

Consultation

Political Science

Involving affected people in decisions, meaningfully.

What makes it genuine.

Genuine consultation

Begins while options are still open

Provides enough information to respond

Allows adequate time

Reaches those most affected

Reports how responses changed the outcome

Common failures

Consulting on a decision already taken

Documents written for specialists only

Responses dominated by organised groups

No feedback on what was decided

Educational reference. Well-resourced groups respond more often, so response counts are not a measure of public opinion.