

Reaching across the aisle

Explaining the rise of All-Party Parliamentary Groups (APPGs) in the UK

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APPG characteristics

- Voluntary
- Informal
- Backbench driven
- Two types
 - Inter-country
 - Subject
- Externally supported



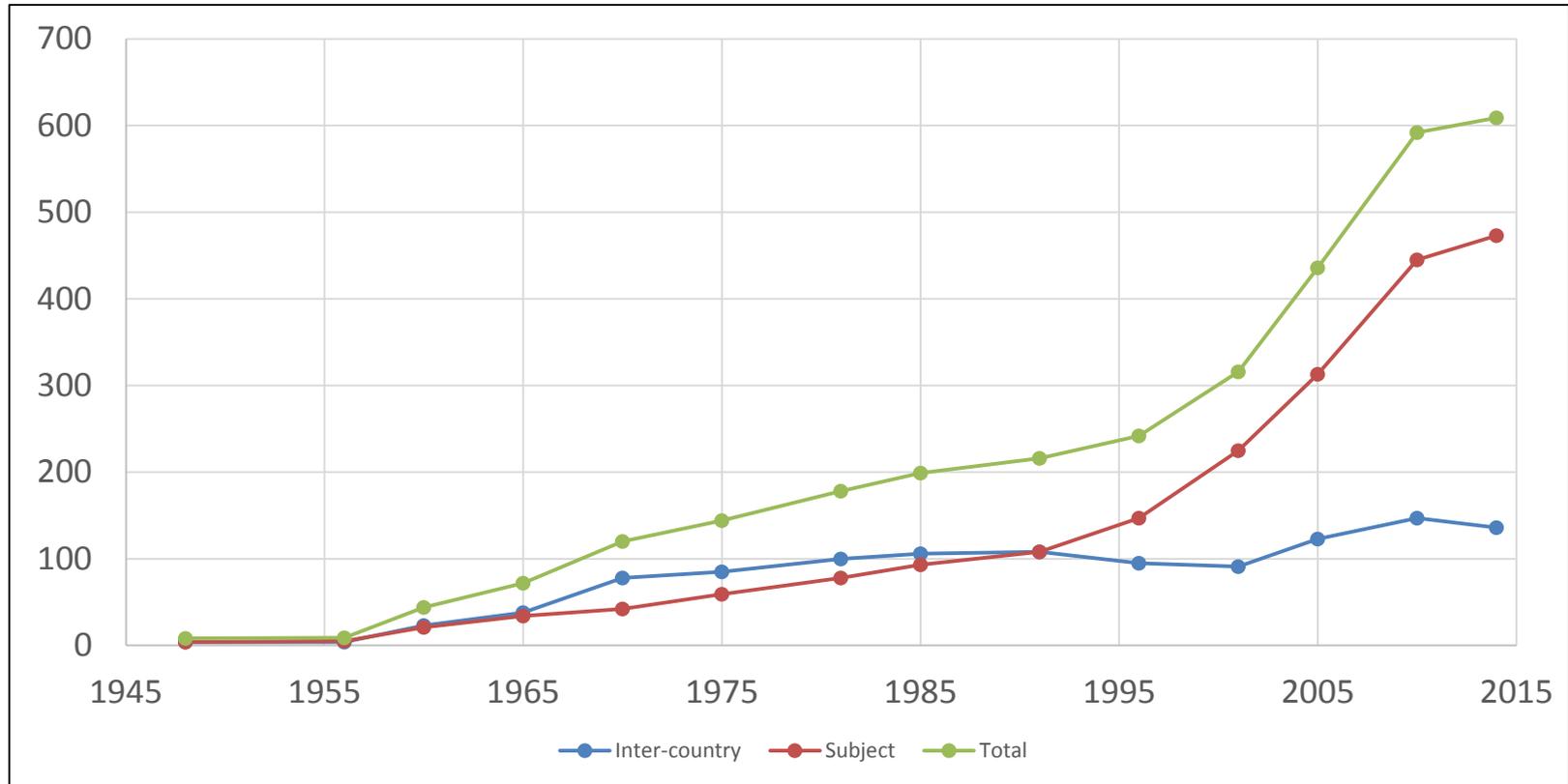
ALL-PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP ON
Financial Education
for Young People

