

Sciencewise- UK

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21st Jan 2026 / MLE in Science Communication in R&I, Topic 2 Meeting
include your email if you wish



Funded by the European Union



Sciencewise Deliberative Dialogue

Programme

A 20+ year history of fostering national scale public dialogues on the science-policy ecosystem

Partners with government bodies developing scientific policy. Over 80 dialogues on a wide range of topics including gene editing, AI in the NHS, Future Flight, Climate Adaptation, Ultra Processed Foods, Nanotechnology, etc.

Ensures the views and perspectives of members of the public are considered in policy-making processes

Has shifted the dial on understanding of where power and agency should lie, when making decisions about the role of science and tech in our futures.

Sciencewise

Solely expert-led perspectives can have major consequences in policy



Sciencewise – components of a typical dialogue

- 30 – 200+ members of the public
- Participants sampled to be representative of a population, usually the UK
- Full day workshops repeated at least twice (with time for reflection between)
- Expert facilitation
- Oversight group of stakeholders
- Involve scientists and policy experts
- Interactive information and evidence sessions, plus time for questions and deliberation
- Deliberation between public participants
- Engaging with policy questions for a purpose

Sciencewise – support offered

Expert support and guidance:

- Early in policy process to identify whether public dialogue might support more effective policy development
- While developing the business case for dialogue
- Tendering and commissioning a dialogue project
- During delivery and evaluation of the project

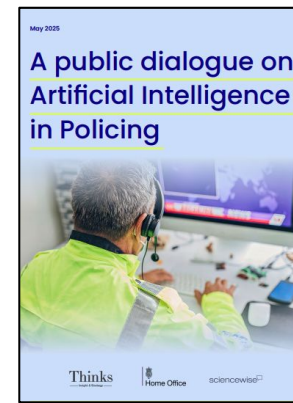
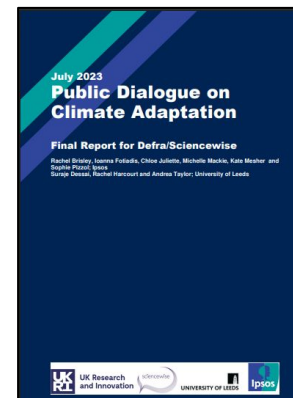
Resources:

- Framework contract for faster tendering
- Financial contribution of up to 50% of the cost of a dialogue project



Sciencewise Dialogues

	Commissioning Body	Topic/Title of public dialogue	Stage
1	UKRI – BBSRC (FSA input)	Making Sense of Ultra-Processed Foods (Hopkins van Mil)	Delivery completed. Publication mid-April 2026.
2	UKRI - NERC	Solar Radiation Management (Hopkins van Mil)	Final report due late January; publication mid-February
3	The Climate Change Committee (CCC)	Climate Adaptation in a Household Context (Ipsos)	Report due March 2026
4	Nuffield Council on Bioethics (NCOB)	14-day rule in human embryology (Ipsos)	Delivery (workshops) until February 2026
5	Defra	Lowland Peat (supplier tba)	Project confirmed. Start date April 2026
6	UK Health Security Agency	Pharmaceutical industry involvement in vaccine development (supplier tba)	Project confirmed January 2026.



Thank you!

Sciencewise | Supporting the commissioning of deliberative dialogue by government bodies to support socially informed and transparent policy making