

Environment template (REF5)

<p>Institution: University of Liverpool</p>
<p>Unit of Assessment: 20 - Law</p>
<p>a. Overview</p> <p>The Liverpool Law School (the Department) is a single-discipline department within the School of Law and Social Justice (the School), one of four Schools in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (the Faculty).</p> <p>This structure was created in 2010. The Department hosts 6 Research Clusters, which are the key structures for delivery of our research strategy: <i>Charity Law and Policy Unit (Charity)</i>; <i>Dilemmas in Health (Health)</i>; <i>European Children’s Rights Unit (Children’s)</i>; <i>Governance and Business Regulation Unit (Governance)</i>; <i>Human Rights and International Law Unit (Human Rights)</i>; <i>Liverpool European Law Unit (EU)</i>. Our departmental Research Committee defines the overall research strategy; seeks external advice on our research activities; maintains the research mentor/buddy system; and considers applications for “targeted research support” (all described further below). The School provides two key teams that support the Department’s research strategy: 1) Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee with oversight of research clusters, research leave applications, peer review of grant applications and applications by visiting researchers (all described further below); and 2) Finance and Research Support Office offering logistical support for events-based activity and grant applications. The Faculty provides additional support services: e.g. organising multi-disciplinary seminars; coordinating participation in doctoral training colleges; staff training on grant-writing and impact opportunities; financial support for KE initiatives. To assist in coordinating research policy across those levels of administration, the Head of Law and Law’s Director of Research sit on all relevant School and Faculty committees.</p>
<p>b. Research strategy</p> <p>The Department’s Research Strategy has four key objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To nurture and project our distinct reputation for research relating to social justice (see immediately below); 2) To maintain and enhance an environment which empowers staff to produce internationally excellent research (discussed fully in REF5c); 3) In particular, to nurture doctoral and early career researchers by placing them right at the centre of departmental life (also described further in REF5c); and 4) To maximise the impact of our research for actors beyond the academic community (dealt with in REF3a). <p>RAE2008 identified the Department’s particular strengths in socio-legal and policy-orientated research. The creation of the School of Law and Social Justice expresses our commitment to pursuing socially relevant legal scholarship and articulating more explicitly a common research identity. The Department has thus set itself the overarching research goal of critical exploration of the role of law in promoting social justice. Our research is inspired by key themes such as equality and citizenship, participation and inclusion, vulnerability and social responsibility – each of which may be understood in their domestic, European, international or transnational contexts – whilst also reflecting upon how such themes are themselves constructed and critiqued. This mission tallies with the University’s commitment to be “world shaping, life changing”, whilst also drawing upon the City of Liverpool’s longstanding tradition of promoting equitable social reform. Our “Law and Social Justice” theme is not intended to be exclusive or prescriptive. Rather, it encourages staff to identify common interests, garner fresh insights and build novel synergies, think imaginatively about new external collaborations, and promote the policy relevance of our work. On that last point, REF3a clearly demonstrates the central importance of the Department’s social justice agenda to our impact strategy and activities.</p> <p>The Department pursues its Law and Social Justice goals primarily through the activities of our Research Clusters, which generally play a central role in developing our activities and projecting our identity externally. They provide a supportive environment for all researchers to share ideas, develop projects and access networks. It is standard practice for draft papers to be</p>

discussed at cluster work-in-progress workshops: e.g. Horsley presented his work on EU judicial policymaking before delivery at the *Common Market Law Review* 50th anniversary conference and its subsequent publication (2013). The clusters also encourage research opportunities to be developed as joint endeavours: e.g. EU Unit coordinates its members' responses to public consultations at the UK and European levels (see further REF3a). Indeed, the great majority of the Department's seminars and conferences are organised through the clusters (full details in REF5e). The clusters also provide impetus, critical mass, experience and mutual assistance in supporting funded research/consultancy (as discussed in REF5d). Crucially, they are an invaluable **platform for active engagement** with research users through lectures, workshops and other KE events: e.g. Governance Unit organised a series of University "Policy Provocation" lectures / public debates (including parliamentary speakers) on the financial and banking crises (2011-12). Again, REF3a provides further details of the crucial role of the clusters in our impact strategy.

