



## **SRA Scotland Webinar 2023**

**‘Better deliberation, better decisions – lessons from recent deliberative engagement in Scotland’**

Presenters: Ciaran Mulholland & Sally Abernethy - Ipsos Scotland  
Chair: Emma Hollywood – Skills Development Scotland

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# What to expect from today

**Introduction to deliberative engagement and what it involves**

**Recent examples of how it has been used in practice**

**Practical tips for how to support better deliberation**

# Better deliberation, better decisions

# What is it?

**Deliberative engagement puts people – through informed discussions, involving diverse perspectives and understanding lived experiences – at the heart of decision making**



# What does it involve?

**1. Starting point**  
gathering initial,  
uninformed views

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**2. Learning phase,**  
to inform participants  
about the topic

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**3. Discussion and  
deliberation** between  
participants

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**4. Reaching a conclusion**  
reflecting what you set out  
to achieve

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# Some recent examples

## Infrastructure Commission public workshops



75 people

Insights to inform the  
Infrastructure Commission's  
recommendations

## Glasgow Citizens' Assembly



50 people

Recommendations on  
the city should tackle the  
climate emergency

## Scottish Government public engagement panel



25 people

Ethical guidelines for  
future use of citizens'  
data by public sector

# Practical stuff

1. Design
2. Inclusion
3. Quality



# 1. Design, planning & resourcing

## What we've learned



Start at the end: what do you want the outcome to be?



Set as comfortable a timetable as possible, especially for planning and scheduling the sessions



Resource it well: think about what and who you need at each stage of the process



**Top tip!**

**Start working with expert speakers early on**



## 2. Inclusion & accessibility

### What we've learned



Think through your recruitment options



Support participants: find out what they need to engage meaningfully



Maintain engagement throughout (e.g. with online communities)



**Top tip!**

**Allow time for onboarding participants and checking in**

# 3. Quality

## What we've learned



Plan your data management before you begin



Brief (and debrief) facilitators and other team members



Keep the outcome(s) top of mind and play emerging themes back



### Top tip!

**Set up an analysis approach first and brief the team on it for fieldwork**



**This session has left me really hyped.  
Thank you for involving me.**



**Sad to see this end but it's been an  
amazing experience and I hope there's  
more in the future!**



**Here's to the future! Hopefully it's a  
better and brighter one.**



# DELIBERATIVE ENGAGEMENT BEST PRACTICE GUIDE

Ipsos MORI's Qualitative Research and Engagement Centre comprises experts in qualitative methods, dialogue and engagement, specialising in bringing the public voice into policy making

03 RESEARCH METHODS TOOLKIT



The Ipsos [deliberative engagement best practice guide](#) is based on both our own practical experience. It is a 'how to do it' guide for those considering using this methodology.

# THANK YOU.

**Ciaran  
Mulholland**

Ciaran.Mulholland@ipsos.com

**Sally  
Abernethy**

Sally.Abernethy@ipsos.com