

POLICY PERFECTIONISM



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“We should seek only perfectly-crafted solutions that are supported by all affected parties.”

This argument delays legislative action by referring to potential regulatory risks, imperfect policy design or potential economic costs. It argues we need more and more time to make better and better policies – ideally at a very high level of ambition and coordination.

- If a policy aims to change things for the better, and it is not accepted by public opinion, it's arguably because the political communication strategy is flawed
- The potential loss of popular support is used to deflect responsibility. ‘If we rush policies, public support is damaged and we can't do anything’ – is not a valid argument when legislating for something you know is right and necessary
- Lobbyists play an unsettling and very influential role in policy-making and use a variety of techniques to delay or water down legislation which is not in the best interests of the small groups they represent. Look into the role of “think tanks” based in Tufton Street, London
- There are plenty of examples of good policy and collaboration between and within governments. These might not always be “perfect” but they're good enough, and have the great advantage of actually becoming reality

