

<p>Institution: University of Liverpool</p>
<p>Unit of Assessment: 21 - Politics and International Studies</p>
<p>a. Context</p> <p>The Department of Politics maximises impact by interacting with a wide range of organisations and producing high-quality research of ‘real-world’ relevance. We demonstrate the benefits of our research and facilitate policy influence on a continual basis. Principal beneficiaries of the Department’s research impact are: EU and national government bodies; legislatures; policy-makers (ministers and civil servants) quasi-judicial bodies; and disadvantaged community groups in Merseyside and beyond. Our national and international level impact is complemented by work with local groups, who contribute to our <i>Diversity and Regeneration</i> workshops to advise us of the likely policy outworking of our research. The policy impact of the department’s work across our key themes of citizenship, migration and governance is road-tested and developed across a wide range of sectors.</p> <p>The impacts of our work, evidenced below and through our case studies, include: direct policy development and change; the broadening of the number and type of stakeholders in public policy formulation; and significant contributions to public debate on political issues. Funded impact events - seminars, colloquia, roundtables and media briefings - are based upon participation and oral and written input from the widest possible audiences, to maximise public benefit from the Department’s research. Beneficiaries are identified by departmental/University committees responsible for promoting research impact (see b below). External stakeholders, including ex-ministers, have been appointed as Visiting Fellows and inter-connected research institutes, to maximise reach. Impact activities developed from departmental research projects form part of processes of continuous engagement with user groups and relevant bodies, as evidenced in section b below: These include: the chaining of government commissions and professional bodies; oral and written evidence to parliamentary committees and policy-making bodies; seminars and workshops in which politicians, diplomats and the public participate; public forums such as the Europe in the World’s Liverpool Forum, in which community groups assess departmental research impact; regular media briefings and appearances; dissemination through journals with reach beyond academia; and use of social media and think-tanks.</p>
<p>b. Approach to impact</p> <p>The Department’s approach is shaped by three main ambitions: use of multiple forms of impact activity; extensive user-benefit at different levels of society; and sustained impact through continuous engagement with policy-makers, community organisations and other user groups. The strategic promotion of research impact is developed by a Departmental Research Impact Committee, working with School and University equivalents and containing four staff members and two external consultants. It reviews outputs for impact potential; oversees funding bids to promote impact; co-ordinates impact activities; maintains a research impact database; manages external relationships with users and supports staff impact activities. The Department utilises the institutional expertise offered by the University’s Research and Knowledge Exchange committees and participates in the University’s public forums such as its Policy Provocations public debating series. Alongside external research council funding, the Department receives dedicated School (Research Impact Fund) and University (Business Gateway) finance to promote impact e.g. policy seminar participation by opinion-formers/ministers/civil servants/community groups in the <i>Europe in the World</i> and <i>Diversity</i> seminars. We also promote research impact by utilising the University’s Heseltine Institute’s wide ranging contacts to develop links with public and private policy communities. The strategic appointment of Departmental Visiting Fellows, e.g. ex-ministers/PPS, such as Kilfoyle and Hesford, maximises reach, with Departmental staff represented on their think-tank, ExUrbe. External assistance to promote impact has also been obtained from commercial and academic publishing sources, e.g. from the journal <i>Political Quarterly</i> for the ‘In Praise of Social Democracy’ workshop and from <i>Routledge</i> and UACES for the ‘Revolutions in North Africa’ conference. Our multiple forum, continuous engagement, maximum benefit approach goes beyond knowledge exchange to demonstrate direct impacts upon policy formulation, via the</p>

Impact template (REF3a)

following methodologies:

i) The chairing of government bodies and provision of evidence to legislatures. Examples include: Tonge's chairing of the Youth Citizenship Commission, reporting to the PM, with most recommendations formally accepted in an official government policy response document; evidence to parliamentary bodies, e.g. Gillespie's contributions on Spain to the British-Spanish All-Party Parliamentary group; Tonge's oral and written cited evidence to the Irish Parliament's (Dail Eireann) constitutional committee on youth political engagement and to the Westminster Joint Committee on Lords reform and Scottish Parliament on PR-STV lessons from N. Ireland. Balch's advice to the All-Party Parliamentary Group on preventative measures on human trafficking was acknowledged in the subsequent legislation.

ii) Direct advisory roles on policy formulation, e.g. Harris's research into ethnically divided societies has been utilized by the NGO Advocacy Center for Arab Citizens in Israel in constitution-drafting; by the Croatian President and the Slovak Deputy Prime Minister (on Human and Minority Rights issues) and by Mayors in the Slovak-Hungarian border region. Harris is advisor to the European Research Council project on 'Europeanisation of Citizenship in Successor States of the former Yugoslavia', informing policy-makers on citizenship. Sives briefs UN officials working on Caribbean politics and Dolowitz has undertaken advisory roles for the UK Department of Health, the Scottish government and German Civil Service on political aspects of water management and political aspects of renewable energy management. Petersohn has advised UK government agencies and security firms on the deployment of private security agencies in conflict zones. Balch is an advisor to the Home Office on human trafficking and security chains.

iii) Oral and written evidence to quasi-judicial bodies, e.g. Tonge to the International Commission on Decommissioning (IICD), the Parades Commission (on dissidents and Catholic attitudes to Orange parades) and to the PSNI, MI5, the Garda Siochana and the British Army, impact reflected in e.g. the IICD's (2011) report and Parades Commission adjudications (testimonials available). Balch's 2012 report on forced labour was used by the Group of Experts on Action Against Trafficking (Council of Europe) in the UK implementation of the Convention on Actions Against Trafficking in Human Beings. Evidence for Petersohn's *Hired Guns* book was presented to the US Senate Commission on Wartime Contracting (2010).