Research Cluster activities are overseen by the School Research and KE Committee which receives regular reports from cluster leads concerning activity and income to assist in monitoring performance. Annual reviews focusing on membership and future plans inform **strategic assessments about sustainability and investment**. E.g. the Feminist Legal Research Unit (referred to in RAE2008) was wound up in 2009 following the departure of key members and a strategic decision to invest in other priorities; the recruitment of 3 healthcare researchers during 2012-13 secured the future of the Health Unit, whose core membership had fallen due to two retirements. As such, a key element of our research strategy over the next 5 years is to support the Health Unit in developing its new research programme, based around a strong portfolio of cross-campus and external collaborations. There is a **flexible approach to cluster membership**, promoting the interchange of ideas and collaboration between groupings. Indeed, it is a great strength that cluster identities evolve fluidly to reflect emerging research interests and meet new policy challenges: e.g. Children's Unit was constituted in 2011 (out of the Centre for the Study of the Child, the Family and the Law referred to in RAE2008) to meet an identified research and policy gap in children's rights specifically at the European level.

When it comes to **inter-disciplinary research**, the Department's position within the broader School has brought real benefits: e.g. Charity Unit organised a series of workshops on the "Big Society" together with colleagues in Sociology (2012-13). The Department actively encourages cross-campus collaboration too: e.g. EU and Children's Unit staff are also members of the Europe in the World Centre (a Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence based in Politics); while Governance Unit works with colleagues at the Stephenson Institute for Renewable Energy (based in Physical Sciences). In the same vein, staff from several Research Clusters, in collaboration with colleagues from across the University, are now preparing to respond to research funding opportunities, particularly those generated through Horizon 2020, by drawing upon Liverpool's extensive expertise in the field of personalised medicine / healthcare. The Research Clusters also facilitate interdisciplinary research **nationally and internationally**: e.g. EU Unit's 2011 Citizens' Initiative conference involved UK political scientists as well as lawyers, whose work was published together in *Empowerment and Disempowerment of the European Citizen* (2012); e.g. in 2010, the European Children's Rights workshop by Children's Unit brought together an international team of legal and policy researchers, leading to publication of a special issue of the *International Journal of Children's Rights* (2011); e.g. the Critical Approaches to International Criminal Law Research Network, established by Human Rights Unit in 2012, includes legal practitioners, civil society organisations and academics in law, political science and criminology from right across the globe.

The Department feels confident that its **Research Strategy has already yielded considerable success in producing a diverse body of research of the highest quality**. In quantitative terms alone, during the REF period, current eligible staff produced in excess of 175 journal articles, more than 70 book chapters, 17 special issues and edited collections and 12 research monographs (not including other scholarly outputs such as textbooks, surveys and reports). Current eligible staff also delivered over 350 conference and seminar papers across the UK and internationally. Our Research Strategy is **regularly reviewed** at the departmental and School levels, with a view to sustaining the aptness and rich yield of our "Law and Social Justice" theme, as well as the focus and dynamism of our Research Clusters. A very positive University-led holistic review of activity was undertaken in 2012, praising our social justice work and research support systems, especially

for ECRs and PGRs (see REF5c). The next major external appraisal is scheduled for 2015.

c. People, including:

i. Staffing strategy and staff development

The Department implements a **range of policies designed to enable all staff to engage in internationally excellent research**. Every staff member maintains a 5-year research plan which provides the basis for formal discussions with the Director of Research as well as their professional development review with the Head of Law. All staff teach subjects which are at least closely related to, if not directly led by, their current research interests, with annual teaching loads confined to a “tolerance band”, e.g. 110-120 contact hours in 2012-13. During semester, all staff are guaranteed at least 2 “research days” per week free from teaching commitments.

