

A quick guide to help you plan, write, and evidence your research for the legislative process. Use it when [communicating the evidence for policy](#) aspects of your research. It can also act as a practical checklist.

1. Pre-Legislative Scrutiny (PLS)

Timeline: Up to a maximum of 8 weeks before a Bill is formally introduced to the Oireachtas

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 research relevance
- ✓ Contact the Research Engagement & Impact 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 the relevant [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

- Process repeated in the Seanad.
- Additional opportunities for expert contribution

7. Signing & Enactment

- Signed by the President.
- Commencement orders determine activation, usually undertaken by the responsible Minister

Key Engagement Tips

- PLS provides the highest influence opportunity
- Committees value concise, accessible, evidence-based briefs
- Review the Dept. of the Taoiseach [Policy Handbook 'Real World' Guide](#) on creating policy.
- PRS prioritises 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 office microsite](#).

Contact the Research Engagement & Impact Office: 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.

***check out our detailed advice and resources under our "Influencing Public Policy" section online.**