

The Open Innovation Team

Who we are, what we do
and how we can help

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li [linkedin.com/company/open-innovation-team](https://www.linkedin.com/company/open-innovation-team)

w [gov.uk/government/organisations/open-innovation-team](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/open-innovation-team)



Open Innovation Team



What is the Open Innovation Team?

The Open Innovation Team (OIT) is a government unit that works with experts to generate analysis and ideas for policy.

We operate like an in-house consultancy, delivering projects for colleagues across government and charging them to recover our costs.

We have five university partners – Brunel, Essex, Lancaster, Surrey and York – but we work with academics and industry experts worldwide.

We also innovate to create other cost-recovery services for government, including an evaluation unit that we set up last year.

2016
Established

£5m +
Saved for government
in 2023 / 2024

150 +
Projects
delivered

2,500 +
Experts
engaged

930
Organisations
consulted

30
Government
customers

5
University
partners

40 +
Staff

What our **customers** say about us

“

OIT **helped us make sense of a very complex and technical area.** Their research and options development positively shaped our thinking and resulted in concrete next steps for policy development.

Department for Energy
Security and Net Zero

“

The team's expertise in research and reporting was evident throughout, and their **flexibility and genuine interest** ensured a smooth, consistent collaboration.

Office for Product Safety &
Standards

“

The team are extremely good at taking on a brief and making it their own. Their **professionalism and research outputs have gone above and beyond** our brief and overall objectives.

Department
for Education

What we offer

Analysis and ideas

We operate like an in-house consultancy, working across government to deliver high-quality analysis and advice for colleagues.

We agree bespoke projects to suit the needs of each customer, often combining expert engagement with research synthesis and policy development.

Our core services:

Expert engagement

We engage experts on your behalf, organising interviews, workshops and other events as needed