Financial Education
& the Curriculum



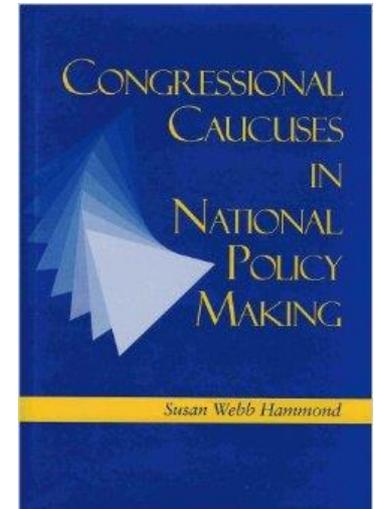
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APPG Growth in the UK



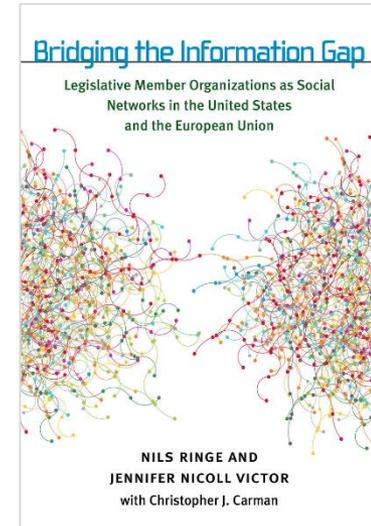
Existing research

- Little Westminster research
- Hammond (1998) on US:
 - Changing external context
 - Contribution to goals of members (re-election, influence, promotion)
 - Inclusive nature of Congress



Existing research

- Ringe, Victor & Carman (2013):
 - Solution to collective action problem of insufficient information supply
 - APPGs are network that shortens lines of communication
 - Rely on legislative subsidies from the external partner organizations



Shortcomings

- Factors seen to increase need for APPGs in Congress absent in Westminster systems:

“...there is much less need for political coordination in Westminster than in some other legislatures, given the primacy of single-party cabinets, the dominance of the legislative majority party, a pronounced government-opposition dynamic, and high levels of party discipline.” – Ringe, Victor and Carman (2013)

- No systematic account of partner organization influence or differences among partners



APPG rules

- Since 1985 must declare any contribution valued at over £1,500
- Applies to contributions made either in cash or in-kind, but don't need to specify precise in-kind value
- Must specify secretariat if there is one
- If lobby firm is secretariat, must identify the ultimate source of the funds



