**Transcript PAF 1**

PRABHAKAR, Rajiv  
So just to say a little bit about who I am. And so I'm at the Open University and I'm doing a parliamentary academic fellowship for the Knowledge Exchange Unit.

PAF 1  
Yep.

PRABHAKAR, Rajiv  
And what I'm looking at is ways in which the PAF scheme could be improved experiences of PAFs um. So just to let you know, I'll I'm chatting to a range of different PAFs and also their parliamentary hosts as well. And the idea is to kind of get a report by the end of it.

The transcripts will be deposited and all identifying marks will be removed from the transcripts, and so there won't be any reference to named locations anything like that.

PAF 1  
Yeah. All happy.

PRABHAKAR, Rajiv  
Oh yeah brilliant right? It shouldn't take more than 45 minutes. I'll put an hour, but it shouldn't take long that.

I want to talk in in kind of three stages, really one before you apply for the fellowship. The kind of process of it. And secondly, during the fellowship on what pick up a couple of questions on that.

PAF 1  
Yeah.

PRABHAKAR, Rajiv  
Um A thirdly, outcomes of the fellowship, right? The Post Fellowship, period. And then I'm just going to wrap up quickly with any final thoughts you had on how it might have been proved based on your experience and so on. Yeah, that sounds cool. Brilliant.

Okay cool, cool. So just spooling back. Thinking about the process of applying when you first applied for the fellowship, right.

PAF 1  
Yeah.

PRABHAKAR, Rajiv  
How was the actual process of paying for the fellowship for you? How did you find it?

PAF 1  
I found it fine. I had a I mean I had a sort of had a project in mind.

I can't remember how I found out about it. I think a sort of a sort of a mate … had done it in the I think in the library about a year or so before I apply. So I think he did his in about 2018.

And I just was chatting to him about a conference or something or other and thought oh that sounds a good idea. So I don't think I'd ever heard of it before.

So I mean part of the problem perhaps is you know is publicity and I don't know what the general publicity for the schemes. Yeah, for the scheme is or the different bits of sort of the knowledge exchange is.

I think I've I did go along, sorry this isn't really answering your question.

PRABHAKAR, Rajiv  
No, no, no, it's great. No, no, it's fine.

PAF 1  
I went along to an outreach thing that they did at De Montfort, about God must be what 2016. And the aim of that was to get people from sort of non big hitting universities.

More so to make them aware of how they could work with parliamentarians, etcetera. So a couple of people from the Knowledge Exchange Unit were there. It was an all day thing. It was really, really good.

And that was the first thing that I'd come across. So I think from then I might have approached a couple of people, you know, by e-mail asking if I could help with stuff and then and then I met this mate of the conference and he was talking about his experience on it.

And so I thought I would apply the application was reasonably straight forward from what I can remember it must have been. God, that was it. Just trying to think mine would have been.

PRABHAKAR, Rajiv  
Yeah.

PAF 1  
Cause it kicked in. I mean this as we will touch on was part of the problem of my experiences. My year was the COVID year. So we, you know, we'll come back onto this. So I think I must have applied in about tail end of 2019 … November of 2019 I suspect.

PRABHAKAR, Rajiv  
Okay Yep.

PAF 1  
I think I used, I think maybe this was part was knowing how to construct the application, so I I used a mate of mine at XXX. He very kindly gave me his … our areas are very similar. So what he would went in to do was to do a study of Parliament and dealing with post Brexit legislation and stuff like that and he was in the library and made good content stuff.

I'm in the similar area but my project was different and he let me have sight of his application. Without that I suspect it would have been a lot trickier. I think I I've worked out how to, you know, sort of frame it and cite it and sort of make it a more sort of viable proposition. So I had a project to do.

That's been my research area for 20 years, pitched it to be honest, didn't think anything more of it, and then sort of got an e-mail with, you know, for an interview. The interview was like we're doing down the line and I'm got it took a while. It took a while to get it through the parliamentary hurdles, I seem to remember there was, you know, there's obviously sort of official secret, not, you know, there's, there's confidentiality, etcetera stuff.

And I was expecting oh that's all I think I was expecting to start probably 3 months later than I eventually.

Did I think it just seemed to take a lot? Maybe not as much as three months, but there was. There seemed to be a lot of stuff that needed to be done. Once I'd have my interview and yes, we would like, we would like you to become our parliamentary fellow. I was sort of assuming 10 days. Whoopi, I'll be in and it was a good handful of weeks of stuff they didn't really keep me in the in the light about that.

