

Institution: University of the West of England, Bristol
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Unit of Assessment: 20 – LAW

a. Context

Impact and engagement is at the forefront of the Law Department's research strategy, and strongly reflects the University's vision of pursuing 'excellent research that has a positive impact on the economy and society'. The UOA's five research units (see REF 5) positively encourage and support research which engages beyond the academic field. This includes research which is relevant to and shared with users and also work commissioned by, designed and carried out in close collaboration with non-academic partners. The reach and significance of these impacts is evident in the range of engagement outlined below and the high proportion of submitted staff able to demonstrate impact. Those impacted, both at national and international level, have included: a) government agencies, policy-makers and NGOs; b) practitioners and professionals in law, legal services and governance; and c) those in the corporate and commercial sector. Impacts have included informing, influencing and shaping understanding, debate and policy, legislation, access to justice, and legal and corporate practice.

a) *Government agencies, policy-makers and NGOs* **Razzaque** has regularly informed debate and shaped policy and practice through work with United Nations and other international organisations. She was a member of the UN Expert Forum on Business and Human Rights (2009-2010); the UNEP Panel on Human Rights and the Environment: Draft Declaration and Commentary (2010); a consultant on the 'Sustainable Agro-biodiversity Management in the Mountain Areas of Southern China' project, funded by GTZ and UNDP (2009-2010); and on the UNEP panel on 'Ecosystem services and human well-being: the role of law and governance' (2008). She was a consultant on an EU project on the legal framework for human rights and the environment applicable to European enterprises outside of the EU (2009-2010). **Jones** has shaped understanding, policy and practice on human trafficking and migration through work commissioned by the Welsh Assembly and by the EU Fundamental Rights Agency, and also as Chair of the Wales Assembly of Women. Based on this she has provided training to NGO and local authority professionals on identifying human trafficking victims, and to FRONTEX staff on the operational implications of fundamental rights. In a major EU-funded project, the Viet-Nam Multi-lateral Trade Project (2009-2012), **Blanco**, **Turksen** and **Grant**, with Hanoi Law University, have worked to strengthen capacity in international trade law across government agencies, judges and lawyers, businesses and universities in Viet-Nam using innovative methods to design, write and deliver training, and to develop resources including an e-library, discussion forum and other online resources. **Cape** has contributed to the development of policy, legal practice and access to justice through work with the EU and UN. Research on procedural rights in Europe (2007-2010), funded by the EU, influenced the EU legislative programme on procedural rights in criminal proceedings. EU-funded work on the implementation of procedural rights in selected jurisdictions provided the basis for training delivered to civil servants, lawyers and criminal justice professionals across the EU. The work has also been used by NGOs and governments to influence and develop policy and legislation. **Cape's** work has informed debate and challenged conventional wisdom through invited contributions at conferences organised by the Ministry of Justice in Germany (2010), the Polish Presidency of the EU (2011) and the Ministry of Justice and World Bank in Turkey (2012). He was an expert consultant on the impact assessment for a proposed EU Directive on vulnerable suspects and defendants (2011-2012); invited by an international NGO, the Open Society Justice Initiative, to write a handbook on the roles of lawyers and paralegals for world-wide distribution to governments and policy-makers (2010-2012); and commissioned by UNODC and UNDP to write a handbook on early access to legal aid in criminal proceedings to assist governments and policy makers in giving effect to the new UN Principles and Guidelines on access to legal aid in criminal justice systems (2012-2013). He was also a member of a team commissioned by the Legal Services Commission (LSC) to evaluate and pilot a method of assessing advocacy in criminal proceedings (2008-09). **Chambers**, supported by the Higher Education Innovation Fund (HEIF), developed and disseminated research on virtual-world gambling. Her findings and the development of a model law on cybercrime was used by the Gambling Commission to inform their approach to regulation. This led to her appointment by the Commonwealth Secretariat to the Working Group on Cybercrime. The Group worked with ministers of justice, the judiciary, academics and practitioners from the Commonwealth to develop a policy report which was submitted to Commonwealth Ministers in 2013. **Rumney's** research into false rape allegations has helped shape policy and practice

Impact template (REF3a)

evidenced by his work being cited in the Parliamentary debate on the subject (Caroline Flint MP, 8/7/2010); by the NGO Rights of Women in its campaign on the subject (2010); by Baroness Stern in the government commissioned *Stern Review* (2010); and by the Ministry of Justice in its report *Providing anonymity to those accused of rape* (2010). **Ryder's** research on credit unions, and the factors that limit their development, has informed and influenced debate across a considerable range of organisations including the Welsh Assembly Government, HM Treasury, the Financial Services Agency, and the House of Commons Scottish Affairs Committee.