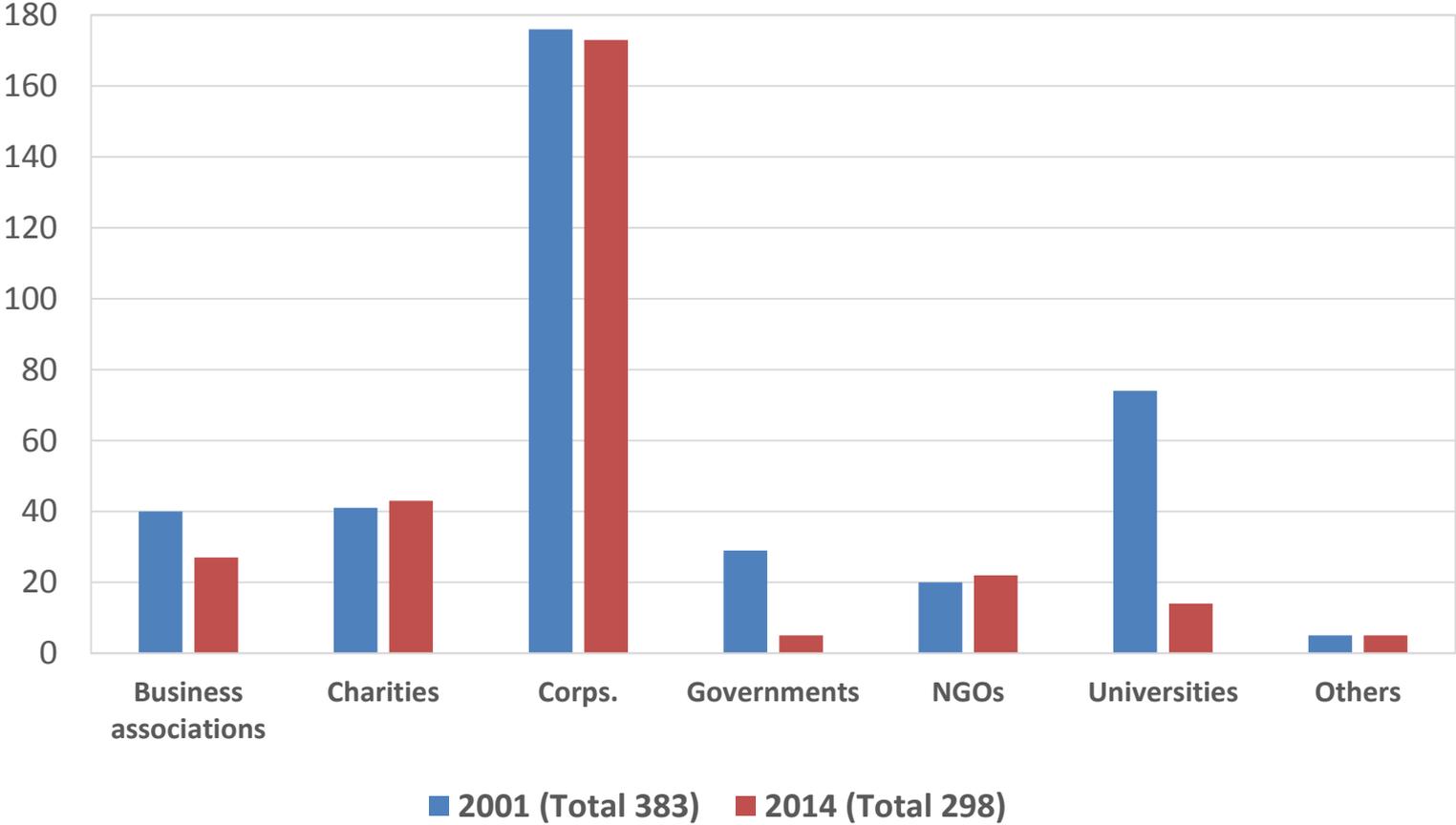
Method

- Compared external funding registered in 2001 with that in 2014
- 2014 data taken from parliamentary website
- 2001 retrieved via the Internet Archive
- Used webscraping software to extract information from APPG registries created by parliamentary authorities