So I felt a little bit, I'm not sure, sorry I should for this meeting to going back to emails and things so I might be I might be dissing on someone but I think my recollection is I was a bit out of the loop with what was going on and I didn't know.

They're obviously very, very busy, you know, \*\*\*\*\* in the fan left, right and centre. I'm the last thing that that they need to worry about, but I remember I was having to do the running of where are we with this? When? When you think I'm gonna be starting? And that was a little bit, yeah.

PRABHAKAR, Rajiv  
Oh can you remember who your contacts were at the time but not names? Was it the Knowledge exchange unit?

PAF 1  
No, maybe this was part of the problem because my interview I suspect would be normally by the host, by the clerk of my host committee.

But my paper dealings, I think, was with the knowledge … I think it was the with the knowledge exchange you rather than with the committee I presume what happens but again I didn't know this you know is once clerk the committee says yes we would like to join. That's then passed over to the Knowledge Exchange Unit, and it's for them to do and.

And there was some difficulties about getting a letter from my own university. Or rather, there wasn't. I mean, I got the letter and it seemed to sort of there were some hiccups with getting in place. Yeah. I can't for the life of remember what they were, but it wasn't. But it was not. We work in universities. We know. Yeah. So this is par for the course. But it wasn't as smooth as it could have been, I suppose.

PRABHAKAR, Rajiv  
When did you start? Can you remember roughly?

PAF 1  
Oh, let me just try and I think.

PRABHAKAR, Rajiv  
Was it pre Covid? What I'm interested in was it post COVID lockdowns then?

PAF 1  
Let me have let me I think it was almost roundabout the same time.   
Because I didn't ever, I've never been into the building. I mean, I've never met any of the people on the Committee.

PRABHAKAR, Rajiv  
OK.

PAF 1  
So I think let me just I should, sorry I should have looked this up, this is my. I reckon it was Easterish time.

PRABHAKAR, Rajiv  
Yeah. OK.

PAF 1  
2020 I would have. I would have thought. Oh no. Christ. No. Sorry. No, it wasn't, no. So while I applied in the open call, almost exactly three years ago, June of 2020. Sorry, I've got my years totally wrong, so I applied in the summer of 2020.

PRABHAKAR, Rajiv  
Okay.

PAF 1  
Yeah. Two stage process and expression of interest and then a more formal. So that was in the June of 2020. Yeah, there were some faffing around in the autumn. Yeah. So I would have been in post from Yeah, mid fed mid February 21, but I didn't. So I applied in June. And I was hoping to run it February to February 21 to 22. I don't think I ended up starting it was it's ages to get a parliamentary pass and onto the system.

My COVID lockdown knowledge is, but it wasn't in the first big way. You know, we, we'd come through the first year and we were in the second year. So it was, I was in place roughly tail end of probably 1st of March 2021 to 28th of February 2022. I suspect something like that.

PRABHAKAR, Rajiv  
Brilliant. OK.

PAF 1  
But the building was locked down except until I think round about Christmas the parliamentary estate got lot got freed up a little bit more, but I only had a couple of months left. And as I just sort of never got around to going, you know, to going a bit, I I'd lost the momentum of the start. Yeah, that was yeah, yeah.

PRABHAKAR, Rajiv  
Okay, we'll come back to that. That's brilliant, right. And. OK, so once you actually started.

PAF 1  
Yeah.

PRABHAKAR, Rajiv  
This is the kind of presumptive question, right? How useful was the induction plan for the fellowship? Um, that presumes you had an induction plan and.

PAF 1  
By induction and do you mean what I was proposing to do for the year or sort of more formal induction to the?

PRABHAKAR, Rajiv  
A more formal induction from your host. Or was there a formal induction?

PAF 1  
I suspect I had a chat. Now I know

PRABHAKAR, Rajiv  
Did you have anything set out?

PAF 1  
We had an action plan set. I don't that I do remember we had a sort of a scheme of work. Agreed that was thrashed out between us, which ended up not ever I mean, you know, it just for reasons I go on to in a minute, it's it rapidly. We rapidly moved off track. So we did have a scheme of work that took a couple of weeks to say from the Clerk said, well, this that you could do this and do this. And she said, well, I'm not sure I could ever do that so. But in terms of an induction to this is how stuff works. No, don't remember at all.

