**‘Being a specialist adviser at UK Parliament’ video transcript**

This video was made by the Parliamentary Digital Service in Summer 2017.

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Slide heading: Being a specialist adviser at UK Parliament

“Hello, I’m Graeme Reid, I’m Professor of Science and Research Policy at UCL.”

Slide heading: How did you become a specialist adviser?

Graeme Reid: “I became a specialist adviser having moved to UCL from a career in the civil service.”

Slide heading: What is the role of a specialist adviser?

Graeme Reid: “The adviser’s role is to turn it into a bit of a project, to find the witnesses that are going to appear, the way in which written evidence is going to be solicited, and the way in which all of that individual evidence is going to hang together into a coherent inquiry.”

 “I’m Nicole Westmarland, I’m a Professor of Criminology at Durham University where I’m Director of the Durham University Centre for Research into Violence and Abuse. I was specialist adviser to the Joint Committee on Human Rights for their inquiry into violence against women and girls.”

Slide heading: What were the highlights of being a specialist adviser?

Nicole Westmarland: “I think the highlights of being a specialist adviser was really knowing that you were making a difference. Being involved in the voluntary sector as well as being an academic, it meant that I knew that there were things which needed questioning, things which needed challenging, things that were high on agendas which hadn’t yet come out through academic research.”

Slide heading: What expertise did you bring to the role?

Graeme Reid: “The expertise that I bring to the specialist adviser role, more than anything else, is the network of people that I have built up in government, business and the research community. Being able to identify people who will provide value to the committee at specific stages of the inquiry is by far and away the most frequent thing that I do.”

Nicole Westmarland: “I would absolutely be a specialist adviser again. It’s hard work but it really pays off. You really feel a sense of achievement, and a real involvement in the process.”

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