Institution: University College London

Unit of Assessment: 21 - Politics and International Studies

a. Context

Political Science at UCL is both an academic department and a School of Public Policy. Its mission is to produce research of world-quality and policy relevance. It collaborates with policy-makers, makes proposals for policy improvement, provides policy materials and training and contributes to public debate. The *significance* of its impacts is attested by *direct influence upon policy,* illustrated not only in our case studies but also, for example, by **John's** work with the Cabinet Office Behavioural Insights Team on the design of policy experiments and **Russell's** long-standing work on the House of Lords, often cited both in Parliament and the media and with direct influence on appointment practices to the Lords.

The *reach* of its impacts extends to government departments, parliamentarians, non-departmental public bodies, voluntary and non-governmental organisations and the judiciary, both in the UK and abroad. A central role in securing such reach is played by the **Constitution Unit**, recognised by the *Guardian* as 'a semi-official guardian of constitutional good sense' in an editorial titled 'In Praise Of…the Constitution Unit' on 23 July 2010. However, as the examples below show, virtually all staff beyond the early career stage are active in impact, both nationally and internationally.

Political Science contributes to UCL's research impact initiatives, working with biomedicine, environmental sciences, European studies and crime science, one example being **Bellamy's** leading role in the UCL *Lancet* Commission on health and climate change (*Lancet* 373, 2009).

b. Approach to impact

Two principles inform our approach. First, impact is central to recruitment and staffing; second, it arises from serious engagement with policy-makers. Activities are both supported and enhanced by UCL's broader policy of securing impact through its Grand Challenges initiatives, Public Policy events and other impact-related activity such as Behaviour Change month, in all of which Political Science staff actively participate.

Staffing Policy

Impact, building on research achievement, is an important criterion for *recruitment.* At professorial level, **John** brought us one of the leading scholars of experiments and behavioural interventions in public policy and **Weale** strengthened a group of political theorists sharing an interest in normative theory and policy. Among our lecturers, **Melton** expands the work of the Constitution Unit, linking us to an international network of constitutional specialists committed to impact in the Comparative Constitutions Project. **De Neve's** policy interests complement those of **John**; **McTernan's** those of our normative theorists. **Esteve** brings us expertise in public management. **Pegram w**as appointed specifically to promote policy-relevant work and activity in UCL's new Institute for Global Governance. We have also recently appointed a designated administrator to work on our media and communications strategy, engage with the world of policy and broaden public debate.

Processes of *career development* also facilitate impact, which is built explicitly into criteria for promotion. Informal support supplements formal procedures. The impact section of **Vanhala's** successful 2013 ESRC Young Leaders award was developed with advice from within the Department. **D. Hudson's** consultancy work with AUSAid (see below) was facilitated by **Weale**. **Melton's** funding from the Indigo Trust was initiated by **Hazell**. As the first director of UCL's Institute for Global Governance, **Coen** has responsibility for **Pegram's** career development.

Visiting professorships and secondments support our policy links. Our current visitors **(Sir John Gieve**, **Michael Jacobs**, **Lord O'Donnell**, **Jack Straw** and **Tony Wright)** have given lectures and seminars, both within the Department and in UCL-wide Public Policy events and have advised on research priorities and individual projects. **Gieve** has worked with **Provost** (see REF 2). In addition, the **Constitution Unit** has a dozen honorary Research Associates (half senior civil servants) who help with research projects, conduct interviews, and contribute to books and reports.

Collaboration and Engagement with the World of Policy

Collaborative research shapes much of our research agenda. The **Constitution Unit** has pioneered such work with Westminster and Whitehall, as well as with the Hansard Society and the Institute for Government, designing impact into projects from the start. Policy-makers are consulted on research ideas and proposals and practitioners invited to project events, receiving regular

updates, drafts of reports and private briefings. They also attend high profile public launches. In 2010-11 **Russell** conducted joint research with the Commons Committee Office (supported by the Nuffield Foundation) and with the Lords Appointments Commission. Such collaboration is embedded in wider research links. Monthly seminars (average attendance 50-70) involve MPs, peers, civil servants and lawyers. Seminars are also held in Parliament, the Ministry of Justice, and the Supreme Court. For 12 years (1999-2011) the Unit organised the seminar series on Government Information Policy and the annual conference FOI Live (the latter for 300-400 practitioners). **Russell's** book on the House of Lords was launched in the House itself.

