

Impact template (REF3a)

Institution: Edge Hill University
Unit of Assessment: 20 - Law
<p>a. Context</p> <p>The research activity of the unit is focussed on three research groups: The Criminology Research Group, The Legal Research Group and the Centre for Sports Law Research. Each group has established strategic research plans that recognise the importance of carrying out research that informs, beyond academia, professional practice within our specialist fields. REF3b presents two case studies drawn from the Criminology Research Group and the Centre for Sports law Research:</p> <p>The Criminology Research Group: Since criminological research was first established at Edge Hill University in 1983, the Centre for the Study of Crime and Social Justice (1983-2003) and its successor, the Criminology Research Group has sought to inform legal and public policy in the areas of social and criminal justice and to influence not only formal state institutions, but also to give a voice to those individuals and groups, such as victims of mass disasters, who feel that such formal structures have not sufficiently responded to their concerns. The Criminology Research Group has furthered theoretical understanding and challenged conventional assumptions of social issues, generated debate amongst stakeholders, improved public understanding of social issues and influenced public policy within its fields of enquiry. The Group's research is now focussed on disasters and emergency planning, anti-social behaviour, policing, youth justice and prisons. Its key research user groups are NGOs, police forces and the Home Office.</p> <p>Centre for Sports Law Research: Although the Centre is engaged with all aspects of the public and private regulation of sporting activity, its central research focus lies in the area of European Union sports law and policy. The work of the Centre has helped define EU policy priorities for sport, shaped the content of sports related legislation and informed the dialogue between the European Commission, sports stakeholders and Member States. The main research users of the Centre's research are the institutions of the EU, specifically the European Commission and the European Parliament, both of which have funded the Centre's work. Other research users have included the national governments and national sports bodies of Albania, Belarus, Turkey and Ukraine, the UK House of Lords and a range of sports bodies including the English Premier League, English Football League and the international football players' union (FIFPro). The Centre intends to strengthen further its links with the EU institutions but also work more closely with those who manage the interface between sport and law, such as national and international sports bodies and clubs, national governments and legislatures, and private legal practice.</p>
<p>b. Approach to impact</p> <p>Building on a Criminology legacy: The activities of the Criminology Research Group build on the success of the Centre for the Study of Crime and Social Justice (CSCSJ). The CSCSJ managed the Hillsborough Project, leading to the publication of Professor Scraton's (1999) groundbreaking book '<i>Hillsborough: The Truth</i>'. Although Professor Scraton has since moved to Queen's University Belfast, the submitting unit has continued to support research and engage with research users in the field of disaster management as evidenced by the work of Davis (Report for Lancashire County Council Emergency Planning Group, 2009). The unit is also building a new international reputation in the field of anti-social behaviour as evidenced by Professor Andrew Millie's work for the UK Home Office (2010) and the Dutch government (2011).</p> <p>Using the Centre for Sports Law Research to Engage with Research Users: In 2007 the Centre was launched and is directed by Professor Richard Parrish. The Centre's mission was to establish itself as an internationally recognised source of expert research and consultancy services for sports bodies, national governments and parliaments and, in particular, the institutions of the EU. Specifically, the Centre set out to assist the European Commission and the European Parliament with their preparations for the impending entry into force in 2009 of the new EU sports competence (Article 165 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU)). The Centre has worked closely with these bodies through the provision of research and consultancy services and via membership of expert EU bodies and, in doing so, it has helped define sports-related EU policy priorities, shaped the content of legislation and informed dialogue, including the approach to legal infringement actions, between the European Commission and sports</p>

Impact template (REF3a)

stakeholders and Member States. Key memberships and appointments include **Parrish** being appointed to the European Commission's select panel of 'Independent European Sports Experts' (2010) and his appointment as Specialist Advisor to the House of Lords Inquiry into Grassroots Sport and the European Union (2011). **O'Leary** is on the Sport Resolutions (UK) Panel of Arbitrators and Mediators, an independent dispute resolution service for sport in the United Kingdom.

Promoting Knowledge Transfer: Through the Annual Academic Return and appraisal processes, members of staff are directed by the Head of Department and the Director of the respective Research Groups to adopt post-publication impact strategies including organising practitioner focussed workshops, releasing news items with the support of corporate communications, and making our work available to key policymakers. In addition, in the current REF cycle, members of the department have significantly increased the volume of publications in practitioner focussed journals including articles in *Intermedia*, *Global Competition Litigation Review*, the *Sports Law Bulletin of the European Professional Football League (EPFL)*, *Sport Business International*, *FC Business*, *Sport and the Law Journal*, *Practice: Social Work in Action*, *The Justice Gap*, *Judicial Review* and *Policing: A Journal of Policy and Practice*. As is detailed in REF5, members of the department have a good track record of engaging with research users at both national and international level and maintaining links with them so that our expertise is sought. **Farah, Parrish** and **Rizzuto** have acted as experts on a number of European Commission projects and **Parrish** has submitted evidence to governmental and parliamentary inquiries at national and European level and has acted as specialist advisor to a House of Lords Select Committee inquiry. Following invitation, **Millie** has contributed to Lord Steven's Independent Review of Policing (2013).

