



# Using Evidence to Inform Policy

*Pete Lunn, Frances Ruane*

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## **Using Evidence to Inform Policy** Pete Lunn, Frances Ruane

Using Evidence to Inform Policy is a unique examination of how evidence can be used to improve policymaking, especially in challenging economic times.

There is a need for transparency in government and policy decisions. Research and evidence can help to provide this transparency, and Using Evidence to Inform Policy outlines how. However, the book also demonstrates the complexity of the relationship between evidence and policy, arguing that in most cases good policy cannot be determined by evidence alone.

Using Evidence to Inform Policy demonstrates the breadth and value of the contribution that evidence can make to policy. It presents eleven studies drawn from recent Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) research projects, available on [www.esri.ie/research](http://www.esri.ie/research), illustrating different aspects of the relationship between evidence and policy, and how these vary by policy area. Using examples, the book demonstrates how national and international research can be used to good effect in policymaking.

The theme of how evidence can influence policy is examined with reference to Ireland and the international experience, and in a wide range of areas, including the economy, public infrastructure, innovation, competition, the labour market, financial regulation, healthcare, housing, education, government spending, public services and earnings.

The book is relevant to all those taking courses in economics, sociology, political science, governance, social policy and Irish Studies at postgraduate and undergraduate level, as well as civil servants, politicians, policymakers, researchers and analysts in the public sector.

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