

Policy Impact Unit – Update

August 2024.

New Report Published on Pandemic Preparedness



As we approach the beginning of a new academic year at UCL, our minds feel ripe with possibilities for the future. But what might this future look like when the next global pandemic hits – are we prepared? This is the question we explored with policy and industry partners in collaboration with the [VaxHubs](#).

[Key findings, published last week in a new report](#), include the need to build an agile manufacturing system to ensure more equitable access to vaccines, protect against vaccine nationalism, and increase resilience of public health systems.

The global focus on pandemic preparedness has intensified recently against the backdrop of the Mpx outbreak, the [WHO](#) negotiations on pandemic preparedness, and the recent [Global Pandemic Preparedness Summit](#). PIU will work with policy partners and VaxHub colleagues to build on insights highlighted in the report and develop effective policy solutions.

“Pandemic preparedness is a complex topic covering technical, policy, socioeconomic and equitable access considerations. This excellent ongoing collaboration between the VaxHubs and the Policy Impact Unit is vital to ensure a holistic vision can be defined, and that experts can co-create from multiple perspectives.” - [Dr Ranna Eardley-Patel, CEPI](#)

Informing Parliament

Digital disengagement and impacts on exclusion



POST, based in the UK Parliament, work to ensure the best research and evidence can inform Government – including Select Committees of both Houses.

[Dr Leonie Tanczer](#) and PIU's [Jen Reed](#) both contributed to the [POSTnote on Digital Disengagement](#) published this month, providing expert advice and acting as reviewers.

POST currently have [policy internships](#) available for doctoral students, with applications open until October 2nd. Further details of how to apply can [be found here](#).

PIU's August highlights also included...

- Met with DSIT's Secure Connected Places Team and the NCSC Connected Places Cyber Security team to support development of a new Policy Brief on Connected Places. (Watch this space!)
- The Scottish Government have published responses to their Draft Bioenergy Policy Statement consultation – including that submitted by the PIU in partnership with the Circular Economy Centre for Construction ([ICEC-MCM](#).) You can read the [full response here](#).
- Met with colleagues from FCDO, DESNZ and DSIT to scope opportunities to leverage [FTHM Hub](#) research related to Engineering Biology, including how we can support the developments of new standards and policy in this growing field.

- Launched a series of stakeholder interviews to understand and baseline the 'Aquaculture policy landscape across the seaweed biorefinery value chain in the UK' as part of the [Seaconomy](#) project with [Dr Emily Kostas](#).
- Discussed policy priorities for the new Government in respect to construction and resource efficiency with [DESNZ](#), including how research from [ICEC-MCM](#) can inform approaches.

Opportunities

- We are hiring! PIU is recruiting for two new Policy Advisers, with one specialising in critical technologies such as AI and Quantum. Interested? Find out more on [UCL Jobs](#) or apply via [Linked In](#) by September 4th.
- UCL Public Policy have announced a new fellowship with SHIFT, London's innovation catalyst. [Details are here, closes 9th September.](#)
- Interested in shaping Skills Policy in England? The newly formed Skills England are seeking Board Members and applications are open to academia. [Details are here, closes 24th September.](#)
- Applications are open for scientists interested in joining the Group of Chief Scientific Advisers to advise the European Commission on policy matters - [Details here, closes 30th September.](#)
- Department for Health and Social Care are seeking a temporary Head of Science Strategy to support their Chief Scientific Adviser and strengthen the use of evidence in policymaking – [details here, closes 7th September.](#)

STeAPP Public Policy



This month at STEaPP we.....

- **Spoke at a national press conference, together with Dutch Province Minister** acting on behalf of all provinces, and published an [updated expert judgement](#) on nitrogen deposition. ([AP](#)) [Read the full story here.](#)
- Supported a **3-day diplomacy for Science, Technology and Innovation program for the UK-China Trade Association** and Shenzhen Qianhai Authority, and hosted a delegation from Suzhou City Council to discuss policy-making challenges. ([WD](#))
- Hosted a **Net Zero What Works Scoping Committee** meeting with representatives from **MHCLG** and **Cabinet Office**. ([PP](#), [PC](#))
- Disseminated the **NZWW [2024] Policy Brief - Local Authorities Scope 3 Emissions Reporting to DESNZ and local authority stakeholders**. ([PP](#), [PC](#))
- **Led a session at No10 Downing Street** with the data team, co-hosted event with Wales Future Generations Commissioner and global partners, Gave a talk at the Data and Policy Conference with national and city policymakers, gave the **keynote at Design Research Society's annual conference in Boston, opening keynote at the knowledge diplomacy conference** at University of London, talk at Apolitical event on misinformation and elections with politicians from around the world, and hosted an **IPPO event on innovation districts with policymakers from four continents** ([GM](#))

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

Thank you.