

What does Policy expect from Science?

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Policy and science

- Responsibility of policy:
 - Achieve societal goals
 - Often responsible to politicians
 - Science plays a variety of roles

Veterinary public health policy

- Serious communicable disease (rinderpest, FMD)
- Diseases restricting trade
- Zoonotic diseases
- AMR

Some definitions of policy

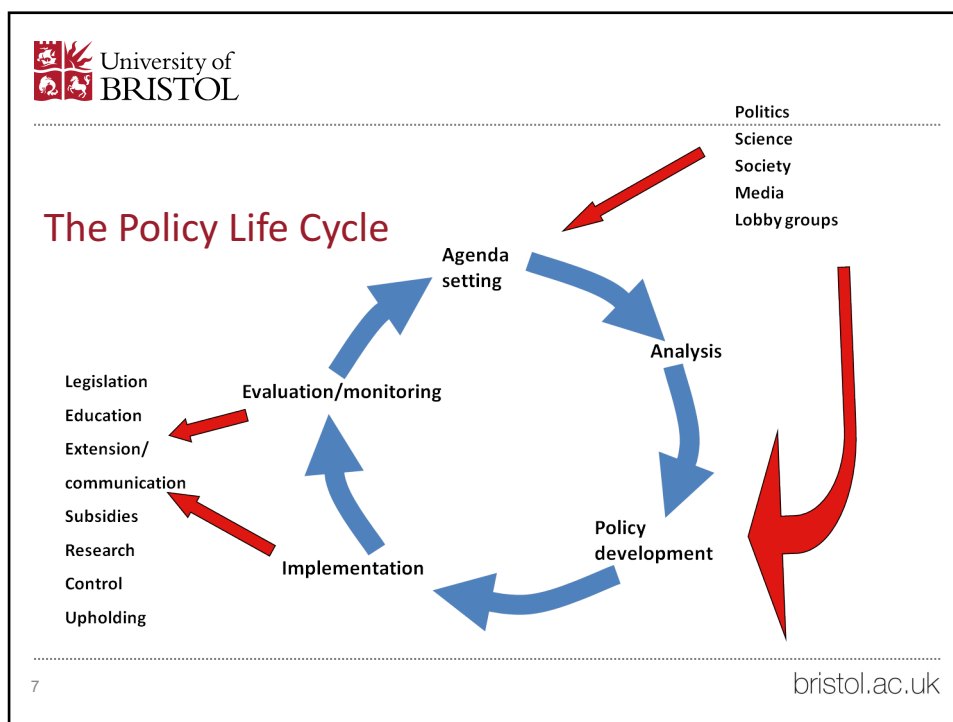
- “The actions of governments and the intentions that determine those actions.” (Cochran et al., 1999)
- “Public policy is the outcome of the struggle in government over who gets what.” (Cochran et al., 1999)
- “Whatever governments choose to do or not to do.” (Dye, 1992)
- “Public policy consists of political decisions for implementing programs to achieve societal goals.” (Cochran and Malone, 1995)
- “Public policy is the sum of government activities, whether acting directly or through agents, as it has influence on the life of citizens.” (Guy Peters, 1999)

Policy is determined by the environment

- Politics
- International organisations
- Society
- Media
- Lobby groups
 - Animal Protection Organisations
 - Agricultural organisations
 - Trade organisations

Instruments of policy

- Legislation
- Education
- Extension/communication
- Research
- Subsidies
- Control/supervision/inspection
- Enforcing legislation



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Drafting policy

- Iterative process: input from many backgrounds, people affected
- Result: well-balanced, well thought through set of measures that effectively addresses subject of policy
- Technical solutions combined with desires and requirements from society and population affected
- International agreements and standards taken into account

→ Policies: best possible compromise given existing conditions.

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Roles of science in policy

- Analysis phase: investigate the issue
- Science as instrument of policy: e.g. routine surveillance system with analysis
- Evaluation of policy: provide information for evaluation
- Science as product of policy: research is implementation measure
- Sometimes to divert attention: political attention; sometimes once results are in, issue is out of public and political lime light

Challenges

- Immediate attention required, policy makers can't wait for results of two years research: expert opinion; standing scientific reference groups
- Dealing with uncertainty: clear and unambiguous results preferred
- Presentation all important: bring message across without causing confusion

- Question to be answered must be unequivocally clear
- Question articulation
- Management of expectations
- Communication of results

