**Manchester Policy Blogs - Editorial Policy**

**The aim of*Manchester Policy Blogs* is to;**

* promote a wider understanding and awareness of University research that has relevance to public policymaking in the UK and internationally
* open up academic research to increase its impact
* facilitate the sharing and exchange of knowledge and expertise between experts within and outside universities

**Articles will give the views of the author(s), and not the position of *Manchester Policy Blog*, the Policy@Manchester Network, nor of the University of Manchester**

 **What we want**

We encourage the submission of material that focuses on substantive insights or research as it pertains to aspects of public policy in the UK and internationally.

We draw primarily on the community of academics and researchers at the University of Manchester, but we welcome contributions from other universities and research organisations, as well as individuals from organisations with an interest in public policy issues and topics as long as they conform to our standards.

Contributions to the blog are neither academic papers nor bureaucratic publications. Nor should posts be a mere description of a particular issue in public policy.

It is expected that posts will contain some degree of opinion, and this will usually be fine, providing the views expressed have an evidence base. We positively encourage posts that stimulate and encourage lively debate but polemicists need not apply.

The best posts typically have the following elements:

* **Relevance** – A clear link to a current policy issue, decision or consultation.
* **Research** – A new piece of research evidence, or reference to an academic debate or theory that is relevant to current policy processes or debates.
* **Relaxed style** – Blogs tend to be direct and informal in order to be accessible to a wider audience.
* **Reading further** – Abundant links to additional sources and useful evidence.

Occasionally we may request that authors rewrite articles to provide additional research or a novel evidence-based conclusion.

We would usually expect contributors to write on topics and areas in which they have academic expertise, but this is not an absolute condition, so long as articles meet the key criteria outlined above.

Posts that cover events should focus on what key points, findings or arguments are most useful to take away from the event, whilst taking account of applicable Chatham House rules.

The goal of covering events is to share with a wider audience how an event moved policy debate forward rather than to just report that an event happened.

If you are unsure whether what you plan to write will be suitable and accepted, please contact the Blog Team (details below) for advice.

**Submissions**

If you have been commissioned directly

**Academic freedom**

As an initiative of the University (under the auspices of Policy@Manchester), Manchester Policy Blogs adheres to the core principle of academic freedom (<http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=16238>, but also the University’s Code of Practice on Freedom of Speech (<http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=11846>).

Where there is any concern from the blog team about any content submitted, publication may be delayed in order to seek further advice from the Editor-in-Chief and/or appropriate University staff and advisors. If this is the case, the contributor will be informed.

 **Submission Process**

All contributions that are submitted for publication will be acknowledged by a member of the Manchester Policy Blog editorial and production team as soon as possible.

If an article is deemed not to meet the editorial requirements for a Manchester Policy Blog post, we will advise authors on how best to rewrite articles so that we are able to publish them.

Articles will be reviewed by members of the Blog team, who may edit the piece to enhance readability to the blog’s wider audience.

These edits will include:

* Shortening of text if the article is above our stated 1,000 word limit
* Removal of specialist jargon or overly academic language that might confuse the lay reader
* The addition of a narrative-style title to sum up the post’s main findings
* The addition of short introductory paragraph outlining the article’s author, their main arguments and findings, and any relevant background information for readers.
* Re-ordering of content

Where major edits have been made, the final version will be sent back to the author for approval. Occasionally, further information may be requested to aid the production of visual materials to support the post.

**Please note** that owing to events and other circumstances beyond our control, we may have to change our posting order at very short notice, which will results in blog posts being published sooner than expected.

Due to time pressures of the production cycle, authors may have less than 24 hours to approve our edits.

**Please also note** that we will not generally delay publication to await approval for edits. Therefore, once you have submitted a post**, please ensure you are available on email in the proceeding 48-72 hours to respond to edited posts** that are sent to you by the blog team.

Once articles are published, we are very happy to make further edits afterwards should the author deem them to be necessary.

 **Creative Commons and article use policy**

All of our articles are also published under the Creative Commons licence ([CC BY-NC-ND 3.0](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/)), and other blogs and publications are free to use them, with certain conditions.

We gratefully acknowledge the support and guidance from the team at the LSE British Policy and Politics blog on our editorial policies.

**Manchester Policy Blog Team**

The Manchester Policy Blog is run by **Policy@Manchester**

**Editor in Chief :** Professor Colin Talbot

**Managing Editor:** Alex Waddington

**Technical Editor:** Joshua O’Cock

 **Blog Stream Editors**

**Whitehall Watch -** Professor Colin Talbot (colin.talbot@manchester.ac.uk)

**Science, Technology and Environment** **Policy** – Dr Daniel Fitzpatrick (daniel.fitzpatrick@manchester.ac.uk) and Dr Andrew Balmer (andrew.balmer@manchester.ac.uk)

**Policy Book Reviews –** Dr Farhad Hossain (policy.books@manchester.ac.uk)

**For further information on Manchester Policy Blogs, please email the Managing Editor at:**policy@manchester.ac.uk

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