**‘Why engage with Parliament as a researcher?’ video transcript**

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

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Slide heading: Why engage with Parliament as a researcher?

“I’m Roberta Blackman-Woods, I’m a Member of Parliament for the City of Durham and I’m Shadow Minister for Planning.”

Slide heading: Why is academic research important to Parliament?

Roberta Blackman-Woods MP: “It’s absolutely critical to the work that we do in Parliament, in terms of giving us the information that we need in order to make laws that are effective, and we use research in Parliament in a whole range of different ways, so for example, last week I had an issue brought to me about an insurance company. I didn’t understand the relationship between pensions and insurance, and we had to do a lot of research in my office, in order to be able to understand properly that issue and take the best possible action for our constituents.”

Dr Jessie Ricketts: “So I’m Dr Jessie Ricketts from Royal Holloway, which is part of the University of London. Research is really important for parliamentarians. It helps them to carry out their jobs by making sure that the decisions that they make and the decisions that they encourage and the topics that they debate are informed by the best possible evidence out there from researchers.”

Slide heading: How can research make an impact in Parliament?

Dr Jessie Ricketts: “Some time ago I worked with the Parliamentary Offices of Science and Technology to prepare a briefing that summarised research on autism. That briefing helped to inform the Private Members’ Bill on Autism which later became the Autism Act.”

Slide heading: Why should academics engage with Parliament?

“I’m Fergus Reid, I’m Clerk of the International Development Select Committee. Academics, with their research, why are they doing it and how are they doing it? Presumably they’re doing it to make a change in the world. To illuminate something, to explain something, or to fix a problem. If they can supply the ammunition to Members to make those changes, I think they would want to do that.”

Roberta Blackman-Woods MP: “I actually think most academics, in addition to, you know, having a real passion for their own research and their own discipline and taking that forward, also want their research to make a difference.”

Dr Jessie Ricketts: “A really important part of a parliamentarian’s job is to scrutinise public policy and also engage in debates. And it’s really important that parliamentarians have access to the best possible evidence when they’re engaging in those processes.”

Slide heading: Find out more at: [parliament.uk/research-impact](http://www.parliament.uk/research-impact)