Institution: University of Hull

Unit of Assessment: C20: Law

a. Context
Our research is used by a range of non-academic bodies including: the local community; professionals and charities involved in development and delivery of a range of social services; consumers; businesses and social enterprises; policy-makers, national and international government agencies and regulators; courts and judges; citizens advice bureaux; the military; and users of legal services.

The range of users reflects the diversity of research fields, approaches and methodologies to which we are committed, and in particular our commitment to interdisciplinary research of local, national and international relevance. The nature of our relationships with these users varies. In some cases it is proactive and deep. For example, in some of the relationships described in our case studies we had regular and structured interaction with research users over a significant period of time, which included regular meetings, seminars, joint supervision of a project manager, and collaboration on research design and grant applications. Similarly, our researchers frequently take on consultative and advisory roles which can involve developing close relationships with research users. But, our research has often had impact serendipitously. Examples are the work of Mitchell (which influenced the Scottish Law Commission's Discussion Paper on Interpretation of Contracts in Scotland) and of Hicks (which contributed to a significant change in the direction of case law in *Sinclair Investments (UK) Ltd v Versailles Trade Finance Ltd (in administrative receivership)* [2011] EWCA Civ 347).

The types of impact produced by our work are also diverse. It has been used to: improve social welfare and inclusion; develop new approaches to the management of resources; improve the regulatory environment of business and media; improve environmental sustainability; develop 'alternative' mechanisms of dispute resolution; develop new professional standards, guidelines and training; improve the military's understanding of cultures in which they operate; and raise awareness of and change approaches to public service delivery.

Where we have achieved significant impact, this has often been from research conducted in one of our research centres; many of these centres have consciously made it part of their mission to develop relationships with research users and to articulate the public benefits of our research.

b. Approach to impact
In what follows, we will outline a range of ways in which we have engaged consciously with research users in order to develop impact from our research, in each case providing examples to illustrate and evidence the nature of these relationships.

- Giving research-based advice and evidence to bodies involved in shaping or scrutinising public policy: Harrison wrote a report for Circles of Support and Accountability (a charity providing risk management for high-risk sex offenders) resulting in them adopting an accredited volunteer training programme. Twigg-Flesner gave evidence to a House of Lords Select Committee inquiry on a Consumer Rights Directive.
- Conducting research in partnership with research users: In partnership with the Goodwin Development Trust (GDT), Johnstone secured a Big Lottery grant to study restorative approaches in the workplace. The research enabled the GDT to improve its complaints and grievance procedure. Harrison is designing, in partnership with Humberside Police and Probation, a large-scale evaluative project which will inform their efforts to develop a more effective approach to the management of sex offenders. Whitehouse is working in partnership with judges and court managers to design and administer a questionnaire on housing possession cases that will inform efforts to handle this major social problem.
- Establishing forums which bring together researchers and practitioners of law: Tzevelekos organised a 2-day workshop bringing together scholars, judges and referendaires from the ECtHR and the ECJ to discuss the accession of the EU to the ECHR.
- Presenting research findings at 'practitioner' conferences/seminars: Bielby presented his research on Ulysses arrangements in psychiatric treatment at the Royal College of Psychiatrists International Congress.
- Providing professional education and training: In 2009, Birkinshaw trained senior staff in the

Capital Markets Authority (CMA) in Egypt on the introduction of Freedom of Information (FOI) laws. He also advised top officials in the CMA on the modifications needed to a proposed law to comply with best international standards. This enabled them to provide necessary safeguards against over-disclosure in the area of regulating investments and to achieve openness and transparency whilst maintaining protection over commercially sensitive information. This was one of the first FOI regimes to be introduced into an Islamic state. Johnstone led a one-week Summer School (in Barcelona) in partnership with the European Forum for Restorative Justice, attended by 40 restorative justice service developers from across Europe, focused on practice standards; this is contributing to a European-wide development of practice standards for Restorative Justice. Shah has used his research to deliver military training which has improved the cultural awareness of senior military officers engaged in interventions in Afghanistan and elsewhere.

- <u>Bringing expertise to journalists and the general public through websites and other media</u>: Ward is an editor of the International State Crime Initiative website www.statecrime.org which is informing the media and hence the public about this little understood phenomenon (e.g. the website is attracting almost 6,000 page views per month).
- <u>Writing for 'house journals' of various professional and legal reform organisations/public media</u>: Johnstone has published in: 'Resolution: newsletter of the Restorative Justice Council'; Prison Service Journal; National Association of Official Prison Visitors Newsletter; Safer Society: the Journal of Crime Reduction and Community Safety). Harrison has written for the house journal of the International Association for the Treatment of Sexual Offenders. Tzevelekos has published in *Kathimerini*. Through this writing our research is enabling various groups – who would not access our more scholarly publications - to develop new approaches to professional work and practice informed by up-to-date research.