PRABHAKAR, Rajiv  
OK. Just following from that point, which leads into another question I was going to ask. Do you have any suggestions for things that could be included in an induction that should be there for PAFs?

PAF 1  
I think what would be really useful. The only reason I wasn't, I think, floundering as much as I probably would have been is because my area is XXX. So I know about how Parliament works and select committees and all of that sort of stuff. How legislation is passed, broadly speaking I think if I hadn't had that, so if I have, if I had come from a, you know, if I were a, you know, a biological scientist advice, you know, working with Defra.

I would have been clueless about the role of what that committee did. Well, its powers were what its remit was, where it's points of it sort of power leverage were if you if you like and all of that. So some sort of I mean, I'm and unless I was offered it said no, I won't need it. I didn't ever have a sort of a parliamentary process 101.

PRABHAKAR, Rajiv  
OK.

PAF 1  
I mean, there's it turns out there were lots of things I learned about how Parliament works. You know, really, you know, nitty gritty stuff that you would that you never would pick up in a, you know, in a textbook. And that was for me incredibly useful. But the just the general, you know, politics primer, unless it's your area, which it is mine. And I suppose if you're a politics school, it would be. But I would imagine you could start your post as a PAF.

And have no real idea, sort of what you would what you were doing. What you're what your role.

PRABHAKAR, Rajiv  
Is it procedural stuff you after?

PAF 1  
Yes, I suppose so. What? What? What area are you? What? What is your speciality?

PRABHAKAR, Rajiv  
I'm social policy.

PAF 1  
OK. So just we'll get wondering whether I was about to patronise you or not, but I suppose what I make the sort of thing that you would if you were done doing on in an in an undergraduate politics degree on undergraduate law degree in the first year, you would find out how Parliament works. You'd certainly would find out about select committees who's on them, what powers they have. You'd find out about the legislative process and things like that. So it's, it's a little bit to, you know, how does Parliament work?

What is the role of the thing that you are nominally attached to what does it do? What's it for? What powers has it got? Where does it have any influence and how does it have influence that that's sort of thing? Because I think that would then help.

The sort of when you are working in your advising role. Or doing a reset or whatever. You've got some idea of the contours within which your end product report is going to be. You know, is going to be used and the think otherwise you're a bit, you're firing a bit in the dark. I would have. I would have thought. Yeah, it's very hard for me to think. What would it be like if I didn't have a knowledge? I do have. But putting myself in the shoes as someone who is, you know, come would come from totally different discipline I think would might be really difficult to see. There's probably stuff on the website.

PRABHAKAR, Rajiv  
Okay.

PAF 1  
There's probably stuff in the papers that I got sent because I suppose I know it. I might not have read them so it so it might be that all that is there, but I just ignored it because I'm too arrogant to think I don't need to. I don't need to know that. That's what I do. That's what I've taught for 25 years. But if that isn't there, I think it would be incredibly helpful.

PRABHAKAR, Rajiv  
That's brilliant. Thanks … And I'm going to move to the next set of questions, which is exploring issues around your actual fellowship itself, right? I'm gonna focus on a couple of things and first impartiality. And was impartiality understood differently between your academic and Parliament work?

PAF 1  
Yeah.

PRABHAKAR, Rajiv  
And in what ways?

PAF 1  
I was attached to the Committee at the time there were two key pieces of legislation going through. And I got into trouble actually on and I can't remember the specifics, but for a tweet that I put out.

PRABHAKAR, Rajiv  
Just to clarify, is that from your university account? Or personal account?

PAF 1  
It's a personal account. I don't have a university account. It's my account.

PRABHAKAR, Rajiv  
Okay. All right, fine. Personal Twitter account.

PAF 1  
And I can't for the life of remember what it was. But I was basically given a I mean, I'm not formal we meeting, but I was given a talking to by the by the clerk, who in turn had been given a talking to you, I imagine by the Chair of the Select Committee because I think I must have expressed a view on something that Indicated the Committee.

And I have never had any trouble within my own university or of pushing out, you know, really quite, you know politically sensitive loaded. We have things, you know, taking a view on political matters. And this was the first known only time that that anyone has ever had. And I and I had to write a formal apology to the clerk, who in turn passed it on. So there was a sense there. And I don't know that I had.

PRABHAKAR, Rajiv  
Did you have to delete the tweet out of interest?

