

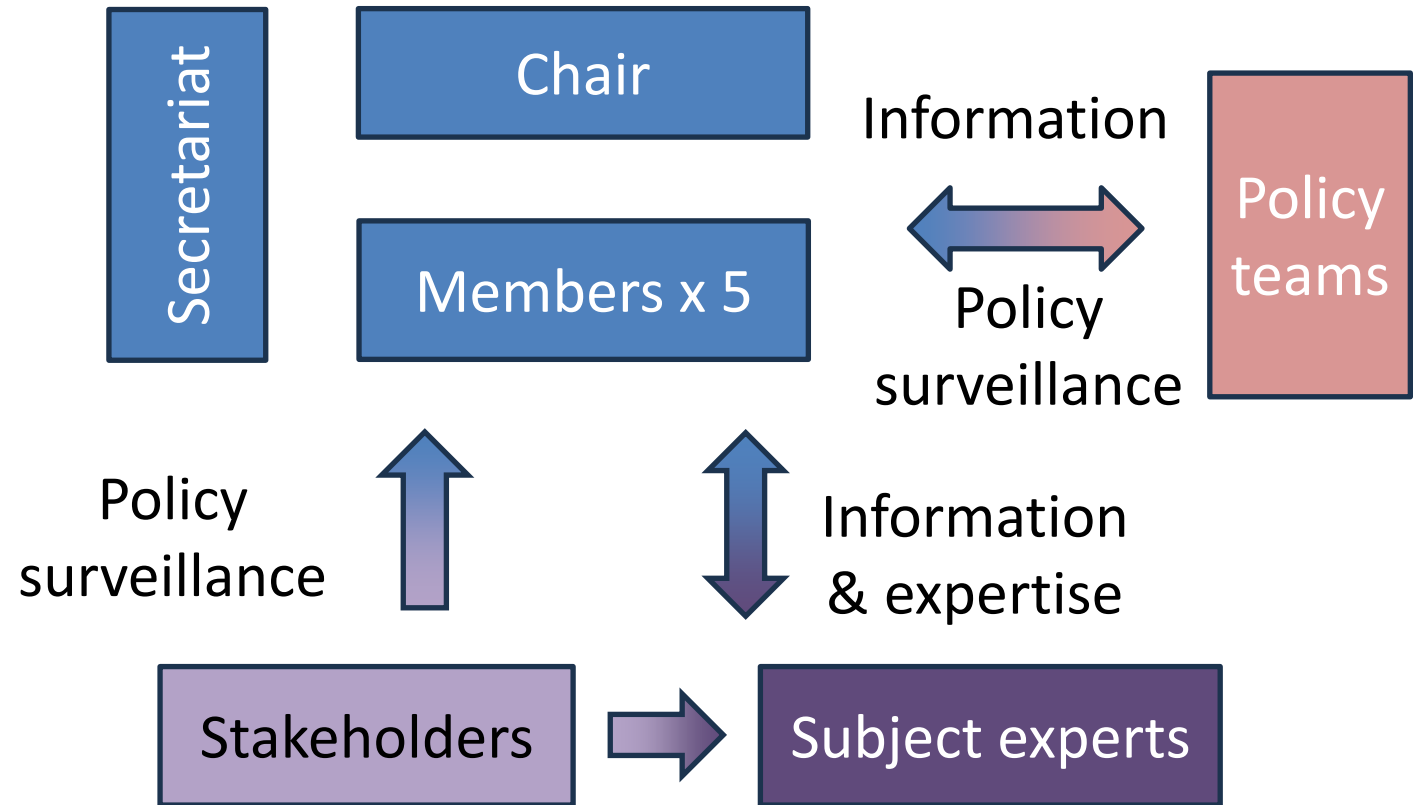
# ASC

**Animal  
Sentience  
Committee**



# Committee structure

- Statutory Committee under Animal Sentience Acy.
- Six members.
  - Chair & five members.
- Small committee.
  - Agile working.
  - Network of subject-matter experts.
    - Contribute to specific reports.
  - Supported by stakeholders.
    - Policy surveillance.
  - Cooperative approach with policy teams.
    - Encourage early contact & advice.