Another well-established policy covers **research leave**. Qualification is based upon a standard expectation of 1 semester’s leave for every 4 of ordinary service (enhanced from 1-for-6 at the time of RAE2008). Staff must demonstrate robust and realistic plans leading to the production of significant original outputs; then submit end-of-leave reports and deliver presentations at a departmental workshop (below). During the REF period, 21 such periods of research leave were undertaken within the Department, directly supporting important projects: e.g. Dougan’s 2008 leave enabled him to conduct extensive work on the Lisbon Treaty, leading to various academic outputs and impact activity (see REF3b for full details). 6 more periods of research leave were approved for 2013-14, e.g. for Gordon and Sattorova (both ECRs) to work on their first monographs.

In addition, the Department operates a system of **targeted research support** entitling staff to reduced duties for the whole/part of an academic year to assist with particularly important projects, entirely without prejudice to qualification for full research leave. 7 such applications have been supported since 2010, with a further 2 (Horsley and Schwöbel, both ECRs) approved for 2013-2014. The Department will also grant **exceptional research leave to new staff** where moving to Liverpool would otherwise entail the loss of leave already due at their previous institution: e.g. Ferreira in 2012; Henderson in 2013. Furthermore, the Department supports the small minority of **staff whose research interests do not fit neatly into any existing cluster**, but whose work is still capable of delivering academic benefits of requisite quality: e.g. Thompson was granted research leave to conduct work on ombudsmen that displayed strong impact potential (2012).

A final set of policies is based upon **peer review and support**. All staff have a research mentor (ECRs)/buddy (others) working in a closely cognate field, with clearly defined expectations about providing guidance and support, e.g. in developing ideas; identifying potential funding; reading draft work. Those relationships have yielded enormous benefits: e.g. consider the research and impact collaborations between Stalford and Drywood (see REF3b for further details). More broadly, supporting staff with work-in-progress is a central feature of our research culture: alongside the Clusters, an annual programme of all-staff research seminars provide input from different perspectives at a formative stage in each project’s life, e.g. Gibson’s work on manifesting religious beliefs in employment benefited from two departmental discussion sessions prior to final publication in *Cambridge Law Journal* (2013).

The Department is particularly proud of its **system of ECR support**. Our Research Strategy ensures that Liverpool is an ideal place to launch an academic legal career. ECRs benefit from **protected workloads**: they have an automatic 25% reduction in teaching; the Department also strives to ensure that ECR teaching corresponds closely with research interests; while administrative duties designated as “light” for workload purposes are reserved for ECRs. Furthermore, ECRs have **separate research and teaching mentors**, both premised on proactive engagement. This has produced some especially fruitful collaborations, allowing ECRs to benefit from the experience of more established colleagues: e.g. consider the joint publications and impact activity by Dougan and Gordon on EU-UK constitutional reform (fully described in REF3b). The Department also provides **additional research resources for ECRs** to help them broaden activities, develop networks and raise profiles: e.g. ECRs have sought external funding to organise their own conferences, but with the School ultimately underwriting all costs, as with Schwöbel’s major launch conference for the Critical Approaches to International Criminal Law Network (2012). We actively promote recognition for our ECRs’ achievements across the University: e.g. in Sept

2013, Sattorova was shortlisted for a prestigious “Outstanding ECR” award (pending).

The School Management Team oversees broader **staff development/progression**, taking into account research performance and leadership. Thus, ECRs have gained initial experience as Research Cluster leads (e.g. Currie then Sattorova with EU Unit); more experienced academics move into research management roles (e.g. Drywood as Director of PGR; Stalford as Director of Research). Staff benefit from targeted training appropriate to their plans and ambitions: e.g. in 2012, Drywood successfully completed the University’s “Research Leaders” programme, which included dedicated mentoring on developing funded collaborative projects. During the current REF period, the Department has regularly secured research-based promotions for existing staff to Senior Lecturer, Readership and Chair levels.