PAF 1  
I think they decided not to because it had already gone out into the wild and therefore looked to so I didn't … I mean it wasn't, you know, it was a reasonably innocuous that I didn't think anything of about it.

And it must have passed across the chair, and I didn't, you know, tag the committee in. I didn't do anything like that, but I must have expressed a view.

But maybe I was expressing a view on the bill. And I was involved very much behind the scenes on that bill.

And I'm suspecting the tweet was sort of on the, you know the appropriateness of doing something like that at a time when we're all trying to make our feelings know, you know, hasn't Parliament got a better use of its time? Obviously, you know, politically loaded.

PRABHAKAR, Rajiv  
Were you surprised when you got picked up?

PAF 1  
Yeah, it just never dawned on me that it would be problematic. And maybe that's just because I was a bit

PRABHAKAR, Rajiv  
Did it affect how you behaved during the fellowship after that again?

PAF 1  
Yeah, yeah, I did. I felt a bit down about it actually from being honest …

It just never dawned on me that it would be problematic. And I just felt like a little bit of a schoolboy that had been taken in front of the headmaster. If I'm being honest. And it was almost certainly 80% my own fault, but just not thinking it through properly, but yeah.

PRABHAKAR, Rajiv  
Just picking up on that then do you have any advice or suggestions? With their parliament hat on and the other is with their academic hat on.

PAF 1  
Do you know? I don't know that good advice, but I think it is something that they increasingly need to, you know, to think about because I mean, as you, you will know, there are in all areas of academic life.

But prolific tweeters and people who rightly or wrongly blur the boundary between academic material which works with always have in many cases will be politically laden and purely political, and, you know, view viewpoints, and I suspect the rules that they have got unless they've been changed and or this ought to be part of the formal induction process.

PRABHAKAR, Rajiv  
Were you aware of any rules?

PAF 1  
I think I was. I think I had them pointed out to me after I had done it, but I'm not well. I mean it will have been in a package of stuff, you know that's hidden. You know as well as we have in universities. You know, there hidden in the regs and click on this link for more and read it and you go oh \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* yeah. Oh of course it's in there. So I so there's no issue with them after the event making up some sort of no it was clear that I that there was a rule that.

Do not that I shouldn't be whatever it was I was doing. I just haven't. I had not thought it through or had thought it through and thought this surely can't be a problem. Yeah, it just made me feel a little bit.

PRABHAKAR, Rajiv  
Did that change your attitude to the fellowship?

PAF 1  
Yeah. I suppose I suppose well. I found the fellowship difficult if I'm being honest, because and I don't really know why and I don't know.

I'm going to say who's fault it was. I don't really mean fault. But where the problem was, you know whether it was me, whether it was the committee, whether it was the people on the committee, whether it was just the time I suspect it was the timing I think.

PRABHAKAR, Rajiv  
Yeah.

PAF 1  
It's always difficult to run any sort of thing like that where you're just doing it simply down the screen like you're like, you know, like you're like we're doing today. So I'd never, I say I never went in. I never met any of them. I do all my dealings were, you know, were remote. And so I felt remote. I didn't ever feel part of the Committee.

I just sort of and I think possibly the problem was either me not thinking what is this going to involve before I embarked on it all the committee not having a very good idea of what I could be used for. I've no idea whether the committee had previous paths. Obviously some presumably some committees have a long track record and have got used to it over three or four years. And so when you're the 4th in place, the first three have sorted out all the problems and you have a much better ride.

Do you know I've literally just thought this, this, this, this last few seconds. And so whether I was new to the scene.

And they didn't know what to do with me and I didn't know what to do. It was more a matter of taking initiative. That was one of the problems I struggled with a little bit.

PAF 1  
It was, it was. It was isolated. It was. I think it was a matter of two, a combination of probably not unique, but very, very rare things which was that change in work pattern which is which actually is a, you know, as we've discovered, was in place before. But I think and I think we thought he was going to be and I thought I would be back it. So when I started there was certainly talk of ‘oh we'll probably be able to get you in by the summer, will probably get you in by the autumn’ … so this was not the fault of the committee. This was all the parliamentary estate and obviously very good reason.

But I started under the belief that I probably, oh yeah, cause when I applied I was having to get agreement from my head of school that he would fund a once a week. Trip down to London. Yeah, I'd all. I didn't need to get into my research budget to stay cause I've got mates in London, so I was just going stay the night with them. Sort of a weekly rotation, but I needed to get clearance that he would cover.