Beyond the Constitution Unit **Braithwaite's** ESRC project 'Shades of Grey' involved collaboration with the Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure. **Çali** has been a human rights expert for the Council of Europe since 2002 and a member of its working group on military justice and human rights between 2011-13; she has also collaborated with the Universal Rights Group. **Esteve** worked with the Catalan government; **Pegram** with the Association for the Prevention of Torture.

Further engagement with policy-makers is facilitated through *consultancies*. **D.Hudson** has worked with AusAID's Development Leadership Programme (now part of the Australian Department for Foreign Affairs) since 2011 on a project to identify the political conditions for development. The Cabinet Office has provided trial funds for **John** (£151k) for a two-year project on policy experiments from March 2012 and his consultancy report for the British Academy Policy Centre on *Nudging Citizens Towards Localism* was published in 2012. **Weale** was a consultant to NICE for a Citizens Council (3.11.11) meeting on the ethics of time-discounting in health resource allocation.

Such collaborations have had tangible effects. **Çali** has litigated cases before the ECtHR. **John's** work with the Cabinet Office Behavioural Insights Team has influenced the design of experiments on voting and court fines. **Russell's** 2011 "House Full" report, supported by 18 senior figures, helped slow down political appointments to the House of Lords, while her report on peers' professional backgrounds and expertise has enabled the Appointments Commission to fill identified gaps. **Weale's** collaboration with NICE led to a special issue of the *Journal of Health Organization and Management* (26:3) with international practitioner contributions.

Evidence Giving and Participation in Policy Bodies
Evidence to Parliament. **Hazell**, **D. Hudson**, **Russell** and **Weale** have all been invited before parliamentary Select Committees. **Hazell** gave oral evidence 14 times between 2008 and 2013, **Russell** 5 times. Independent analysis (http://whitehallwatch.org/2013/07/12/engaging-with-policy-whitehall-westminster-and-the-academy/#more-2969) shows that UCL as a whole provides unusually extensive oral evidence in Parliament and in meetings with Government: of 24 oral evidence sessions provided by UCL between November 2010 and July 2013, 9 were from Political Science. **John** has also provided written evidence to the Lords Science and Technology Sub-Committee and **Reh** to the Lords EU Committee.

Participation in expert advisory bodies. **Weale** chaired the Nuffield Council on Bioethics, 2008-12 and, as Vice-President Public Policy of the British Academy to 2012, was responsible for the initial development of the Academy's policy work. **Bellamy** was an external expert on European citizenship for D-G Justice Directorate C. **Coen** is an invited member of the Code of Conduct Committee of the European Public Affairs Consultancy Association. **John** is Member of Cabinet Office Behavioural Insights Team Academic Advisory Panel, set up in 2011. **Laborde** acted as an external expert for an international research network advising the EU Commission on the management of religious diversity at the European level (2013).

Specialist Support Material, Training and Presentations
Provision of supporting material. **Çali's** ESRC-funded research on the implementation of ECtHR's judgements led to her co-authoring the 'Handbook on Monitoring the Implementation of Human Rights Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights', the reach of which has been extended internationally through its translation into Croatian, Turkish and Russian. Through the Comparative Constitutions Project (http://constitutionmaking.org/) **Melton** contributes to a resource for those drafting constitutions, the project receiving funding from Google Ideas and the Indigo Trust.

Training for users. **Çali** has organized training workshops for judges and NGOs. **John** has participated in training events on behaviour change policies with 'Mindspace', Altyerre Limited and the Social Innovation Partnership.