Overall, **the Department has expanded** over the course of this REF period: from FTE 28.5 academic staff at the end of 2007 to FTE 36 academic staff in 2013 (though this has not significantly affected our overall demographic profile in terms of age/career stage). The Department’s **recruitment focus lies in sustaining and enhancing our Research Clusters as well as enriching our Law and Social Justice theme**. E.g. Farrell, Henderson, McAuliffe and Schwöbel have rejuvenated our critical approaches to international legal studies; while 3 new appointments in summer 2013 (one SL and two ECRs) brought additional socio-legal expertise in children’s rights. We are not interested in recruitment based purely on reputation or metrics; we look only for colleagues who will make an active contribution to departmental life, whilst themselves benefiting from our especially collegiate environment.

The Department embraces the University’s comprehensive policy on **equal opportunities**. Staff returning from maternity leave (9 periods during this REF timeframe), as well as others granted extended leave for reasons relating to ill-health or family commitments, were supported in their return to research, e.g. in several cases, through “targeted research support” (as described above). The Department is committed to the career progression of **contract research staff** and works with the University to implement the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers: e.g. Atkinson’s role within the Charity Unit (2011-date) is sustained through external and School funding; e.g. after a period as contract researcher with the Charity Unit in 2012-13, Sigafos was supported in successfully applying for a Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship (commencing Sept 2013 for 3 years) after which she will move into a permanent lectureship at the Department.

ii. Research students

Since RAE2008, the Department has **invested significantly in PGR recruitment and training** across a range of legal fields. At the census date, we have 36 postgraduate researchers (compared with 22 at the end of 2007); all bar one (LLM by research) are on the PhD programme. During the REF period, 11 PhDs (10.5 included here) were examined and awarded (91% of these with no or only minor corrections). We have a good mix of international and home/EU students (28% and 72% respectively) and full and part-time students (58% and 42% respectively). Our distinctive postgraduate experience is based on **four key features**:

1) Ensuring quality through rigorous recruitment. We attract high calibre applicants through competitive and prestigious studentships: our **Graduate Teaching Assistant programme** has funded 8 students during the current period. This programme is now being expanded: another 6 GTAs commenced studies in October 2013. Our **Hodgson PhD Scholarships** (launched in 2012, currently 3 posts) are fully funded by a local charitable trust, supporting home and international students undertaking research that combines global relevance with local impact. Moreover, the Department has co-financed several “**linked PhD**” schemes, whereby PGRs work on projects which are financially supported by external partners: e.g. Fanning’s Mersey Care NHS Trust Scholarship (£32K, plus £16K from the Department, 2009-12). Since 2008, we have had 3 studentships **funded by the AHRC**; another commenced work in October 2013. The Department is well-placed to maximise the opportunities offered by the ESRC North West Doctoral Training Centre and the AHRC North West Doctoral Training Partnership (leading the Law sub-group in the latter’s successful application). The Department has also attracted PGRs supported by **other national and international sources**: e.g. in October 2013, we welcomed two students through the China Scholarship Council; a joint studentship between Law and Computer Science (funded by

Environment template (REF5)

Liverpool's Risk Institute from 2014) will support work on the legal aspects of autonomous vehicles. In terms of **policies designed to ensure the quality and rigour of our PGR experience**, we have stringent admissions criteria, consider solely proposals falling within existing research strengths, and offer places only after interview. Every PGR has a secondary supervisor, expected to provide academic and pastoral guidance. Progression is formally monitored throughout the PhD via mechanisms that draw upon staff outside the supervisory team, prepare students for thesis examination and enhance employability: e.g. independent progress panels; poster presentations; internal conferences; mini and mock vivas.