I think I was going go down once a week. That was the plan. And I was going to go down on Tuesday night work all day Wednesday come home Wednesday night.

That never happened, but it was all even when I was interviewed, that was the plan that that would soon be able to happen. And then it was. Oh, it won't be the summer. It will be August. It will be August. It's November. And by the time it was opening up in January, I probably had, you know, six weeks to go. And I thought, you know what I can’t really be \*\*\*\*\*.

Which is reflecting badly upon me, but by then it was just sort of petering out anyway. So that that's problem one if you like. And then problem two, the work plan that I'd agreed very, very soon became surpassed because within.

So in March 2021, the government announced this massive new bill, which haven't been on the scene in the in the previous when I was applying and by absolute chance it is exactly my research area. That's what I have researched for 20 years of my life is. So I was absolutely in the right place. So my work then just became helping the committee … So my they were my points of contact throughout the whole of the year. So they would bounce stuff off me. So as a result it became quite ad hoc.

So I would sort of. So I didn't ever work one day a week …It was sometimes I would have to work quite a bit for a week. And other time  
I wasn't doing anything, but there wasn't really much else. The committee was doing at the time because this bill and a couple of others was their absolute focus for sort of 6 to like. It took almost a year to go through almost exactly the year I was there. It was the year it went through Parliament, so I was sort of on hand, I suppose, for them to bounce ideas off.

I helped, I helped with. So they have three or four evidence sessions. I help with some of the questions for that, with getting witnesses for that. They bounced report, you know, parts of reports off of me. The other thing that was oh yeah. Forgot was also the government decided to reform the XXX Act, which is my other area of research. So they were writing reports on that. So I was able to help them on that. So neither of those had been on the scene when I applied in the autumn. So it became much more ad hoc.

And very much sort of quite unstructured. And so I didn't. Yeah, I didn't. I didn't a go down ever. And B … t would be. God, we've got to write this thing by tomorrow morning … could you give you know at 6:00 o'clock at night. And now that's fine. That's not a problem at all. It was lovely to be close to what was going on but it did mean that.

I didn't know whether I should be saying look, is there anything else we to do? Can I do this? Can I do that? And I don't know whether how easily the committee felt. God, we've asked him loads of stuff this week. Look, we can't. So that and we never really explored that which with hindsight it was a bit foolish, but you sort of think it's going be short lived. And by the time you're four months I think I've got we really should have sorted this out four months ago. It's now too late because I'm sure this is going to be over and of course it's still carries on.

PRABHAKAR, Rajiv  
What's your main point of contact your supervisor? The clerk?

PAF 1  
No, no, very, very rarely was the clerk. It was the others … as part of their advice giving role so they do the absolute legwork on almost all the Committee reports, and I might dealings with them.

PRABHAKAR, Rajiv  
All right. So just to clarify, did you have a Parliamentary supervisor?

PAF 1  
I did it was the clerk of the committee. Yeah.

PRABHAKAR, Rajiv  
But most your dealings were with the others? Is that what you're saying?

PAF 1  
Yeah, yeah.

PRABHAKAR, Rajiv  
How often did you meet your parliamentary supervisor? The clerk.

PAF 1  
Well. Was going go. I think we might have one meeting halfway through we might have had two, we have very little I had very. And I don't know whether I should have. Yeah, that that was very much part of the problem. I felt a little bit floating around and I didn't know whether I was being of any. It was impossible for me really to tell when I was being very useful to anyone, or whether I was actually just a hindrance  
I mean, I've got no feedback. The others were always smashing and in fact, the clerk was as well. But I felt quite rudderless for most of the time.

PRABHAKAR, Rajiv  
OK, that's useful to know.

PAF1

And I suspect my experience is not common that I think just by the nature of what was going on dealing with the very thing that my academic life has been, so being somewhat on tap, I suspect. Doesn't happen very often. I mean, it was just. It was fantastic to be at the heart of this thing as it was going through. And I sat here in on, you know, a couple of the evidence sessions, but the after the event evidence sessions, you know where the committee is meeting and I was able to sit in on those … I tell you what I was surprised about, and this is sort of naivety on my side is when you're working for a Select Committee, is how much work is done by the clerk and the officials. And how little contact I was going to have with the Select Committee. I mean, I would be amazed if any member of that committee basically know who I was. They I never met any of them. My name appeared on a couple of reports, you know, sort of, you know, with thanks to sorts of things.