Specialist Presentations and Policy Briefings. Staff regularly present their research to specialist

audiences. **Bakke** has participated in seminars at the FCO arising from her ESRC-funded project on *de facto* states. **Coen** delivered a plenary public lecture to the European Parliament and European Voice conference in 2009. **John** has given plenary presentations to the annual meeting of the Trading Standards Association (7.2.13) and the Department of Work and Pensions (15.4.13). **Mitchell** has spoken to the US National Intelligence Council. The results of **Reh's** ESRC Project on 'The Informal Politics of Co-decision' were fed back to a closed policy workshop at the Centre for European Policy Studies in Brussels (10.4.12).

Contributing to general public debate
Staff in general accept a responsibility to contribute to public debate. The **Constitution Unit** regularly give interviews for BBC TV, ITV, C4 News, *Newsnight*, *Today Programme*, *World at One*, *World Tonight* and *Week in Westminster*, and for R5 Live and numerous foreign broadcasters and correspondents. **Braithwaite** delivered the Joseph Lister Lecture at the British Science Festival in 2011 on public engagement with issues of terrorism. **Laborde's** interventions in French debates on citizenship led to her being invited by the Algerian national newspaper *El Watan* to give a public conference, which it subsequently published. Staff have also written for the *Bloomberg.com/news, CEPS Policy Brief, Civil Service World, Financial Times, Government Gazette, Guardian Public, Health Service Journal, Law Guardian, Parliamentary Brief, La Presse* (Tunis), *Prospect, Public Servant*, *Pulse, Sunday Times, World Today,* and *Die Zeit.*

Political Science is active in UCL-wide Public Policy events, with contributions from **Coen, de Neve, Mikhaylov** and **Weale**. In 2012 **Bakke held** a TEDxUCL talk on her work, sponsored by TED Foundation, a US non-profit body. She also participated with **Braithwaite, D.Hudson** and **J. Hudson** in a Beacon Bursary to showcase research to London's diaspora populations. As Director of UCL's European Institute, **Bellamy** has organised 7 *Salons Belges* since 2010 in conjunction with the Belgian Ambassador to London; diplomats and policy-makers regularly attend. **Braithwaite** and **Weale** have taken part separately in UCL's Bright Club, a regular stand-up comedy event in London where researchers present their research. Our **Policy and Practice** seminars regularly invites senior policy-makers, from, e.g., the FCO, the EU or foreign ambassadors in London to speak on policy issues.

c. Strategy and plans
We intend to build upon our extensive experience in securing impact by:

1. Ensuring impact as an important element recruitment and promotion procedures; in particular developing an impact-orientation among early-career researchers; supporting impact in grant applications and career development for staff; and involving Visiting Professors as advisers and points of contact.

2. Supporting the Constitution Unit's central role in UK constitutional policy; extending its work into comparative policy developments**;** and sharing its practices more widely in the department.

3. Building on our policy-relevant distinctive academic expertise, for example in behavioural change or normative principles and public policy, working with colleagues in other departments in UCL, aiming to link research to the world of policy.

4. Shaping the founding agenda of the new UCL Institute for Global Governance, housed in the Department, with its mission to bring cross-disciplinary research to bear on global governance, regulation and sustainability, interacting regularly with policy-makers and other stakeholders.

5. Supporting administrative staff with designated responsibilities for enhancing impact.

d. Relationship to case studies
Our cases studies offer clear evidence of significant policy impact stemming from collaborative research, a key element of our approach. **Hazell's** work on the Cabinet Manual (UCL21-HAZ1) shows an ability to anticipate issues from a close working knowledge of government. His work on FOI (UCL21-HAZ2) illustrates how the terms of specialist debate can be significantly influenced by research, which itself depends on regular contact with the world of Whitehall. **Russell's** Commons study (UCL21-RUS) shows the importance of collaboration rooted in a long-standing research programme on legislatures. **Hudson** and **Hudson** (UCL21-HUD) show how technical debates in Political Science about question wording can have a direct effect on the practice of policy-makers thanks to maintaining continuing engagement with the world of policy.