

UK EVIDENCE ECOSYSTEM FOR HEALTH POLICY

DEFINITIONS

Intergovernmental organisation

- Organisation established by a treaty composed primarily of members states for a specified purpose
- E.g., World Health Organisation

Westminster and devolved Parliaments and Assemblies

- Legislatures of the four constituent nations of the United Kingdom (England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland)

House of Lords

- Upper chamber of the UK's bicameral legislature, whose members are not elected

House of Commons

- Lower chamber of the UK's bicameral legislature, whose members are popularly elected
- Although technically the lower house, the House of Commons is predominant over the House of Lords, and the name 'Parliament' is often used to refer to the House of Commons alone

Scottish Parliament

- Devolved, unicameral legislature of Scotland

Senedd Cymru

- Commonly known as the Senedd or the Welsh Parliament in English, the devolved, unicameral legislature of Wales

Northern Ireland Assembly

- Commonly referred to by the metonym Stormont, the devolved, unicameral legislature of Northern Ireland

Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman

- Comprising the offices of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration (PCA) and the Health Service Commissioner for England (HSC), the Ombudsman is responsible for considering complaints by the public that UK Government departments, public authorities, and the National Health Service in England have not acted properly or fairly or have provided a poor service

Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST)

- UK Parliament's in-house source of independent, balanced, and accessible analysis of public policy issues related to science and technology, serving both Houses of Parliament

All Party Parliamentary Groups

- Informal cross-party groups that have no official status within Parliament, focusing on a specific concern or issue. They are run by and for Members of the Commons and

Lords, though many choose to involve individuals and organisations from outside Parliament in their administration and activities

- E.g., Obesity, ADHD, drug policy reform

Arm's Length Bodies

- Refers to public sector organisations which play a role in the process of national government but are not part of a government department

Executive agencies

- A clearly designated unit of a central government department. It is administratively distinct, but legally remains a part of it. It focuses on delivering specific outputs within a framework of accountability to ministers.

Non-departmental public bodies

- A body which has a role in the processes of national government, separate from a government department and operating at arm's length from ministers
- Some NDPB's advise ministers, while others carry out executive or regulatory functions

Non-ministerial departments

- Refers to government departments in their own right, which do not have their own minister but are accountable to Parliament through sponsoring ministers

Local government

- Lowest tiers of public administration within each of the four constituent nations of the United Kingdom (England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland)

County councils (England)

- Responsible for services across the whole of a county, like education, social care, and public safety

District and city councils (England)

- Responsible for smaller areas than county councils, covering topics like housing and rubbish collection
- Responsible for smaller areas than county councils, covering topics like housing and rubbish collection

Unitary authorities, metropolitan districts, and London boroughs (England)

- Single tiers of local government which provide all public services for specific areas, as opposed to county, district, and city councils

Parish, community, and town councils

- Elected officials operating at a level below district and borough councils focused on local issues

Councils (Scotland)

- 32 local authorities, providing public services, including education, social care, and waste management

Local government districts (Northern Ireland)

- 11 local authorities which carry out minor public functions in Northern Ireland, including leisure and community services. NI Councils have less responsibility than those in the rest of the UK.

Local authorities (Wales)

- 22 unitary county and county borough councils in Wales, providing statutory services as set out in legislation

Local Government Association

- the national membership body for local authorities in England and Wales

Local MPs

- Members of Parliament (MPs) representing specific constituency areas

Whitehall and UK government departments

- British (and constituent nation) civil service and administrative groupings

Department of Health and Social Care

- department responsible for government policy on health and adult social care matters in England, along with a few elements of the same matters which are not otherwise devolved to the Scottish Government, Welsh Government or Northern Ireland Executive

Department for Science, Innovation, and Technology

- department responsible for helping to encourage, develop and manage the UK's scientific, research, and technological outputs

Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs

- department responsible for environmental protection, food production and standards, agriculture, fisheries and rural communities in the entire United Kingdom

Department for Education

- department responsible for child protection, child services, education (compulsory, further, and higher education), and apprenticeships

Department of Health (Northern Ireland)

- devolved government department in the Northern Ireland Executive, responsible for policy and legislation in three broad areas: health and social care, public health, and public safety

Health and Social Care Directorates (Scotland)

- a group of devolved directorates of the Scottish Government, responsible for NHS Scotland as well as policies on the development and implementation of health and social care in Scotland

Health and Social Services Group (Wales)

- devolved power providing oversight to NHS Wales and other health and social care services

Cabinet Office

- a department of the UK Government responsible for supporting the prime minister and Cabinet, composed of various units that support Cabinet committees and coordinate the delivery of government objectives via other departments. Includes the Equality Hub, which is comprised of units on Disability and Race Disparity.

Lobbying firms

- Private interest groups which seek to influence legislation, regulation, or other government decisions, actions, or policies

National Health Service (NHS)

- Conglomerate name for the publicly funded healthcare systems of the United Kingdom, comprising NHS England, NHS Wales, NHS Scotland, and Health and Social Care (Northern Ireland)

Government research funders

- National research funding agencies supported by public funds

National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR)

- The British government's major funder of clinical, public health, social care and translational research. With a budget of over £1.2 billion, its mission is to "improve the health and wealth of the nation through research."

UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) Research Councils

- There are nine bodies in UKRI, comprising the seven research councils formerly organised under Research Councils UK (Medical Research Council, Economic and Social Research Council, Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, Natural Environment Research Council, Science and Technology Facilities Council, Arts and Humanities Research Council) and two additional bodies, Innovate UK and Research England

What Works Network

- Aims to improve the way government and other public sector organisations create, share and use high-quality evidence in decision-making. Includes 9 independent What Works Centres, including the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE)

Universities

- Institutions of higher education and research

Tech/Industry

- For-profit enterprises

Independent research organisations

- Research organisations (typically non-profit) which act independently of the government, typically with the purpose of addressing political or social issues; May also include think tanks and NGOs, more broadly
- E.g., The King's Fund, RAND, Behavioural Insights Team

Professional membership bodies and learned societies

- Organisations which exist to promote an academic discipline, profession, or group of related disciplines
- E.g., British Medical Association, Royal College of Physicians

Third sector organisations

- Range of organisations which fall within neither the private nor public sector, including voluntary organisations, community groups, and social enterprises

Private providers

- Individuals and organizations that are neither owned nor directly controlled by governments and are involved in provision of health services
- Can be classified into subcategories as for profit and not for profit, formal and informal, domestic and international

Media

- Communication outlets or tools used to store and deliver information or data. The term refers to components of the media communications industry, such as print media, publishing, the news media, photography, cinema, broadcasting, digital media, and advertising