But, that was it. And I, I suppose, as I thought, I was going be more involved with the political side rather than the but that you know that again, that's my. But maybe that's something that could be fleshed out for people, but that's partly my area. I knew. Yeah. And that that would that that was a bit strange.

PRABHAKAR, Rajiv  
Sorry … just following that. Based on your experience, then what do you think is the best way of supporting fellows? In terms of fast, fast work in catch ups or addressing the sort of challenges you faced if you were advising.

PAF 1  
I would. You know, regular catch up meetings.

Um, I mean to come back. I did. I did see the clerk every week because we have Monday morning meetings and I don't know where all committees do this, but they had a Monday morning, meeting for an hour.

And I always went along to those, even if my work was never going to be discussed. I just thought it was, you know, important for me to be involved. And every now and again, I put something in the chat if it was something that I had got some sort of, you know, experience on. But I had an idea of what was going on. And that was so. So there was a sense in which I wasn't just left. So every week I was seeing the clerk who chaired it and the rest of the committee. But none of those that was not a how are you doing, let's have a chat with you. That was me being part of the committee.

So I wasn't totally rudderless, but I didn't have much sense you know, steering from the clerk. But I was happy to be steered by the people I was, you know, dealing with. But whether it would be more.

I didn't really have an idea of how I could increase my value to the committee if that if I could have done, whether they wanted me to be more proactive for a lot of the time this is I I'm sort of bit. I've thought about this. I've never really. I was always wondering. God, do they think I'm really lazy because I only ever do stuff if they ask me to do it? I'm not. I did. I think a report for the House of Commons library with one of the with the librarian there. Hope my name is on in terms of output. I've got that.

But it was far more responsive and reactive. That was the nature of the task that that committee was facing and I for a long time, I did keep thinking, God, do they do they think I should be being more proactive? I don't know how to be. I don't know what I can do. I just wish someone would tell me whether I'm doing, whether I'm being useful or whether I'm being.

Whether there's more they would like from me all to do and that was quite difficult at a personal level because normally an academic life, we do just bumble along. But we're a good judge of our own worth, perhaps. And when you're doing sort of and it's not consultancies, but where you're doing work that's very alien to your normal work and for a sort of a group of, you know, a client that is not your normal academic client, it's very difficult. I found it very difficult to read the room.

And to work out whether what I was doing was good, useful. Did they want me to do more stuff? Did they want me to be more proactive and I felt a little bit in a rut  
Yeah, I could have done with more direction.

PRABHAKAR, Rajiv  
Just following that, would any face to face meetings have helped?

PAF 1  
I think what would have helped me would have been to have gone into the building rather than a do you mean a face to face in person rather than? Yeah, I think so, undoubtedly

And I think, you know, we're obviously, hopefully we're never going to face the pandemic. We're faced again. I mean, I'm assuming that they're back, people are back in the workplace now at Parliament. So it was just a bad quirk of the wrong time. Wrong person.

But I do think if there is a move towards, as there is in most workplaces greater home working, I think somebody like a PAF coming in is going to be even more adrift because they haven't met anybody.

The committee had largely worked for X number of years, all knowing it, so the fact that they will then move to their own homes didn't matter to them because they'd all known each other.

Um, so when you're new, what you really need is to go in and meet people and get a sense of the physical layout and stuff like that. So I think, yeah, that would have been, it would have been really, really useful. There was, they had an end was really lovely. They had an end of year because it had been so, yeah. So \*\*\*\*, they had an end of year picnic at the end of July, but I couldn't go cause I got tickets to go to latitude that very Thursday.

And so that I said, at least it was the only day that most of them guys had free. It would be, really, I'm afraid I can't. So I missed the chance. So they were trying to and that would have been a really lovely. I think they just went down to Green Park. And all, you know, all brought some food and drink and had a couple of hours and it was a real shame that I didn't cause I only been there three months and I still had quite a lot of time still to go, yeah.

PRABHAKAR, Rajiv  
And you've touched upon one thing already. Do you know any of the any outputs or out impacts?

PAF 1  
I don't know whether it's had any impact when I do not had any impact and had none because the Committee reported and my name is on that and the government just decided to ignore it. You know it's report. So my name is on a couple of things.

