

Policy that Works Conference



Evaluation Task Force

THE EVALUATION TASK FORCE

The Evaluation Task Force is a joint Cabinet Office and Treasury team focused on improving government's understanding of what works and embedding that into decision making.

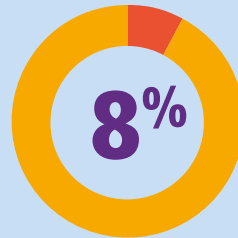
Our aim is to put evidence based decision making at the heart of government policies and programmes.

THE CONFERENCE

The ETF hosted the Policy that Works Conference from 28th February – 3rd March 2022.

The conference was open to all Civil Servants and featured presentations, panel events and workshops designed to support good quality policy evaluation and evidence use across government. Civil servants were encouraged to strive for high quality evidence to support decision making in policy, leading to the best possible outcomes for the public.

BACKGROUND



Analysis undertaken by the Cabinet Office, the Treasury and Behavioural Insights Team found only 8% of government spending on major projects had robust evaluation plans in 2019.¹



The government currently spends around £1 trillion of taxpayers' money a year.²

¹ 8% = PMIU 2019 Review ;

² £1 trillion = HMT 2022 Public spending statistics

CONFERENCE STATISTICS

2,200 Sign ups



102 Speakers

33 Sessions



4 Days 30 Hours



including skills-based workshops, cross-government priorities, resources for support and more.

3 Ministers & 4 Permanent Secretaries

Including the Rt Hon Jacob Rees-Mogg MP, Sir Patrick Vallance, the Rt Hon Simon Clarke MP, Professor Chris Whitty, the Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, Alex Chisholm and Professor Sir Ian Diamond.

The conference featured civil servants, Ministers, academics, research organisations, experts from the What Works Network and international speakers from Germany, Canada and the US.

CONFERENCE IMPACT

- Created new learning resources, making evaluation accessible to all civil servants!
- Provided practical examples and advice for conducting your own evaluation.
- Promoted the range of evaluation support available across government.
- A followup survey found 84% were satisfied and highly satisfied with the conference.

84%

KEY QUOTES

'We learn as we do, we refine and we improve, and we enhance delivery for the country. And it's data, evaluation and rigour that are at the heart of this.'

The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP

'The starting point needs to be accepting that we don't know and being comfortable with the fact that our starting point is very often one that contains big gaps in knowledge.'

Sir Patrick Vallance

'I want to encourage you to be daring. Part and parcel of evaluation experimentation is imagination, creativity and innovation.'

The Rt Hon Simon Clarke MP

'We need to be bold, not afraid of failure and have more evidence-based approaches to deliver an effective service to the taxpayer.'

The Rt Hon Jacob Rees-Mogg MP

VISIT OUR WEBSITE <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/evaluation-task-force>
CONTACT The Evaluation Task Force at etf@cabinetoffice.gov.uk