2) Provision of a bespoke training experience. Working with the Director of PGR, every new student and their supervisors must produce a "**Training Needs Statement**" identifying support and development requirements and setting out a proposed programme of courses and events. In doing so, they can draw upon events organised through the ESRC Doctoral Training Centre, and the AHRC Doctoral Training Partnership as from 2014, as well as Faculty training on research methods (on which, see REF5d). This complements the targeted training on employability and transferable skills undertaken as members of the University's wider postgraduate research community. The School also offers an annual programme of **Research Development Sessions** constructed in consultation with our PGRs: e.g. in 2012-13, sessions included "Idiosyncrasies of a Law PhD" and "CVs for academic careers". The Department also collaborates with other institutions in the provision of PGR training: e.g. an explicit PGR training dimension (as mentored discussants to established academics) was built into the joint Liverpool-Edinburgh-Durham EU citizenship project (2010-11); e.g. in 2013, Children's Unit established a major annual PhD symposium on children's rights involving over 30 PGRs and their supervisors from 7 countries.

3) Fully integrating PGRs into the Department's research community and supporting aspirations towards research excellence. All our PGRs are members of at least one **Research Cluster** and are fully integrated into the latter's activities: e.g. Picton presented his draft paper on cy-près at a Charity Unit seminar before its publication in *Charity Law and Practice Review* (2013). PGRs are also encouraged to initiate their **own research events**: e.g. Reynolds and Cairns conceived and organised a two-day PGR conference on "Future Lawyers Tackling Tomorrow's Legal Problems" (2013), involving over 40 speakers from 3 continents, together with a session on publication and careers advice, fully supported/funded by the Department. Many of our PGRs have also acted as **research assistants** on larger projects under the tutelage of experienced PIs: e.g. Drywood with Stalford on children's rights (2008-10); Fanning with Glover-Thomas on mental health detentions (2009-11); Reynolds with Currie on posted workers (2011-12). Our PGRs **present at conferences** even at a relatively early stage: e.g. Fanning gave a paper at the World Congress on Medical Law in Croatia (2010); Liverpool PGRs also regularly speak / present posters at national events such as SLS, SLSA and UACES. For that purpose, all PGRs have a **personal research allowance** (£250 per year for conference travel, plus additional discretionary funding). We also encourage the production of **high quality academic publications** as their experience grows: e.g. Drywood, Fanning, Gibson, McGrogan, O'Brien, Picton, Reynolds and Waughray all published in leading peer-reviewed journals whilst still PGRs. Quality is also **externally recognised** in other ways: e.g. Fanning's Modern Law Review Scholarship (2012); Reynold's Best Content Prize in an EU Law Poster Competition (Edinburgh, 2013).

4) Helping with the transition into full academic careers. All PGRs have the opportunity to gain teaching experience, with support provided by a **teaching mentor** (as for ECRs, described above). Nearly all our graduates during the REF period secured **full-time academic posts** either through open competition at the Department (e.g. Drywood and Gibson; Fanning, Picton and Reynolds also secured positions in 2013 whilst finalising their theses); elsewhere in the UK (e.g. Davies at LJMU, O'Brien at York, Guth at Bradford, McGrogan at Northumbria, Scullion at UCLAN); or indeed overseas (e.g. Devaiah at West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences, India and Sayyed-Kassem at American University of the Middle East, Kuwait).

In recognition of the significant resource and careful attention the School invests in our PGR community, we were very proud to secure a **PRES 91% satisfaction rating in 2013** (the highest in the Faculty and well above both sector and Russell group averages).

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Research Income: With no single individual/s dominating the generation of research income, the Department focuses on encouraging a **broad range of researchers** to seek funding from a **diverse range of sources**, whilst also recognising that (in the current landscape) all applications need to be both **strong and tailored**.

