

### Introduction from Stephen Meek

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to chair UPEN for the second 18 months of its existence.

During that period we have gone from strength to strength. We have doubled our membership to 67, with members drawn from across the four nations and reflecting the diversity of universities in the UK. We have built strong relationships with Parliament and Government. Through our blogs and regular member events we have helped build capacity across our members by sharing good practice. We have helped support efforts to tackle COVID-19. And our working groups on EDI and Areas of Research Interest are generating ideas that will improve the way academics and policymakers engage.

As my time as chair draws to a close I am really proud of all we have achieved.

**Stephen Meek**, UPEN Chair 2019–20

Director, Institute for Policy and Engagement, University of Nottingham



*“Over the past year, **UPEN have played a crucial role** in enabling us to reach a wide body of researchers with opportunities to feed into the work of Parliament, and member institutions have been able to support their researchers to successfully engage. We were also able to call on members to help enhance our understanding of effective KE with universities, which fed into our KE and Legislators briefing.”*

**Dr Sarah Foxen**, Knowledge Exchange Lead, Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology



Government  
Office for Science

*“We are delighted that UPEN share our vision for the use of Areas of Research Interest (ARIs) as a transformative academic-policy engagement tool. Through the publication of their recent report, they have provided valuable insights into the experiences Universities have had in engaging with ARIs, which has in turn been translated into constructive conversations with Government Departments. **UPEN have also played a key role** in identifying academics from their networks to support the ARI Fellows’ work.”*

**Chris Pook**, Deputy Director, Science Systems and Capability,  
Government Office for Science

UNIVERSITIES

UPEN

POLICYMAKERS

## UPEN in numbers



**5** UPEN members events

**67** members membership doubled in 12 months



**55** blogs produced by members and policy makers



Over **60** commissions to UPEN from policy stakeholders across the UK in the past 12 months



New strategic relationships made in **16** Whitehall departments



**900** academics identified for the GO-Science Covid-19 ARI expertise database



## UPEN working groups:

Areas of Research Interest



Equality, Diversity & Inclusion



Communications & Engagement



Professional Development



Future Priorities



**>2,000** followers



Produced by the UPEN Secretariat in collaboration with the University of Nottingham



University of Nottingham  
Institute for Policy and Engagement