Knowledge Broker Organisations: A comparative study of practices to inform policy-making

Questions for interviews in knowledge broker organisations

1. How would you describe what your organisation does? Policy areas?

2. Could you tell us a little bit about the origins of the organisation?
    a. Why was it created? A specific event or report?
    b. Support from where?
    c. Key people behind it?
    d. Government project?
    e. Are there further people you would recommend us to speak to?

3. What are your main sources of funding? Do the funding arrangements (e.g. single origin, short-term, multiple funders) influence the work you want to/can undertake?

4. How do you think your structural and practical set-up differ from other bodies in the EBPM sphere?

5. Do you have any competitors? If so, how do you manage that competition?

6. How do you present your evidence to government and other stakeholders? i.e. do you promote and campaign for your reports to become policy or do you let policy-makers get on with the report you submit to them? It is often not clear-cut but where do you think you are on the scale? (e.g. Pielke's advocate, honest broker, science adviser, pure scientist)

7. What would say are the main activities undertaken by your organisation?

8. Does the organisation play different roles in influencing/informing policy-making?

9. How do you influence or inform policy-making?

10. What would you say are the best ways of informing/influencing policy-making?

11. How important is the role played by an individual knowledge broker?

12. What would say are the main outputs produced by your organisation?

13. What has been your biggest impact on policy-making? Why? (e.g. context, window, support, good evidence, chance)

14. How do you measure the impact of your work? Can you measure your influence?

15. In your experience, how do policy-makers understand and/or use evidence in their work? In what ways could this be improved?

16. What role do you think should evidence/knowledge play in policy-making?

17. What is a typical context/relationship with government? Other stakeholders?

18. Why do you think there has been such a growth in the number of bodies providing evidence-based information or advice? (over 30 university-based bodies in the UK) How do these differ from think tanks?

19. How do you deal with issues of accountability and independence raised by working with policy-makers?