External research income has helped to create time and space for staff to develop high quality projects and outputs: e.g. in 2012, Charity Unit was awarded a Leverhulme Trust grant of £60K to carry out innovative work on the impact of equalities legislation on charities (final report published 2013); e.g. Currie's 2009 grant from the Nuffield Foundation (£7.5K) covered the costs of research assistance and overseas empirical work for her subsequent publication on the gender dimension to posted employment (2013). The Department supports **externally funded research leave**, over and above our internal schemes: e.g. Pentassuglia was granted exceptional leave to take up a (funded) visiting fellowship at the European University Institute (2010), leading to a publication in *European Journal of International Law* (2011); the same was done more recently with Garde, to allow her to pursue a major ESRC-funded project on childhood obesity, including time at the World Health Organisation (2013). In some cases, the Department also "topped up" periods of externally funded leave to enable staff to consolidate work on outputs, e.g. as with Stalford's AHRC fellowship (2008), to complete major outputs on European children's rights.

Many of our **major conferences and seminars** (and their subsequent outputs) have been supported by external funding: e.g. EU Unit's Single Market conference (2010) and Special Issue of *European Business Law Review* were co-funded by the European Commission; while its EU citizenship seminar (2011) was funded by the Europa Institute (Edinburgh), and the Citizens' Initiative conference (2011) by the European Commission and UACES, with the outputs combined in an edited collection (2012). Similarly, **research-based consultancy work** has facilitated some of our most exciting projects: e.g. the Children's Unit study on EU children's rights indicators was commissioned by the European Fundamental Rights Agency (€247K, 2009); it led not only to several major research outputs (included in REF2), but also forms the basis of an impact case study (see REF3b). That success was followed by the Unit's consultancy work for the Council of Europe and UNICEF, the income (€16K) being used to fund the cluster's other academic activities.

Strategies for Generating Income: The Department's strategy here is quite simply focused on supporting **high quality applications for the pursuit of high quality research**. Various mechanisms help to achieve this. **Research planning meetings** encourage all staff to consider the value of seeking income to support new initiatives. The School's dedicated **Research Support Officer** provides advice and assistance with grant-writing; regular grant-writing workshops are also conducted at Faculty level. **Internal peer review** of all funding applications ensures that the School submits only those with good prospects for success that have benefited from substantial input by experienced colleagues. The School operates an **Ethics Committee** which reviews all research projects involving human participants. Proposals containing higher risk elements are passed to the University Sub-Committee on Non-Invasive Procedures. **Research-related training** deemed essential, especially for externally funded projects, can be provided within the School (e.g. NVIVO training) or by supporting attendance at outside courses. The School also coordinates a Faculty-wide research forum, engage@liverpool.ac.uk, providing methods-focused training and advice on building synergies with external agendas. The benefits of our approach can be seen in a number of **upcoming projects, conceived with an external funding element**, which have been successful in securing the desired support: e.g. in 2013, Cengiz won a Marie Curie Fellowship worth £100K (over four years) for a work package on EU consumer rights; e.g. also in 2013, Children's Unit won a £30K ESRC grant to support a 2-year programme of research seminars, with the Panel praising the project's strong user engagement and capacity building through PGR involvement.

Research Infrastructure and Facilities: All staff have individual offices, with the Department providing personal workstations for all PGRs and research assistants, plus shared workspaces for visiting/honorary scholars. All buildings benefit from fully wireless IT and networking provision, with a technician available throughout the working week. As part of the "**South Campus Project**", a £35 million investment in teaching and research accommodation (2011-15), work is now underway