One of the things I was due to do and this was part of the work package was to host a one day session in Parliament, where I was going get … some activists and some protesters that I know, it's gonna talk to them about what it's like to, you know, that that, that didn't even happen. So that was one of the work plans that never. And I didn't ever chase that up because we perfectly honest, I thought this is going to be a nightmare to try and organise. But I know that one of the things you're meant to try and do is have that interface. So I put it on my application and rather luckily was never asked to deliver on it in terms of the rest of the impacts.

And again, I don't know whether this is usual, but my fellowship came to an end and   
I think the bill hadn't quite gone through. And I think it was due to finish its parliamentary passage …So there's another month or six weeks still to go.  
And I offered to stay on, I said, you know, it's going to be any help. There's going to be other big stuff. And they said no, it's not. It's a year. We can't extend it. So it just, you know, it just came to an end.

And that was sort of it actually. One of them I got on with you know really cool, I got on very well with all of them. But one of them has moved on. But what's one of the two remaining ones I got on really very well with.

And out of the blue, he emailed me six months ago asking if I give them some help on something which I did. Quite happy to. Again, there's been another that'd be great. There is more, you know this, but there's been another raft of XXX legislation that's gone through Parliament. And so they were faced with the second round of … laws. So he just asked if I'd got any views on. X&Y said. Yeah. But you know, so I sent him some thoughts.

So I had that. I've had that very little sort of catch up, but basically it was a bit strange. I just sort of left and that was and that was it. I don't think I even had a sort of a debrief. I think I was meant to.

PRABHAKAR, Rajiv  
Okay.

PAF 1  
A might have filled something in, but you're the first person I know. You're not connected with who's sort of asked me anything about it. I just sort of went. It was not finishing work on a Friday, and you go it was. It was quite strange.

PRABHAKAR, Rajiv  
Yeah, this isn't your exit interview, by the way. Don't worry.

PAF 1  
No, no. And I don't think I if I had one.

PAF 1  
It was very short and very sort of formulaic and any problems, no, not really. Cause I was I was. It was. It's a it was a bit hence me being able to slightly to unload to you cause it's quite awkward to unload for the.

PRABHAKAR, Rajiv  
No, this is it's very useful. Very. I'm really pleased. It's very useful.

PAF 1  
Because if I did have an exit interview, it would have been with the clerk of the committee, and I think it would have been really awkward.

PRABHAKAR, Rajiv  
Yeah.

PAF 1  
Maybe it shouldn't have been, and maybe they needed to know. I would have found it really awkward to say the sorts of things that I'm saying to you about feeling a bit cut adrift, so I suspect my advice if this is going be one of another question of yours, is if they need to have a system of this and it needs to be with someone who's not connected with the committee to get some feedback on how the you know what it's like at work. You can never say it to you. Nobody's going to say to their boss, by the way: ‘You've always been a bit of a \*\*\*\* to me’.

PRABHAKAR, Rajiv  
Yeah, yeah, I understand. I understand.

PAF 1  
You know, it's just never going to happen, is it? And I'm not saying this is, this is a long way back. You know, you'll never going to say that. So if I did have any sort of end of the path chat, it was. Oh wow. It was. It was a bit strange time, wasn't it? And maybe I've been nice to you. I'd like to be a bit more help, but I feel I've done these reports and things. And she just said and she then they were very enthusiastic and we're really grateful for what I've done. And without being too modest about it, I think I was able, using my … experience to help them.

Quite a lot on some stuff, so I think the reports that they did and the, you know, the questions that they put to witnesses you know were better for me being involved.

But it did it, it did. It just sort of ended and that was it. And I'm not expecting Christmas cards for the rest of my life. But you know, there was a sense in which it had just gone. Yeah.

And I don't know. I no longer now think about it. You know, you're I don't think I think thought about it in a year and a half till I got your e-mail and I thought oh yeah I was wasn't I. And it is this is.

PRABHAKAR, Rajiv  
Has the PAF had any impact on upon your career or when your academic work.

PAF 1  
I couldn't point to something, but I suspect it has. Reinforced. Sort of stuff. Yeah. I mean, I was certainly and I think this is the strange thing because   
I didn't think that much of it and I always thought of underplayed what I was doing.

You know non academic mates of mine, it was an absolutely amazing thing that I was you know, advising A parliamentary committee and part of that they just thought this was absolutely fantastic and is not just, it's not right. I'm just helping them. A few things with a bit you know bit as we all modestly do, don't we just help with a couple of reports and things.

