

# Policy in a Crisis

Political Science

Deciding under time pressure and deep uncertainty.

*Pressures and safeguards.*

## Pressures

Incomplete and changing information

Pressure to be seen to act

Normal scrutiny suspended

Procurement and process shortcuts

Advisers with narrow expertise

## Safeguards

Record the reasoning and evidence at the time

Sunset clauses on emergency measures

Retain audit trails for later review

Build in review points

Independent post-crisis evaluation

Educational reference. Recording the basis for decisions at the time is what makes honest later evaluation possible.