

# How Does Policy Originate?

From 'A Practical Guide to Policy Making in Northern Ireland' (OFMDFM, 2003)  
<http://www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk/practical-guide-policy-making.pdf>

Policies can come from various sources:

- Ministers
- Party manifestos
- Assembly Committees
- International commitments of the UK Government
- EU Directives
- Pressure for change from professionals within a particular part of the public service
- Research evidence
- Public opinion
- Lobbying from the voluntary and community sector
- As well as from the planned review of existing policies

Often, the pressure for change will come from several of these sources at once, and it is rare for civil servants working on detailed development of a policy to start with a completely blank sheet. Most policy reviews or policy development projects, however, are likely to be initiated by, or have their initiation agreed with, Ministers.