So I think and I and I and I would always put it on you know, on CV, you know, whenever we're asked as we always are, aren't we to give, you know, not full CV. But you know, if you're getting a speech can you give us 55 lines on a bio? I always put on it that I was that an academic fellow to the Committee. I mean there’ll be a time in the future where I where I don't but because it's still within the last couple of years and therefore doesn't make it look like I was harking back to something and nothing's happened in the immediate I think if I'm still making something a bit in 15 years people think what has nothing happened to you in 15.

But at the moment I think I can legitimately still say so. I do. I do make great stock of that actually I think and I.

PRABHAKAR, Rajiv  
But wouldn't your university? Has it been valued?

PAF 1  
I don't. No, I don't think anyone's ever.

PRABHAKAR, Rajiv  
Really?

PAF 1  
Yeah, no.

PRABHAKAR, Rajiv  
Not even your knowledge exchange team?

PAF 1

No, I've never been asked to talk about it, no.

I'll tell you when I've ever volunteered as again. Maybe should have come back for me, but we've obviously been very strange times in the last couple of years, haven't we? And I always would volunteer and certainly when I, you know, as part of the exit process made very clear that if they want ever wanted someone to go on one of their roadshows and you know, I would do and all of that sort of thing and I would be happy to. I think it is an enormously valuable thing.

You know that we do as academics because our role as academics, it's got to be speaking to people who aren't just other academics. It's got to be, you know, playing a more rounded role within a society. And if one of the ways we can do that is to help the various institutions of Parliament's reach in quotes, better decisions, I mean that that's our job, isn't it?

PRABHAKAR, Rajiv  
Just one final question for me then. If you're going to make, I mean some of it covers quite answers you've already given, but if you're going to sum up anything about ways it could be improved.

PAF 1  
I think better.  
For me, so others may have very different experience better supervision and guidance, I suppose. I mean in, I think I suspect the people, you know, the clerk of the committee you know, is running around … fighting fires and all sorts of stuff, you know, like and any public, you know, woefully underpaid and doing the jobs of three people. So it's a massive expectation. That said, if Parliament takes it on takes this on, I wants people, to academics to go in and help.

Then I think it needs to, you know to accommodate. that it is a very different environment for an academic to be in that sort of world where we are sort of nominally reporting to somebody else, you know, as an accident. I don't write, you know, I do whatever I want to do. Nobody really says to me, could you write me a report on this if I want to write an article on it? I do. And if I don't, I don't.

So that's a very different and maybe Parliament doesn't parliamentary the knowledge exchange unit or whatever doesn't sufficiently take account of the fact that this is quite a different way of working for us. You know more regular and with specific tasks being asked to us.

Greater accommodation on their part to that this being of a different way of working for most academics. And to a degree better supervision is too strong a word, but just better interaction with and contact with and checking up with the PAF that everything is alright. Are they OK?

PRABHAKAR, Rajiv  
I'm on one last question then. If you could have, if you could do it again, what would you do differently? You personally.

PAF 1  
I don't know that I'd do it again.

PRABHAKAR, Rajiv  
OK.

PAF 1  
I was really luck coming in as I did at the right time to do this thing. But I don't know what I would do it again. I would I would make sure I knew much more what I was meant to be doing and what they wanted.

From me and I think the problem I think mine is almost unique. My problem was that because we had agreed programme of work almost on day one that got ripped up to deal with this ad hoc thing, but we didn't put in place a OK, this is this is what we want you to do. We want you to be on tap. Sometimes we don't need you. Sometimes we might need you to do quite a bit. Is that okay? Yes. No. Fine. Let's go.

I wouldn't have been able to work three weeks on because part of it I was on, I was on part of the fellowship. I was on research leave, so it was it was easier to work. So in fact, without, yeah, I couldn't work whole week for them, but I could have.

You know down top? Yeah, we work in the evenings. If they said look good, we've got this tomorrow. We haven't really thought about it public. Could you cast an eye over this? You know, I looked over stuff in the evenings quite happily. That was what was needed there. But I think my personal situation was quite strange. I think if you've got a work plan. I suspect it works much, much better. But I'm we moved off that very quickly and we never really put in place a Plan B.

PRABHAKAR, Rajiv  
Okay … I think that's a brilliant place to stop.