Organising Events for Research Users: The Department proactively cultivates valuable relationships between academia and professional practice through the provision of fora for the exchange of ideas. With this in mind, in 2011 The Legal Research Group (**Rizzuto**) organised a workshop on '*The Lisbon Treaty and National Parliaments*' which brought together academics and a serving Peer within the House of Lords (Lord Norton of Louth). In 2012, the Centre for Sports Law Research, in collaboration with Brabners Chaffe Street Solicitors, ran an International CPD Conference on '*Football and the Law*' in Manchester. The sold out event, which attracted approximately 100 attendees, was strategically aimed at providing sports lawyers, professional football clubs and sports governing bodies with knowledge and understanding of contemporary issues in football governance. At the same time the event was used by the Centre to plan future research projects having gained an appreciation of the issues of concern for football stakeholders. The event was also used as a means of highlighting to research users future sector challenges that have been identified in our research. In its assessment of the event, the Solicitors Regulation Authority remarked "[t]he speaker profiles are the most impressive I have ever seen assembled" (SRA Monitoring Report, 01/05/2012). In 2013 the Legal Research Group (**Mariniello**) organised an international conference held in the Department on '*The First Ten Years of the International Criminal Court: Achievements and Challenges*'. The event brought together international human rights academics and practitioners and included a keynote address from the Vice President of the ICC, Judge Cuno Tarfusser.

Using Research and Staff Development Funding to Promote Impact: Members of staff have access to a staff development fund managed jointly between the Department and the Faculty, and an institutional Research Investment Fund for research-related projects. These funds not only support output related activities, but are also used strategically to fund impact related projects. The two events (described above) organised by the Legal Research Group received funding through the Research Investment Fund. Each research group operates a peer review system for internal and external bids and the Director of the group advises staff on funding procedures and the quality of bids.

Law and Criminology Advisory Panels: The Department operates two professional practice advisory panels, each consisting of legal (solicitors, barristers and a judge) and criminology professionals working in private or public sector organisations. Meeting two to three times per annum each panel advises the Department on developments within its respective sector and

Impact template (REF3a)

provides advice on curriculum development and research priorities. In addition, the Department regularly holds alumni events for those graduates now working in the legal profession.

c. Strategy and plans

In September 2013 we reviewed the Departmental research strategy. Whilst maintaining our focus on our three research groups, we initiated greater formalisation of these groups as a means of supporting individual research plans over the next five years. Specifically, an impact strategy is built into the research plans of the groups and researchers are expected to integrate impact strategies into each individual research project carried out within the group. Each group will prioritise and showcase at least one of these key fields of inquiry so that its work becomes synonymous with excellence in discrete fields and its reach and significance is valued by research users. In this regard, the Criminology Group will continue to generate impacts in the area of policing and anti-social behaviour, the Legal Research Group will influence debates in the areas of EU law, and the Centre for Sports Law Research will continue to provide internationally recognised work for the EU institutions concerning the development of the post-Lisbon EU sports strategy. To support this vision, each group will continue to **engage research users** at an early stage so that research plans can respond to research demand. This includes continuing our work with our advisory panels and alumni meetings, expanding our appointments of research users to visiting positions and seeking reciprocal arrangements with professional practice. The groups will also **build awareness of the value of our research to end-users** through the effective marketing of our research including regular communications via University marketing, maintaining a high quality web and social media presence and engaging with media outlets. Each group will continue to adopt post-publication impact strategies such as producing short accessible versions in practitioner focused outlets, providing free to use online resources such as fact sheets and research summaries, organising short courses (CPD accredited where appropriate) and public events (guest speakers, seminars) and through our community engagement programmes such as via our Law pro-bono clinic. Our groups will **cultivate impact** through such means as submitting evidence to governmental and parliamentary inquiries, contributing expert opinions and evidence to other public and private bodies, and seeking appointment to expert positions in the public and private sectors. We will **measure, evaluate and record research impact**, share best practice institutionally, maintain a contacts databases of end-users and ensure that our research groups revisit previous research activity to identify new impact opportunities. Finally our groups will **support and enable staff to achieve impact** through regular monitoring of Annual Academic Returns and individual research plans and by encouraging staff to access internal and external funding sources with the aim of generating impacts from existing research or supporting new projects with impact potential. We will place greater emphasis on research impact through our recruitment policy and for existing and new staff we will require staff (and PGR students) to attend the impact related workshops on the University's Research Capacity Building programme. We will ensure our research groups rigorously peer review funding applications to ensure impact strategies are in place.

d. Relationship to case studies

Our case study, *EU Sports Law and Policy*, best exemplifies our strategic approach to impact. The decision to establish the Centre for Sports Law Research in 2007 aligned our expertise with the needs and interests of key research users within the institutions of the EU. It also established an internationally credible entity showcasing our specialist research focus to research users with particular, and specialist, needs. The business plan seeking the establishment of the Centre placed heavy emphasis on anticipated EU funded research opportunities stemming from the pending ratification of the Lisbon Treaty (2009), a Treaty establishing sport as a new competence of the Union. Since 2007 the CSLR has gone on to work on many projects that have shaped the development of EU sports law and policy. Our expertise has been in demand from research users, either through restricted invitations to tender for EU projects or through requests to join expert panels or participate in expert EU missions to Member States.