

Open Innovation Team engagement services

How we connect government teams with experts and
key stakeholders to support policy development



Open Innovation Team



What is the Open Innovation Team?

- We're 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 four university partners - Brunel, 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 Services 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

23

Government
customers

4

University
partners

40 +

Staff

What we offer

Analysis and ideas

We act as an in-house consultancy, working across government teams and departments 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 our engagement services work

While most of our customers come to us for a blend of engagement, research synthesis and policy development, some ask us to focus solely on external engagement - particularly for large-scale or long-term projects. As with all our work, we assign a team of experienced officials to lead the project, supported by subject matter specialists where needed.

Planning

We will work with you to create an engagement strategy and delivery plan suitable for the scale of the project. Larger programmes can last well over 12 months and involve a wide variety of deliverables scheduled according to your needs.

Delivery

Our team can work independently or alongside you, delivering high-quality meetings, seminars, workshops, conferences, visits and other activity as agreed and reporting regularly on KPIs.

Reporting

In addition to writing up key points and feedback from each event, we can also create a summary of findings from the programme to help you capture and share insights with colleagues and other stakeholders.



Cabinet Office

Child Poverty Unit

We worked with colleagues across government to run high-profile, **nationwide ministerial visits** and other key stakeholder events to feed into a national 10-year child poverty strategy.

Problem: Cabinet Office asked us to organise ministerial visits and roundtables in all nations and regions of the UK to support development of a new child poverty strategy.

Deliverables: We helped the Child Poverty Unit speak to at least 200 different stakeholders at more than 50 events, following-up with analytical work to ensure key concerns and recommendations were captured and addressed.

Outcomes: We have left senior colleagues in a solid position to develop and publish the strategy, thanks to a comprehensive summary of stakeholder points on the main policy issues, challenges and recommended interventions.



Department
for Education

Special Educational Needs & Disabilities

We organised events for DfE with **local authority** (LA) teams delivering Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (**SEND**) services in education. **Peer-to-peer learning** was an important element of each session.

Problem: DfE wanted to understand LA perspectives on a range of SEND challenges, and what solutions were being adopted.

Deliverables: We ran a series of 7 workshops with representatives from 41 LAs, each focused on a specific challenge and potential solutions, with an emphasis on peer-led learning.

Outcomes: OIT produced write ups of each workshop that were shared with LAs and DfE, summarising key issues, innovative practice and next steps.



Department for
Science, Innovation
& Technology

Geospatial commission

We partnered with the Geospatial Commission (GC) to run a **Land Use Dialogues Programme**, exploring the land use implications of policy priorities across government. This involved running **workshops** for multiple groups, creating **video content** and producing **written research**.

Problem: GC wanted to create an integrated, evidence-led approach to making strategic decisions on land use across multiple policy demands.

Deliverables: We explored the uses of data and modelling for tackling land use issues, with 92 stakeholders, 15 academic institutions and 13 public sector groups. We posted findings, articles and videos on the Land Use Dialogues microsite.

Outcomes: We provided expert-led insights into how we can help tackle some of the UK's biggest land use challenges. We supported a more holistic approach to land use and to the development of a Land Use Analysis Taskforce.

What our customers say about our engagement services

“

OIT has made an invaluable contribution to our understanding of stakeholder evidence that will make publishing our Child Poverty Strategy much easier. They brought engagement to life, encouraged us and helped us to see things differently.

Cabinet Office

“

OIT delivered exceptional work in the AI in education policy space, through an expert advisory panel and ministerial roundtable. These projects were exemplars of how outstanding stakeholder engagement can help deliver challenging policy outcomes.

Department for Education

“

Each time we work with OIT they deliver an excellent service and value-add, taking time to identify the right stakeholders and questions. They are adaptable to requirements as things change but also challenge our thinking.

Department for Science,
Innovation and Technology

Contact us

If you're interested in our
engagement services, get in touch!

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



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