Environment template (REF5)

to relocate all School staff together in newly refurbished accommodation in Eleanor Rathbone Building (due for completion in 2014). The University offers **exceptional library resources**, with one of the largest monograph collections in the UK, subscriptions to all of the national NESLi2 “big deal” site journal licences, and the second largest collection of electronic books in the Russell Group. Our spacious Law Library is situated within the Sydney Jones Building, with a subject librarian providing specialist support and training as required. In 2012, the University invested a further £500K to create a new PGR/staff study space within Sydney Jones. The School also provides a strong level of **local support for researchers**, e.g. in planning grant applications; organising conferences; maintaining web-pages; external dissemination. Crucially, the School’s **financial resources underpin our extensive programme of research events**: many grant applications, particularly relating to conference organisation, are underwritten internally, so that staff can be ambitious and confident in their planning and organisation, e.g. as with Sattorova’s 2011 international symposium and special journal issue on EU investment treaties. In any case, all staff enjoy a minimum annual allowance (e.g. £750 in 2012-13) to support research activities such as conference attendance. Additional funding is available on a discretionary basis, e.g. to cover extended Charity Unit trips to the USA and Australia (2011-12).

e. Collaboration and contribution to the discipline or research base

Individual staff, as well as our Research Clusters, boast a diverse network of strong and productive **collaborative links** with colleagues across the UK and internationally. The Department facilitates partnerships with research institutes overseas through our Visiting Fellowships: e.g. Schuurman with Children’s Unit (since 2011). Conversely, our staff are encouraged to forge formal collaborations with other institutions: e.g. Pentassuglia as Visiting Professor at the Universities of Toronto and Palermo; Morris as Visiting Fellow at Van Leer Institute (Jerusalem); Bostyn as Visiting Professor at the Universities of Liège, Amsterdam and Turin. Several staff have secured **prestigious research positions** awarded on a competitive basis: e.g. Pentassuglia as Fernand Braudel Senior Fellow at the European University Institute (2010); Schwöbel was selected to participate in Harvard’s Institute for Global Law and Policy Workshop (2012) and held a Research Fellowship at Cambridge’s Lauterpacht Centre for International Law (2013). Further visiting research positions are imminent, e.g. Currie at Monash European and EU Centre and Dar (new ECR) under the Yale-Hastings Program in Ethics and Health Policy (both 2014).

Such external collaborations have **directly informed major research achievements**: e.g. the substantial research projects undertaken by Children’s Unit concerning European children’s rights (fully described in REF3b) drew directly upon the participation and expertise of its Visiting Fellows. Similarly, Governance Unit’s symposium on renewable energy and international economic law (2012) was held in collaboration with the Investment Treaty Forum and the British Institute of International and Comparative Law; while Human Rights Unit’s conference on Critical Approaches to International Criminal Law (2012) resulted from a partnership with Harvard Law School and the International Slavery Museum. The Charity Unit also enjoys fruitful overseas links: e.g. with the Australian Centre for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Studies (Queensland University of Technology), leading to joint publication in *Modernising Charity Law* (2010); and with Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (USA), leading to joint publication in *Voluntary Sector Review* (2010).

The Department thrives as a centre for **conferences and seminars** that help define the research agenda for our field and deliver major advances in academic understanding. The Charity Unit’s long-established seminar series is financially supported by a local law firm (Brabners Chafe Street). The Human Rights Unit annual seminar programme has run since 2006, with speakers drawn from academia, the United Nations, the Council of Europe and influential NGOs. Since 2011, Children’s Unit has organised its own regular seminar programme based around external academic and policy speakers. In 2013, EU Unit launched a similar series of discussion seminars, led by external speakers, beginning with the research theme “Actors and Innovators in EU Law”.

The Department has **hosted many significant research events**: e.g. in 2009, “*British Jobs for British Workers*” - *The Legal Framework and Lessons for the Future*; *A Single Market for the 21st Century* - *Challenges and Perspectives*; *Minorities, Indigenous Peoples, and Human Rights - International and Comparative Perspectives*; and *Children and the European Union - Legal,*

Environment template (REF5)

Political and Research Perspectives; then in 2010, *Reconfigurations of Space and Identity within the EU*; while in 2011, *The EU Citizens' Initiative - Normative, Legal and Policy Perspectives* and *The Present and Future of EU Bilateral Investment Treaties*; then in 2012, *Critical Approaches to International Criminal Law* and *The Impact of International Economic Regulation on National Policies in Green Energy*; and in 2013, BILETA's 28th Annual Conference and *Key Developments in Charity Law*.

