research project on policy analysis of climate-change adaptation in the Nile Basin. [AP]

Know a colleague who may be interested in receiving these updates? [Let us know!](#)

Thank you!