# Remit of the Animal Sentience Committee

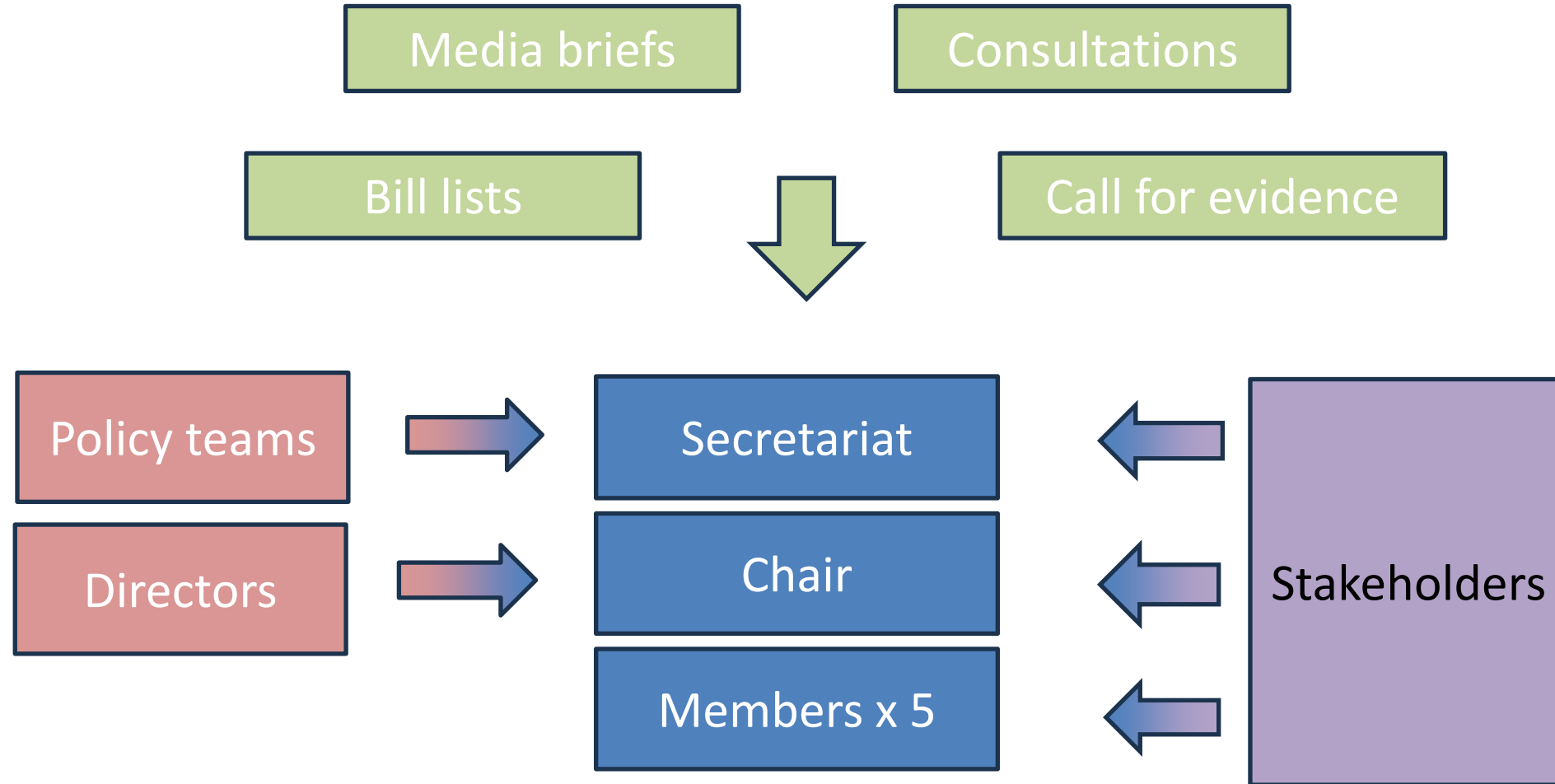
- ASC was set up under the Animal Welfare Sentience Act 2022.
- Its role is to consider the extent to which central government policy decisions pay all due regard to their impact on the welfare needs of sentient animals.
- ASC informs parliament in this regard enabling parliament to hold the government to account with respect to its policies and their impacts on animal welfare.
- Sentient animals include any vertebrate animal (other than homo sapiens), any cephalopod mollusc (e.g. octopus or squid), and any decapod crustacean (e.g. crab or lobster).



- ASC can consider any policy it chooses to review across government if there is an impact (direct or indirect) on animal welfare - e.g. the Online Safety Act.
- Policies can be existing or those at any stage of development and can include subsequent policy implementation decisions.
- ASC should not recommend 'new policy' which is unrelated to an existing policy decision.
- ASC should not duplicate the work of other committees - e.g. the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act.
- Policies falling within the competence of devolved administrations are not within the remit of ASC.
- Reviews or recommendations should respect the legislative or administrative provisions and customs relating in particular to religious rites or customs, cultural traditions and regional heritage.



# Identifying policy decisions



## How does the ASC deliver its work?

- Statutory ability to **produce reports containing its views** '*whether, or to what extent, the government is having, or has had, all due regard to the ways in which the policy might have an adverse effect on the welfare of animals as sentient beings*'.
- Statutory duty for the relevant Secretary of State to lay a response to any report before Parliament, within three months of the report's publication.
- **Ad hoc advice:** Policy teams can contact ASC Secretariat; ASC will decide if/when they have the capacity to support the policy team.



## Report drafting

- Lead drafter assigned, supported by at least one other member.
- Meet to agree final views and reach consensus about report content.
- Draft report cleared with other ASC Members and the ASC Chair. The Committee may meet during the drafting stage of the report.
- If a consensus cannot be agreed, the Chair makes final decision, and the report will note the divergence in views across the Committee.



# Reports

- Final report signed-off by the ASC Chair.
- Secretariat ensures the report is published on the Committee's GOV.UK page and notifies the policy team that it has been published.
- ASC Chair also shares report with the EFRA Select Committee Chair and the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Animal Welfare (APGAW) Chair to increase Parliamentary awareness of the report and the views it contains.





## Response to reports

- Policy team prepares Minister to produce a response, typically laid before Parliament as an Unnumbered Act paper, and inform Secretariat.
- Secretariat notifies ASC, EFRA Select Committee and APGAW and publishes Ministerial response on the ASC GOV.UK page.

