

ACADEMICS' PERCEPTIONS OF BARRIERS TO ENGAGING WITH THE UK PARLIAMENT

In the summer of 2017, the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST) and Outreach ran a survey to find out the barriers academics face to engaging with Parliament.

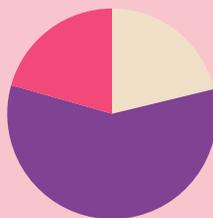
- It included questions on respondents' knowledge about Parliament, previous engagement and how they find information about Parliament.
- It presented previously identified barriers and asked if respondents agreed these were barriers. It also gave them the opportunity to explain other reasons they don't engage or don't feel able to.
- It was publicised through blogs, social media and parliamentary networks and received 1162 responses from academics and research support staff.

Previous engagement



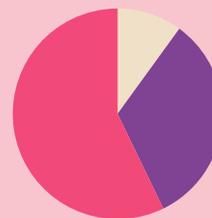
■ yes ■ no

Knowledge of UK Parliament



■ high ■ medium ■ low

Confidence in engaging



■ high ■ medium ■ low

BARRIERS IDENTIFIED



The biggest barrier, identified by **66%**, is lack of **knowledge** or **guidance** on how to engage.

44% agree **lack of confidence**

is a barrier to working with Parliament.



43% identify that lack of **time** is an issue. For some this is tied to lack of institutional support. Costs and distance also hinder engagement.

22% perceive **exclusivity** of Parliament as a barrier.



Lack of incentive to contribute and / or **recognition** is a barrier identified by **30%** of respondents.

24% of respondents agree that concerns around **political biases** are a barrier.



20% agree **parliamentary processes** discourage them from engaging.

Some academics and research support staff feel their **personal** or **professional background** is a barrier to engagement, citing:

age **career stage** **class** **disability**
ethnicity **gender** **lack of prestige of university**
location of university **nationality** **race**
regional origin **research methodology**
subject discipline