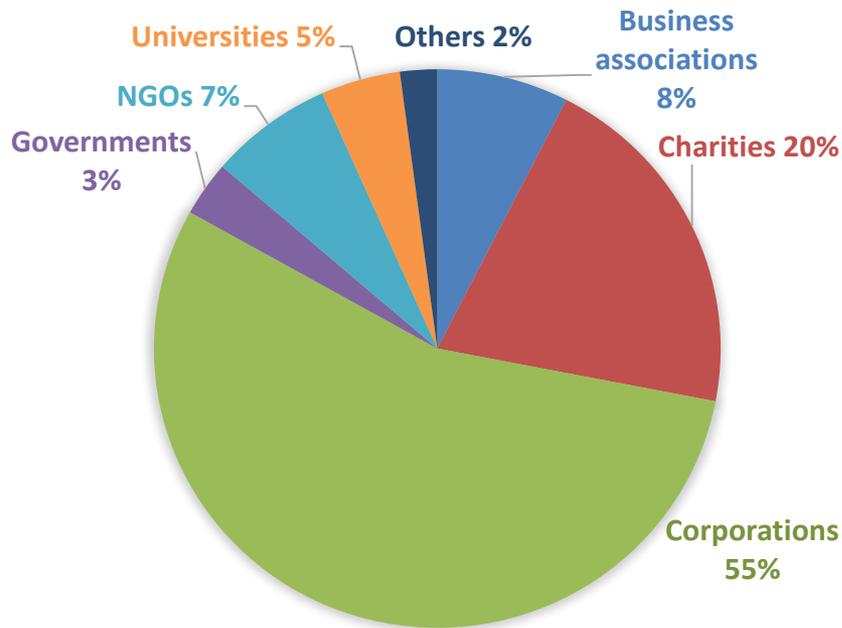


	2001	2014
# of APPGS		
<i>Inter-country</i>	29% (90)	22% (135)
<i>Subject</i>	71% (225)	78% (473)
Total	100% (315)	100% (608)
# REPORTING ANY FORM EXTERNAL SUPPORT		
<i>Inter-country</i>	18% (15)	26% (34)
<i>Subject</i>	80% (181)	80% (380)
Total	62% (196)	68% (414)
# REPORTING EXTERNAL SUPPORT WITH MONETARY VALUE		
<i>Inter-country</i>	8% (7)	6% (7)
<i>Subject</i>	16% (37)	12% (57)
Total	14% (45)	11% (65)
TOTAL VALUE OF MONETARY SUPPORT REPORTED		
<i>Inter-country</i>	£117,170	£102,894
<i>Subject</i>	£709,648	£1,802,157

