

# TU Dublin: Parliamentary Legislative Cycle Quick Guide

A quick guide to help you plan, write, and evidence your research for the legislative process particularly the [stages of a bill](#). Use it when communicating the evidence for policy aspects of your research. It can also act as a practical checklist. Periodically review the government's [Pre-legislative scrutiny schedule](#).

## 1. Pre-Legislative Scrutiny (PLS)

**Timeline:** Up to a maximum of 8 weeks

**What happens:**

- Committees examine the general scheme of a Bill before drafting.
- They seek expert input, including academics.
- Parliamentary Research Services (PRS) prepares rapid evidence summaries.

**Best point for researchers to engage:**

- ✓ Submit short evidence summaries
- ✓ Provide accessible research insights
- ✓ Publish short LinkedIn pieces highlighting relevance
- ✓ Contact your R&I office to coordinate input

## 2. Bill Introduction (First Stage)

- Minister or TD introduces the Bill.
- No debate on substance.
- Research relevance: minimal unless offering timely context.

## 3. Second Stage (General Debate)

- TDs discuss the purpose and broad principles.
- Research relevance:
  - Provide high-level context.
  - Share neutral public summaries.

## 4. Committee Stage (Detailed Examination)

- Line-by-line analysis by Oireachtas Committee.
- Amendments debated.
- Expert witnesses often invited.
- Research relevance:
  - Submit formal written evidence
  - Provide technical, neutral recommendations

## 5. Report & Final Stage (Dáil)

- Further amendment debates in Dáil chamber.
- Research relevance:
  - Provide clarifications if requested

## 6. Seanad Stages

- The above process is repeated in the Seanad.
- This offers additional opportunities for expert contribution.

## 7. Signing & Enactment

- Signed by the President.
- Commencement orders determine activation i.e. when a government bill or act officially comes into force and becomes law. Usually made by the relevant government minister.

## Key Engagement Tips

- PLS provides the highest influence opportunity.
- Committees value concise, accessible, evidence-based briefs.
- [Parliamentary Research Services](#) prioritise systematic reviews and open-access sources.
- Avoid advocacy tone; focus on impacts, feasibility, and evidence strength.
- Keep PURE, ORCID, and repository entries updated.

## 8. What next?

**Review** the [Research Impact Framework](#), video guides, case studies, and practical tools for planning, monitoring, and communicating impact by [visiting our research impact resources](#) page.

**Contact** the Research Impact Lead in the [Research Engagement & Impact Office](#): [engagementandimpact@tudublin.ie](mailto:engagementandimpact@tudublin.ie)

*Tip: Reaching out early, while you're still shaping your proposal, can help you align activities and partners for stronger, more credible impact pathways.*