

Institution: University of Surrey

Unit of Assessment: UOA 20 Law

a. Context

The School of Law's research focuses on policies and practices on topics such as corruption, corporate governance and business integrity, environmental nuisances that affect health and wellbeing, access to safe water and sanitation and human rights. The School is committed to linking legal frameworks, the policies driving the frameworks and their impact on the ground. This emphasis on linking theory and practice has resulted in activities aimed at the policy making and law making community, practitioners and civil society organisations.

The School engages with a range of end users, such as:

Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)/Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) National and International: academics – Professor Carr, Professor Malcolm - regularly liaise with CSOs/NGOs (Transparency International (UK), Transparency International in Berlin and Tear Fund), VIREN (Victoria Institute for Research and Development, Kenya), and think tanks such as IPAR (Institute of Policy Analysis and Research, Rwanda).

Media: academics regularly give interviews on corruption matters to national and international news. These include New Zealand Herald, Super Express (Polish publication) and the Bureau of Investigative Journalism.

International Organisations: staff also liaise with organisations such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the United Nations, (specifically United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)), and the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC).

The School's strategy has focused on the following types of impact:

Impact on practitioners: influencing standards and practice via workshops: The School regularly organises workshops with a range of practitioners, judges, NGOs and public officials.

Influencing Public Policy and Law: Staff also work with NGOs, government departments and international organizations on policy advice.

Organisational Impact: offering best practice through the provision of training seminars to NGOs/CSOs, journalists, barristers and NGO activists. The School ensures these users have access to the very latest understanding and research.

Early and sustained engagement with end-users is key to the success of impacting on practitioner debate, and policy driving (advocacy) work with NGOs and international organisations.

b. Approach to impact

Our approach to impact (2008-13) has been characterised by a culture of building relationships with law makers, policy makers and CSOs/NGOs. During the last five years we have actively encouraged our academics to develop and maintain working relationship with a range of stakeholders; as a result we have seen the emergence of a number of collaborations. These have taken the form of advice on policy initiatives, legislative changes, codes of conduct, approaches to survey methodology to inform advocacy, and knowledge transfer.

Nature and evidence of staff engagement with key stakeholders:

- **Professional Development**

Professor Malcolm's Continuing Professional Development training programme with the

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Chartered Institute for Environmental Health has enhanced the professionalism of the health environment services. Her work in the field of water and sanitation and collaboration with NGOs in Africa led to an input in the practices of the water providers in Kenya and Ethiopia in delivering safe and affordable water ('the virtual pipe network'). That work is now being delivered to sanitation providers in Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda.

- **Networks**

Professor Carr has advised Transparency International (TI) on a number of their surveys: Bribery in the UK, the National Integrity Survey and the Defence Companies Survey. She has also informed background papers for the UNDESA and taken part in high level consultations on the anti-bribery convention at the OECD and corruption in public administration at the UNDESA.

- **Training and Expert Advice**

Dr Dzehtsiarou has worked with the SOROS Foundation and the Norwegian Human Rights House Foundation to provide his expertise and training of human rights lawyers, activists, and journalists from Moldova, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Russia and the Ukraine on various aspects of human rights including the right to liberty. The SOROS Foundation's aim in Moldova is creating teams to monitor prisons and detention facilities in Moldova and publishing their findings.

The School sees outreach activities as core to influencing policies, legal frameworks and practices. Examples of our events include:

- 'Corruption in International Business' Workshop held at the British Academy in 2009, as part of an Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) funded project. The Workshop was attended by TI, UK, the International Chamber of Commerce, Confederation of British Industry (CBI), Serious Fraud Office (SFO) and a range of other NGOs working in the area of business integrity.
- 'A Europe of Rights' Workshop in 2012 which brought practitioners including Judge Dean Spielmann of the European Court of Human Rights together.
- 'Civil Society Organisations Fighting Corruption: Theory and Practice' Workshop held in 2012 which brought participants such as TI (UK), TI (Macedonia) and other NGOs together.
- 'Second Stakeholders' Workshop in Kampala' 2012, co-organised event focusing on water and sanitation bringing together professionals, public officials from local and state governments and NGOs.
- 'Greening Economics, Greening Society: What is the Role of the EU?' co-organised with CRONEM in 2013. Funded by the Institute of Advanced Studies it brought together policy-makers and think tanks.

Departmental Support

To support these approaches, an Associate Dean (Entrepreneurship and Innovation) was appointed in 2013, tasked with promoting research to external stakeholders and establishing collaborative relationships. This role is supported by an External Relations Manager.

University Support

The School is supported in its approach to impact by the University's Research and Enterprise Support (RES) team. As well as providing KTP expertise and support for consultancy, RES provides project management for the key partnerships and requisite commercial, legal and IP expertise to help enable the creation of impact.

c. Strategy and plans

Informed by a review of the impact activity since 2008, highlights of which are included in section

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(b), our strategy will be spear-headed by our Associate Dean (Entrepreneurship and Innovation) and be supported at all levels within the Faculty.

The successes in the period, particularly our longstanding tradition of close and sustained relationships with NGOs have informed the unit's strategy for achieving impact going forward. This is reflected in the following goals and plans.

Goals and plans to maximise impact:

- **Continued Engagement with policy makers and end users**

Ensure the research clusters continue to include practitioners, policy makers and representatives from CSOs/NGOs, national and international.

The School will facilitate this engagement through events such as workshops and maintain and build on long standing relationships, through the use of periodic updates crucially understanding their needs and outlining our research plans at an early stage.

- **Advisory and Consultancy service**

Continue to offer services that benefit our end-users as well as fostering sustained relationships. Professor Carr has been working closely with CSOs/NGOs and international organisations on issues relating to corruption. Professor Malcolm has been working closely with water service providers in East African states.

- **Dissemination and Communication**

Engagement with the media whenever the opportunity arises and develop our own database of contacts (for example interviews with newspapers). Continue to encourage publications in practitioner's journals; consequently enabling impact on legal judgments.

The above strategies contribute to the School's pathways to impact. The School is committed to engaging with all the stakeholders and enhancing the impact of academic research on public engagement and policy making and will adopt the following initiatives to encourage staff:

- Update annual staff appraisals to recognise and reward achievements in impact and recognise excellent impact at University level through annual impact awards.
- Increase exposure and dissemination of impact activity within the School through the appointment of an 'Impact Champion' reporting to the School and the Faculty Research Committee.
- Strengthen our alumni programme to ensure that our graduates remain advocates for the School's research and technical capabilities throughout their careers.

d. Relationship to case studies

The two case studies exemplify the approaches to realising impact in section (b).

Case Study 1: "Anti-corruption strategies and their impact"

Case study 1 is the result of research on the drivers of poverty, in particular corruption. This case study is an example of how research has contributed to legislative deliberations within law-making international organizations and influenced regulatory frameworks and informed research by NGOs devoted to advocacy and bringing about policy changes.

Case Study 2: "Improving public health and wellbeing through better regulation of statutory nuisances"

Case study 2 is the result of sustained work on public health problems that cause a nuisance and are prejudicial to the wellbeing of citizens. It is an example of the School's impact focused research strategy and the practitioner engagement ethos.