Financial contributors by donor type

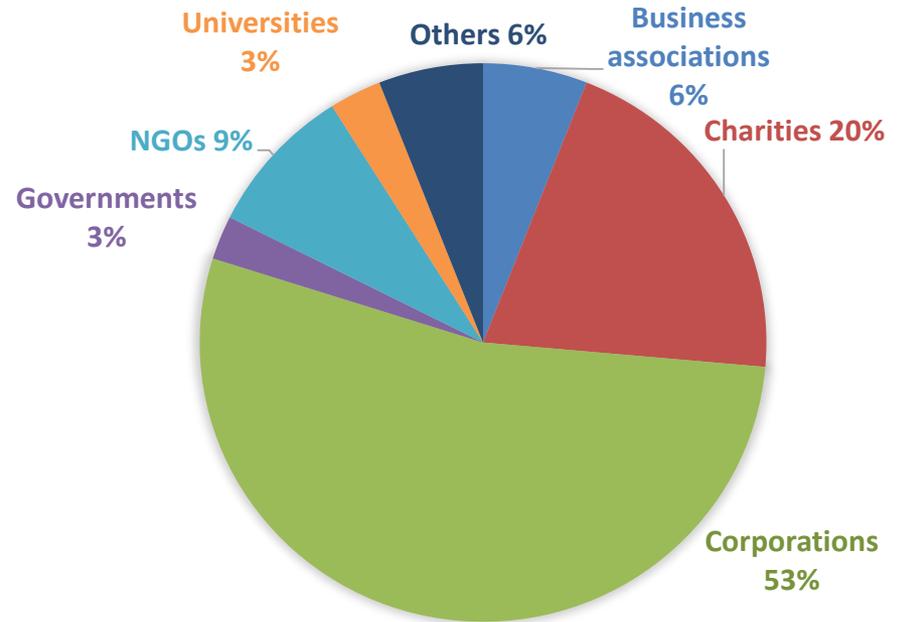


Total value by donor type



2001

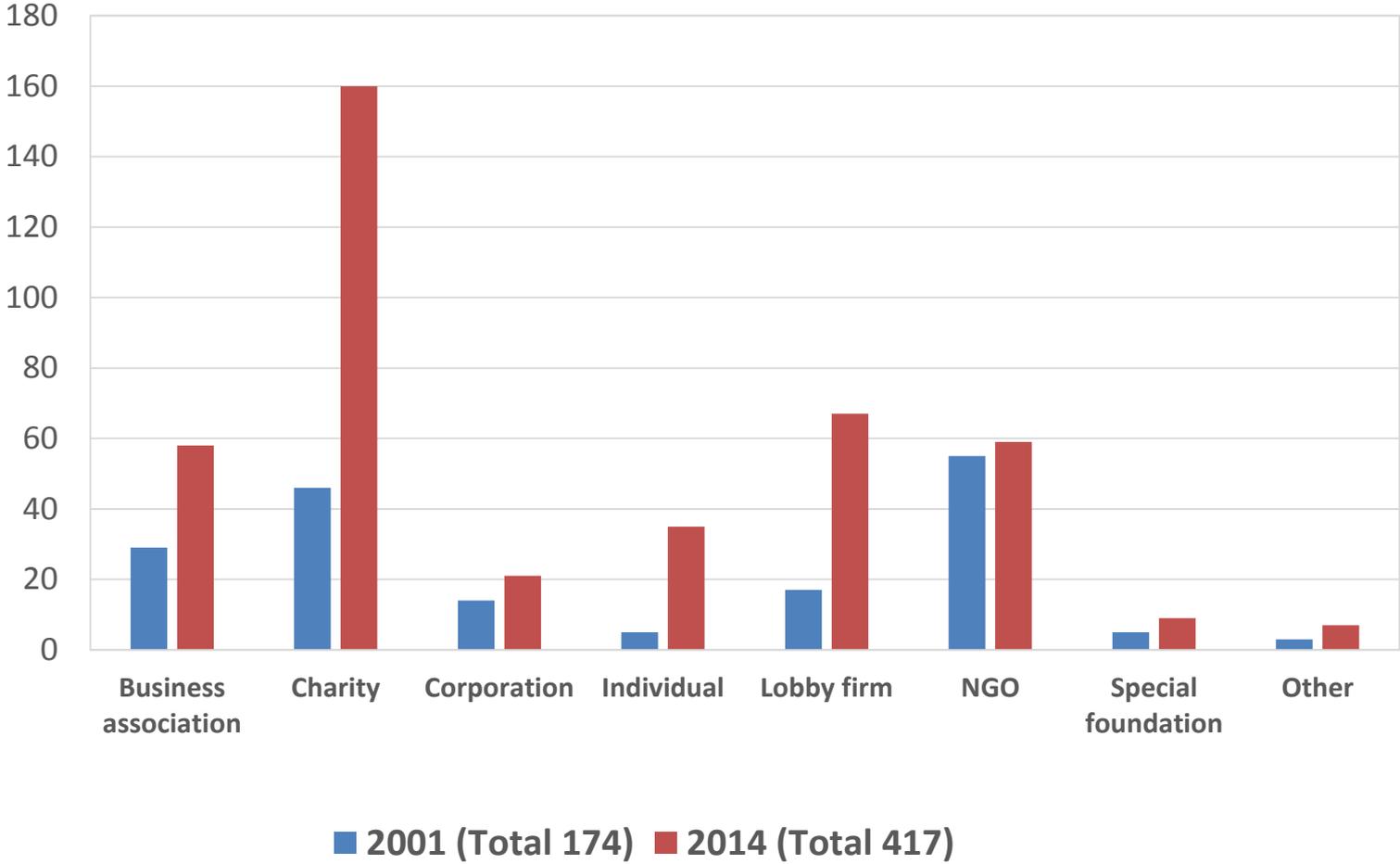
£826,845



2014

£1,905,051

Secretariat by provider type



Conclusions

- External actors do appear to be fuelling or at least facilitating the expansion of APPGs
- The proportion of APPGs with external support rose slightly between 2001 and 2014; now nearly 70%
- There was little change in the proportion of monetary contributions coming from each type of organization
- However, the mass increase in secretariat support from charities suggests that they have been the largest factor behind APPG expansion



Conclusions

- APPG format may be more accessible to charities:
 - Apolitical; relatively low cost
 - Serving as secretariat raises fewer questions than would same action by corporations
- Also possible that corporations have other avenues
- However, also a sharp jump in secretariats provided by lobby firms
- Lobby firms may advise APPG creation without being the secretariat



Thanks!

Questions?

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APPGs – activities

- Distribute information
- Meet with stakeholders
- Conduct inquiries
- Lobby ministers
- Introduce motions and legislation
- Some policy influence

