

Policy Matters



Your weekly digest of policy reports that **matter**.
Edited by [Toby Green](#) and [Gary Price](#) of *Policy Commons*.

Elections in 2024—can we trust them?

[2024 is going to be a bumper year for elections](#). Countries that are home to half the world's population will be going to the polls. But will we be able to trust the results? Throughout 2024, we invite you to follow our new *Commons* List called [Trust in Elections and Democracies](#).

We're kicking off the List with:

- [Generating Democracy: AI and the coming revolution in political communications](#) from UK's Demos
- [Risk in Focus: Generative AI and the 2024 Election Cycle](#) from the US Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency
- [Visible and Invisible Bars—Political imprisonment, civil death, and the consequences of democratic erosion](#) from Freedom House

As ever, if you know of papers or reports that you think we should add to the List, [do let us know!](#)

Existing global food systems are unsustainable for our health and the climate

An independent commission of academics has spent four years exploring pathways to a **sustainable global food system**. Their global policy report, [The Economics of the Food System Transformation](#), is likely to have an impact to rival the [2006 Stern report on The Economics of Climate Change](#).

Other reports that caught our eye:

- **SHAPE**. [What's the impact of research in the social sciences, humanities, and arts?](#) The British Academy and Academy of Social Sciences has been taking a look.
- **Scholarly Publishing**. [Is scholarly publishing about to undergo a second digital transformation based on shared infrastructure?](#) Ithaka S+R thinks so.
- **Open Science**. UNESCO's [Open Science Outlook](#) is the first effort to assess the status of open science at a global level. UNESCO produced this baseline study as part of its role in monitoring implementation of the 2021 UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science.

- **Economic dynamism**. [Boosting Dynamism: What Australia can learn from other nations](#). Australia's CEDA has been looking to Singapore and New Zealand for evidence.
- **Brexit**. The latest edition of the [UK-EU Relations Tracker](#), from UK in a Changing Europe, covers developments from October to December 2023 and looks forward to 2024, where there is a risk of the relationship between the UK and the EU “operating in a vacuum” as political attention shifts towards elections.
- **The American dream**. If there's political consensus on how to empower individuals to rise out of poverty and into prosperity, [will agendas like this one](#) from Illinois Policy establish a formula for the whole of America?

- **Civil servants**. Staff morale, turnover, and industrial relations are just three topics covered in [Whitehall Monitor 2024](#), looking at how the civil service changed in 2023, by Institute for Government.
- **Childcare**. In Australia, [ACCC's inquiry into childcare](#) found that reforms did make childcare more affordable but failed to stop fees rising.

If you see something wrong, “Flag this item”

Last week a few of you asked how to report incorrect details about publications, for example author names. The best way is the “Flag this item” tool. You'll find it under the organization logo on every publication page.

Which reports caught your eye last week?

Let us know when you find compelling reports. We'll highlight them in next week's newsletter—and give you credit, too! It doesn't matter if they're not yet in *Policy Commons*; send us the link and we'll add them to the database for you. Send your recommendations to toby.green@coherentdigital.net.

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