



MiSoC MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN...

# Putting relevant research evidence in front of policymakers

**MiSoC has been producing policy-relevant research for three decades. Over this time, we have established deep and rich connections with the individuals and organisations using our research outside of academia, including think tanks, charities, campaign groups, parliamentarians and key government departments**

MiSoC has a long tradition of researchers engaging with the policy community and contributing to the evidence for informed campaigning and better policy making. This puts us in an ideal position to try new and innovative ways of presenting, sharing and discussing with a wide variety

of stakeholders, which in turn energises and inspires our researchers.

We continue to innovate new ways to get our research evidence in front of policymakers. Here are some of the activities we have used most recently to get our research 'out there'.

## 1 Our Explainers make findings freely accessible for non-academics



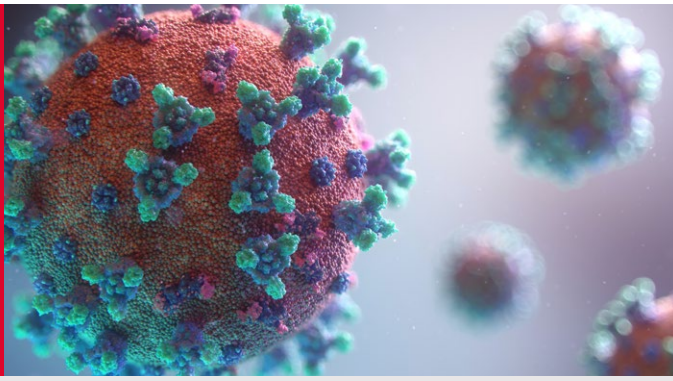
Our series of short plain-English Explainers is a great way for us to succinctly summarise research findings making them accessible to non-academics, quickly and easily without diluting the original subject matter.

Each has a Digital Object Identifier (DOI) number and is catalogued against the researcher's output, but Explainers are a much faster way to explain research than a longer journal article or academic paper.

Top political thinker Nick Hillman, former special advisor to David Willetts as Minister for Science and Universities, said: "Given my job, people often ask how they get research in the hands of policymakers.

The (MiSoC) Explainers are just how to do it: free, well-designed and clear. It is exactly the type of approach researchers should make to policymakers, who don't typically have access – nor the time – to search out pieces in academic journals. It is short/clear/useful **#impact.**"





## 2 Covid-19 Recovery seminar series



**We use our collaboration with HM Government's Open Innovation Team to curate a series of lunchtime seminars open to civil servants.**

We presented four seminars in a MiSoC takeover of the Government's Covid-19 Recovery seminar series, with eight academics presenting our latest findings to audiences of 80-150 staff across all government departments.

MiSoC Director, Professor Emilia Del Bono said:

"The MiSoC takeover of the COVID Recovery Seminar Series was such an excellent opportunity for us to put our most policy-relevant research to the heart of government thinking and to large audiences each time. The series was carefully curated to appeal across departments and to cover as much as possible of our recent research on the inequalities of the impact of COVID across the population. The presentations focussed on the policy implications of our research evidence and the questions from the audience were exceptionally engaged and pertinent. This has been a really important channel for us to make sure our research reaches the right people in government."

## 3 Key Advisory Groups nurture deep connections and strong relationships

**For each research area of MiSoC's programme we have collected together a group of key advisors from across stakeholder groups who can help us understand the policy agenda, hear about early findings and offer advice on dissemination and who else would be interested in our new research.**

The make up of each group varies – there are national charities, regional government officials, think tanks and lobbying groups, campaigners and civil servants, all with an interest in our most policy-relevant studies. We put on twice-yearly workshops for them to hear about our latest research and to talk about our work in progress. These deep connections and strong relationships are an important part of creating impact. These key advisors are invaluable in guiding our work and suggesting helpful ways to let the world know what we are doing.

Some of the organisations with representatives on our Advisory Groups for each research theme include:

- Child Poverty Action Group
- IPPR
- DWP
- Scottish Government
- Early Intervention Foundation
- Greater London Authority
- Work Foundation
- Centre for Migration, Policy and Society
- Race Disparity Unit
- The Home Office
- British Red Cross
- Department for Education
- East of England Local Government Association

## 4 Sharing through roundtables and policy discussions

**We've developed a great way to share our research, working in partnership with other organisations.**

Our recent event with the National Education Opportunities Network presenting new research on the impact of Covid-19 on university clearing applications was discussed by a policy panel including the Office for Students and UCAS. We also worked with food campaigners, Sustain, presenting our research on free school meals and obesity to headteachers and governors from around the country.

We have a long history of briefing the Department of Work and Pensions and HM Treasury, where we regularly hold

bespoke meetings and have an excellent working relationship for sharing new research.

Through our partnership with the Industry and Parliament Trust we have presented our work to representatives from both Houses of Parliament at breakfast briefings, with our researchers contributing to in-depth policy discussions on evidence implications.

We also contribute to national and regional debates on policy change with contributions to Select Committee inquiries, Parliamentary Office for Science and Technology Notes and responding to individual requests for expert advice and opinion.