We have supported and enabled staff to engage with users and achieve impact from their research by providing time and financial support, from our research support fund, for activities – such as those above - designed to develop impact from research. Also, many of these activities have been supported financially either by research grants or paid for by the research users. For instance, Bielby was funded by the Royal College of Psychiatrists; the state crime website is supported by an ESRC grant; Tzevelekos' workshop was supported by a British Academy Grant. Johnstone's work with the Goodwin Development Trust and his Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) were funded by research grants, and the latter was also supported by matching funds (£56k) from Hull City Council. We regard activities designed to develop impact from research as income generators, and have been keen investors in such activity in terms of providing time and funds required.

We have used University-based facilities in order to develop impact from our research. An example is the KTP led by Johnstone, made possible as a result of detailed advice and assistance from the outset by the University's KTP adviser.

c. Strategy and plans

Our strategy aims not only to increase the reach and significance of the impacts arising from our research, but to increase awareness of impact throughout the lifecycle of a research project. The longer term goal is to ensure that potential impacts are identified and acted upon. To achieve this we are:

- Providing support, in terms of time and money, for colleagues to undertake activities designed to enhance the impact of research. The guidelines for our research support fund have been revised to emphasise this.
- Encouraging colleagues to identify potential impacts of research, and to include in their plans activities designed to realise these impacts when applying for research support funds and leave. Serious attention to the issue of how to develop impacts from a research project will be a essential requirement for an application for research leave.
- Identifying institutional resources for support with achieving impact, publicising and raising awareness of the nature of their work within the Law School, and where appropriate encouraging individual colleagues to avail themselves of these resources. These include the University's Knowledge Exchange, advisers on the development of professional education, and the staff development service (we will be encouraging and supporting staff to utilise a number of offerings such as media training). We are also encouraging and facilitating significant levels of participation in relevant events organised by the University.

- Fostering a more collaborative and interdisciplinary approach to research as our experience suggests that impact is more likely to be developed in this way (see part D).
- The Law School's research director has been appointed as impact contact in the School. Their expertise will be utilised to run impact courses and mentor and advise colleagues.

Also, we are putting concrete, ambitious but achievable strategies in place to enable our research to achieve greater impact outside academia:

- We are encouraging colleagues, where appropriate, to build in a plan for achieving impact from their research at the earliest stages of planning a research project. Planning a research project and constructing a pathway to impact will therefore take place simultaneously, as well as sequentially.
- We are encouraging, facilitating and supporting colleagues to develop research projects in collaboration with research users.
- We are developing and adopting mechanisms for ensuring that we can identify and evidence the impact of our research – again built into projects at an early stage.
- We are encouraging our researchers, and especially early career researchers, to work more as part of research teams.
- We are encouraging and supporting (financially and by providing time in our workload allocation) all of our researchers to take part in staff development activities designed to enhance their ability to engage with research users, disseminate their research findings in a variety of media and develop impact from their research. A Law School professional development course on 'Pathways to Impact' will commence in 2014.
- We will ensure that our monitoring and performance assessment processes do not create a disincentive by focusing upon narrow, output-focused criteria of research productivity.

d. Relationship to case studies

The impact described in our case studies tended to be developed from:

The dissemination of high profile research developed over a significant period

Marine Fisheries Regulation (MRF) was developed from the dissemination of pioneering research conducted over a decade by Barnes into the regulation of marine fisheries; Consumer Law Reform (CLF) from Twigg-Flesner's long-term development of research into European Consumer Law; Creating Wellbeing (CW) from Johnstone's research into the values of restorative justice.

Research commissioned by, or developed in partnership with, research users

MRF was developed from participation in the Commonwealth Fisheries programme; CLF from research commissioned by government departments; CW from research developed in partnership with Hull City Council.

Research collaboration

Our impact had origins in research initially developed by scholars working as sole-researchers. However, our case studies suggest that once the research was developed in a direction likely to develop impact, collaboration became an increasing necessity. There is in fact a two-way relationship here: collaboration helped achieve impact; but the process of developing impact in itself resulted in more and deeper collaborations.

The impact we have achieved stems from the approach described above. We have placed our primary emphasis on encouraging and facilitating the conduct and dissemination of excellent research. However, in our approach to support we have worked with a flexible definition of research activity which enables it to be easily extended to activity designed to derive impact from research. Also, as indicated in the environment element of our submission, we have placed increasing emphasis on interdisciplinary and collaborative research, and this has been helpful when it comes to developing impact. Our strategy for achieving greater impact in the next assessment period builds upon these observations. It is based on the recognition which has emerged from our case studies (and others planned but not submitted) that tracking and evidencing impact – even very strong impacts - is in itself a huge challenge. Individuals need to become aware of and keep track of impacts throughout the life cycle of a research project, and they need significant departmental and institutional support to enable them to do this. Hence, our strategy is geared towards both developing impact from our research but also on becoming better at recognising and articulating the public benefits that our research delivers.