Our staff are also **members of/advisors to statutory and non-statutory bodies** (including parliamentary and other committees). Much of that work is fully discussed in our REF3 impact profile. In addition: e.g. Thompson was a member of the Administrative Justice and Tribunals Council (until 2013), sat on the panel of Specialist Advisors to the Commons' Public Administration Select Committee (until 2010) and is a Public Law Advisor to the Northern Ireland Ombudsman; e.g. Dougan sits on the Executive Committee of the UK Association for European Law, acts as an External Advisor to the Cabinet Office for the Government's Review of the Balance of Competences between the UK and the EU, and has directly advised bodies such as the FCO, BIS and the European Commission on various aspects of EU law and policy.

Other staff act as members of **public and professional associations** (e.g. Stalford is a member of the International Family Law Committee; Arora sat on the Academic Board of the Institute of Financial Services until 2011); as well as sitting on the committees of international legal bodies (e.g. Pentassuglia and Henderson at the International Law Association). The Department has also provided **expert advice to diverse public bodies** at national and international level: e.g. Henderson to the Chilcot Inquiry into the Iraq conflict on the interpretation of UN Security Council Resolutions (2010); Morris to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland on public benefit (2012); Bostyn to the European Commission's Expert Group on patent law in the field of biotechnology and genetic engineering (ongoing). We are particularly pleased when our ECRs undertake such work: e.g. Alghrani for the European Commission's European Network of Cancer Research in Children and Adolescents (since 2012); Gibson's appointment as a "Leading Thinker" in research on law and religion for the Equality and Human Rights Commission (2013). Similarly, staff have been commissioned to **provide advice/training to international organisations**: e.g. Stalford for UNICEF (2009); Pentassuglia for Minority Group Rights (2011); Stokes for the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (2011); Garde for the WHO, the McCabe Centre on Law and Cancer (Melbourne) and the World Cancer Research Fund (2013).

The Department is proud to make additional **contributions to the discipline and research base**. During the REF period, staff have edited and/or sat on the editorial boards of no less than 19 **academic journals**, including leading publications such as *Charity Law and Practice Review*; *Common Market Law Review*; *Journal of Business Law*; *Journal of Professional Negligence*; *Journal of Social Welfare and Family Law*; *Leiden Journal of International Law*; *Medical Law International*; *The Company Lawyer*. The Department has also produced a range of **Special Issues** for other academic journals: e.g. *International Journal of Intellectual Property Management* (2008-9); *European Business Law Review* (2010); *International Journal of Children's Rights* (2011); *Legal Issues of Economic Integration* (2012). Moreover, staff have edited numerous **research collections**, e.g. EU Unit alone is responsible (solely or through national/international collaborations) for publications such as *Gender and the Open Method of Coordination* (2008); *Fifty Years of the European Treaties* (2009); *Gender and Migration in 21st Century Europe* (2009); *Empowerment and Disempowerment of the European Citizen* (2012); *A Constitutional Order of States?* (2012). The Department has also produced/contributed to **leading textbooks** across a range of legal subjects: e.g. *The Law of Trusts and Equitable Obligations* (2010); *Clerk & Lindsell On Torts* (2010); *Cases and Materials on Constitutional and Administrative Law* (2011); *Wyatt and Dashwood's European Union Law* (2011); and *Commercial Law* (2012).

Finally, we contribute to **enhancing national research capacity through the provision of dedicated training**. As well as the various PGR initiatives described above, consider, e.g. the Department's training programme (funded by £78K from the ESRC) on *The Social Dimensions of Law*, a series of workshops with accompanying mentor scheme aimed at developing socio-legal research skills, particularly among ECRs, delivered over the period 2008-2010.