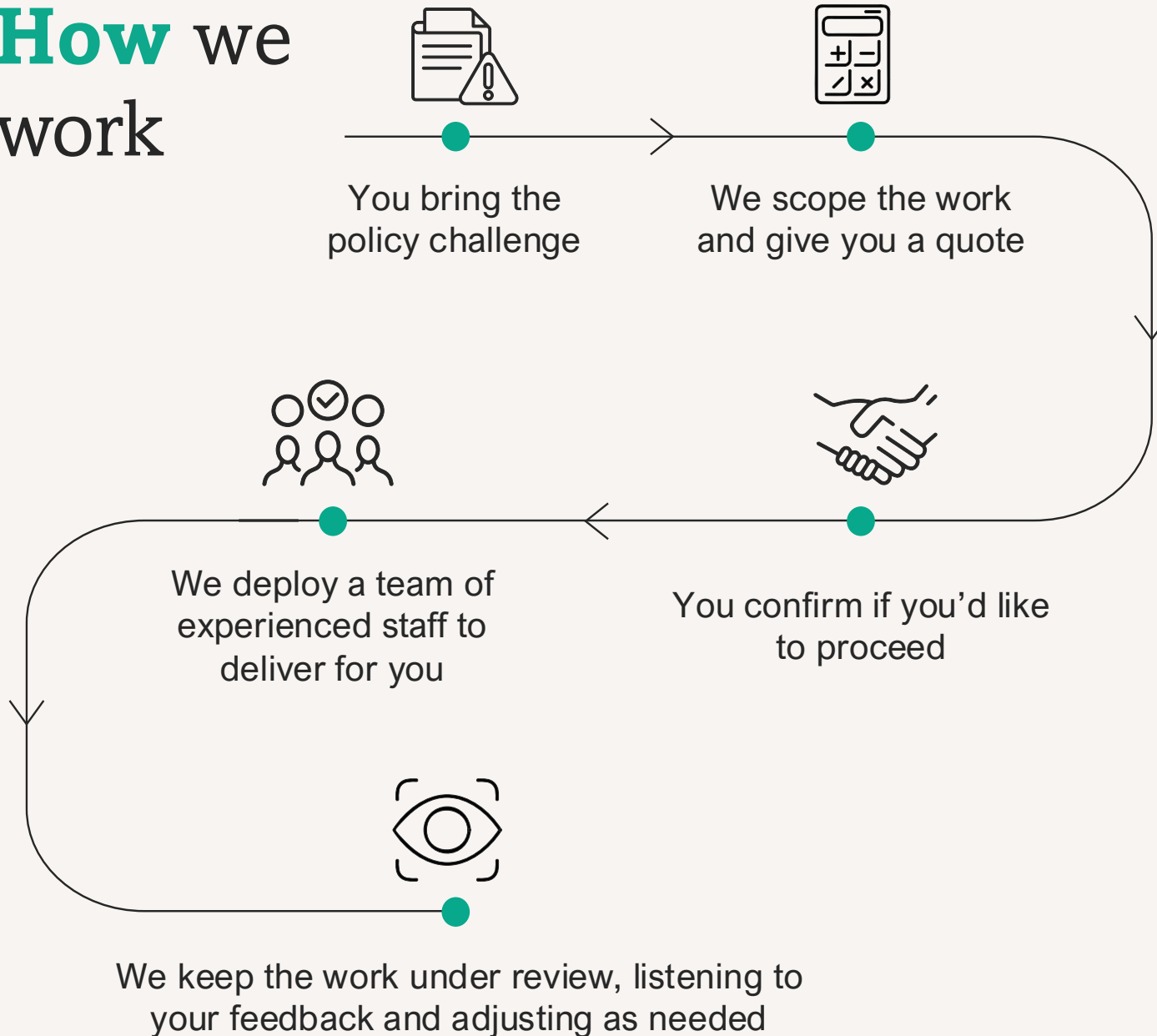
Research synthesis

We translate complex research into clear insights and actionable ideas

Policy development

We work alongside you to develop policy proposals that reflect both expert advice and practical constraints

How we work



We use a range of research and policy development tools:

Evidence reviews / problem diagnosis / theory of change workshops / applied research / benchmarking / options development / implementation roadmaps / workshops / seminars / visits / conferences

To get started, just send us an email and we'll arrange a call to talk through your requirements.

Some **examples** of our work



Department
for Education

AI in education

We've worked with DfE colleagues on AI in schools for more than 18 months. In a stream of related projects, we've engaged experts, organised events, reviewed evidence, provided advice, and created guidance for schools and edtech developers.



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

Energy efficiency

Working with DESNZ for over a year, we've delivered a series of projects on how government can improve non-domestic energy efficiency. Our work has allowed the commissioning team to shift away from external consultants, saving them money without sacrificing quality.



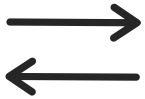
Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office

Intercultural relationships

In a three-month project, our team worked with academics, practitioners and officials to develop advice for colleagues tasked with building relationships and influencing overseas. The framework we created has since been integrated into official FCDO training.

Our **wider** offer

In addition to our core offer, we organise events, offer training and experiment with other services that we think might be of use to colleagues.



We connect academics and officials

We experiment with new ways of increasing collaboration between academics and officials, including working with our partner universities to provide academic mentorships for colleagues interested in conducting policy-related research.



We organise events with leading experts

We organise events that help officials engage with world-leading thinkers and learn about their ideas. Our talks are attended by hundreds and have included presentations from more than a dozen Nobel Prize winners, including Daron Acemoglu, Claudia Goldin and Venki Ramakrishnan.



We develop and test new ideas and services

For example, we're currently incubating a new cross-government evaluation service, we're scoping an AI adoption service, and we're speaking to colleagues in DESNZ about helping them set up a new systems thinking service.

FAQs

How can we commission you?

We're part of government so there's no need for a complicated commissioning process. It can be as simple as a short email from the budget holder.

To get started, just send us an email and we'll arrange a call to talk through your requirements.

Are you cheaper than external consultancies?

We're civil servants so we're usually cheaper than external consultants, and we're easier to commission so you save on procurement costs too.

What sorts of policy projects do you work on?

We work with all government departments and agencies, across all policy areas, on projects as diverse as generative AI in schools, net zero, foreign policy and prison reform.

Which universities do you work with?

We work with all universities across the UK and internationally.

We also have five university partners – Brunel University, University of Essex, Lancaster University, University of Surrey and University of York – seeking their input on policy projects where appropriate and delivering training and advice to their academics and students.

Contact us

If you have a policy challenge and
you think we could help, get in touch

[e enquiries@openinnovation.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@openinnovation.gov.uk)

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