iv) Conferences, seminars, workshops and colloquia, bringing together academics, policy-makers, opinion-formers and the public, e.g. shadow and ex-ministers spoke at our *Political Quarterly*-sponsored seminar on Labour's future (2012) following publication of the journal's Hickson-Hattersley article, the piece prompting public debate involving senior figures, e.g. both Milibands, between 'modernising' and 'reassurance' tendencies in the Labour Party (e.g. [NewStatesman 2012](#)). The *Revolution in North Africa* (2011) and *Arab Spring* conferences (2012) organised by the Department's Europe and the World Centre (EWC) attracted policy-makers; the European Commission's UK Head of Political Intelligence accredited the EWC a) for policy influence at our Lisbon Treaty workshop and b) for developing research agendas; ditto the Israeli ambassador in his 2012 visit. Work for learned societies has highlighted political research. Tonge's chairing/presidency of the PSA produced media briefings; an ESRC review of UK politics research and responses to government green papers e.g. to the *Governance of Britain*.

v) Inclusion of local pressure groups to develop research impact, via e.g. Harris's series of workshops aimed at the local community, the [Liverpool Forum: Diversity and Regeneration on Ethnic Relations](#) in Liverpool (Business Gateway funded). This formed part of the Department's ongoing commitment to work with ethnic minority groups (numerous representatives participated) in the city to demonstrate departmental research agendas on citizenship, migration and security and show how these affect local citizens and connect those citizens to our research and to policy-makers. Sives, for example, held Commonwealth-funded public research workshops for Jamaican Diaspora and Harris held events on EU regionalism, attended by government ministers, MPs and the Refugee Support Network.

vi) Extensive media work Staff have participated in more than 1,700 national TV and radio broadcasts since 2008, including agenda-setting outlets such as the BBC's *Today* programme, *World at One* and World Service. This extends to social media, where we have, along with the University, Facebook and Twitter accounts, to highlight our research activities. Harris organised a FCO-sponsored seminar/training session for Central European journalists on presentations of nationalism/racism in the region, supported by several national embassies. Petersohn appeared on

Swiss and German national TV/press regarding his work on mercenaries in conflicts. Tonge is a regular commentator for the BBC and other networks, particularly on topics relevant to conflicts in Northern Ireland. Gillespie's and Tonge's blogs on [The Conversation](#) have over 1,500 hits.

vii) Editorship of journals with policy relevance and reach beyond academia, including the commissioning of special editions on policy issues. Tonge co-edits the Hansard Society's *Parliamentary Affairs*, combining academics and practitioners on e.g. youth engagement, the training of MPs and ethnic minority representation; Gillespie's special issue of *Mediterranean Politics* (2012) developed through a workshop involving EU external relations officials and French and British diplomats. Harris sits on the boards of *Filozofia* and *Človek a Spoločnosť (Individual and Society)* which shape community activities. We maximise impact via publications in think-tank outputs that are crucial points of reference for policy communities, e.g. Gillespie's piece on European responses to the Arab Spring for the Arab Reform Bulletin of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, June 2011 led to widespread public debate (covered in all national newspapers) on how European governments should respond.

c. Strategy and plans

The strategic approach of the Department is being further strengthened to maximise and monitor research impact. Our Research Impact Committee is to be expanded to accommodate more external users, adjusting the balance to 50-50 academic and non-academic members and funding extended, on a competitive basis, for impact-related activity. Our future strategy includes:

i) Extending the Department's current impact database (of policy-makers, ministers, MPs) which is updated bi-annually to include a greater number of media outlets and think-tanks, with media strategy bolstered by the appointment of BBC regional editors as consultants.

ii) Further use of strategic appointments of well-connected honorary fellows to bolster impact, extending beyond ex-ministers to diplomats, e.g. recent appointments include Irwin, whose peace polling is funded by the Norwegian Foreign Ministry and who liaises with US diplomats, including Senator George Mitchell and Rihani, advisor to the Egyptian government.

iii) Six-monthly reviews of Departmental research impact by the Departmental Research Impact Committee and individual appraisal of impact, to assess evidence of policy influence; reach beyond academia; media output and future plans. These will further incorporate PGR activity in collaborative impact-related work, including internships, as a core element of research training.

iv) Production of an annual strategic plan on research impact, analysed at University level and by stakeholders to gauge the depth of impact and outline future approaches to impact, including the placement of departmental staff on University, regional and national think-tanks.

v) Achievement of further University-wide recognition of wider impact: e.g. via Tonge's Civic Contribution award, the Department's commitment to the local community re policy engagement and inclusion in activities was formally rewarded: our ambition is for the award to be retained.

d. Relationship to case studies

Our case studies reflect our commitment to continuous engagement with policy makers and stakeholders to help shape public policy; **Tonge's** case study on youth political engagement demonstrated ALL of items i) to vii) in Section b above. Academic research was bolstered by his chairing of the Youth Citizenship Commission and 'road-tested' with user groups of young people, to produce holistic analyses which have shaped public policy. The adoption of virtually all of his proposals on youth political engagement, retention of citizenship education as recommended and testimonies from government ministers and stakeholders indicate the effectiveness of such direct policy impacts and stakeholder input.

Balch's case study incorporated items ii) to vi) in Section b. His research was accompanied by direct policy advice, oral and written evidence to the UKBA, and workshops including contributions from those directly affected by human rights issues in trafficking and forced labour. The direct impacts, including enhanced monitoring of UK implementation of human rights responses, demonstrate the effectiveness of these strategies.

Both studies maximised impact via colloquia to assess the practicality of recommendations, prior to making direct policy proposals to government. Moreover, both collections of research and dissemination are still being utilised by government to inform policy.