

Policy Matters



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

Funding opportunity: AI-driven evidence synthesis for policymaking; *Policy Commons* offers to partner with bidders

Applications are now being accepted for £9.2 million in funding to develop and administer a global evidence synthesis infrastructure, using AI, to transform the evidence ecosystem.

The aim is to provide policymakers with access to accurate, up-to-date, and accessible syntheses of existing evidence in key policy areas. Bidders, who must be led by a UK-based entity, will need to work with UK policy makers while balancing their delivery with national and international knowledge from areas including the Global South.

Because bidders will need to work with a diverse array of evidence including grey literature, *Policy Commons*—the world's largest repository of international policy evidence—is [ready to partner with bidders](#). Contact Toby to discuss how.

[Full details were published last week](#), an information webinar is scheduled for October 9, and applications close December 12.

Background reading: [A blueprint for better international collaboration on evidence](#).

US public health

Bottom of the class

[A ten-nation study of healthcare systems and outcomes](#) by the Commonwealth Fund finds that Americans die the youngest, live the sickest lives, and have the highest barriers to healthcare access, despite the fact that the US spends almost twice as much as its peers. Overall, Australia, the Netherlands, and the UK rank the highest.

Guns killed seven kids every day in 2022

Shocking data in a new report looking at [gun violence affecting US children and teens](#) shows that gun-related suicide among Hispanic children doubled since 2013.

Earth's vital signs are flashing red

PIK, a leading climate research institute, has just [released an inaugural annual report](#) and a tool that monitors the health of the Earth (humanity's life support). The patient, Planet Earth, is in a critical condition. [Note: In a departure for PIK, this report has not been published in an academic journal. Here's yet another example of a leading research organization self-organizing peer review and releasing their reports as grey literature in order to be accessible to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.]

You can drive, but you can't hide

The Future of Privacy Forum has just released an [astonishing infographic](#) showing the extent to which cars and their drivers can now be tracked—wherever they go.

Broken Britain?

Slow puncture

Many reckoned Brexit would act as a slow puncture on the UK's economy. [A data-rich paper](#) from Aston University's Business School suggests they were right; the UK's exports to the EU continued to decline in 2023 as supply chains reshaped to the post-Brexit trading rules. SMEs exporting goods to smaller EU states have been punctured the hardest.

Why Britain has stagnated

[A remarkable new essay](#) argues that the UK's investment in housing, infrastructure, and energy is not just a problem, it's the problem.

Environmentally harmful subsidies still growing

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) was adopted in December 2022 to protect and restore nature. But it isn't working. According to Earth Track, environmentally harmful subsidies [have grown by \\$800 billion to total at least \\$2.6 trillion](#). That number is noted as "at least" because data gaps in areas like water and forestry still exist.

Other reports that caught our eye last week:

- [Privacy Impact Assessment: US Secret Service Use of Facial Recognition Technology](#)
- [Memo on School Book Bans from PEN America](#)
- [Australian Children's Streaming Video Platform Habits, Fluencies, and Literacies](#)
- [Reform Academic Publishing to Unblock Innovation](#)

Policy Commons NEWS

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