b) Practitioners and professionals The work of UOA members has helped shape debate, understanding and practice on the part of judges, lawyers and other legal practitioners and law enforcement agents including through the design and delivery of professional development courses and the publication and dissemination of widely-used resources. **Rumney's** work on rape, and rape myths provided the basis for commissioned training for the Judicial College and the Royal Society of Medicine (2009-12). Based on his doctrinal work, **Cape** contributes to *Blackstone's Criminal Practice* (published annually), Case Comments for the *Criminal Law Review*, a bi-annual 'Police Station Law and Practice Update' for the journal *Legal Action*, and in 2011 he published the 6th edition of *Defending Suspects at Police Stations*, described by one legal sector reviewer as 'the work on police station practice and procedure ... simply essential'. He has regularly provided training courses on police station practice for lawyers and others in England and Wales, and has used his research on procedural rights in Europe to deliver professional development courses for judges, prosecutors and others through the Academy of European Law (ERA) in Trier, Germany. **Jones** also regularly presents courses at the ERA on EU/ECHR law to audiences of judges, lawyers and policy-makers, including on the key issue of 'intersectionality' of EU/ECHR law post-Lisbon. Ball has provided EU funded training for judges and lawyers across Europe on EU competition law. The Viet-Nam trade project referred to above included the production of training materials for judges and lawyers. Claydon (left 2013) engaged in pioneering work on neuroscience and criminal culpability which informed professional debate and understanding, both medical and legal. She was a member of the Royal Society policy group on Neuroscience and Law, resulting in publication of RS Policy Document 05/11 (2011), and worked with the European Association for Neuroscience and Law, providing training for the judiciary (Milan, 2010-12). **Pontin's** historical research on nuisance law has contemporary relevance, and was cited by George Harrison QC in submissions in the appeal to the Supreme Court arising from *Coventry v Lawrence* [2012] EWCA Civ 26. **Razzaque's** work on amicus curiae participation in international courts and tribunals was cited in the defence Petition in the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (2008), Doc D99/3/18.32 (declassified in 2012), and by Greenpeace in its petition to the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) in 2010.

c) Corporate and Commercial The Law Department is developing its focus on the corporate and commercial sector, reflecting the University's growing emphasis on business engagement, bolstered by the appointment of **Gillen** and **Young** in 2013. **Ryder** and **Turksen** were contracted by France Telecom/Orange to examine financial regulation and financial crime, especially in the context of e-commerce, in a range of African countries. This was instrumental in enabling those companies to develop 'mobile money' applications. With the support of HEIF funding, **Quenivet** and **Hassler** have established a Business and Society Partnership, a networking platform designed to engage stakeholders with corporate social responsibility (CSR). It currently has 160 members from a range of organisations and enterprises, has held a number of roundtable events with strong corporate attendance, and has started to inform and shape understanding of corporate partners of CSR in a legal context.

b. Approach to impact

The Law Department has developed a strong emphasis on external engagement, collaboration and working with non-academic partners over the assessment period, reflecting the University-wide commitment. This is evidenced by the research culture and commitment at a UOA level, and in the way that its five research groups have supported and encouraged research that engages outside of academia. More recently there has been a more explicit and deliberate focus on the impact agenda, recognising priorities on the part of funding agencies and government. This has reinforced and formalised the existing emphasis within the UOA. Central to the strategy of the Centre for Legal Research is that its work 'informs national and international scholarly debates' but 'also impacts on government, business and the wider community'. This is reflected, in turn, in the objectives of the constituent research units.

Responsibility for promoting and supporting knowledge exchange is an explicit part of the role of an Associate Head of Department in Law, alongside research. HEIF 5 and internal investment, secured by UOA members through a competitive process at an institutional level, has increasingly been used to incentivise and support research and knowledge exchange with an emphasis on engagement and impact. There has been a more explicit focus in the criteria set and, in turn, in the activities put forward for support by members of the UOA. HEIF-funded activity has, for example, included practitioner networks and workshops concerning the Bribery Act, Youth Gangs, Corporate Social Responsibility, and Sexual Violence. HEIF-funded activity with practitioners facilitated the development of relationships with collaborators and users, and routes to impact. Significant internal University resource is invested in research and KE activity in the form of timetable allowances (see REF 5). Criteria for both forms of support include an explicit focus on KE, impact and engagement, and as a result help to shape UOA priorities.

Bidding for externally-funded projects, including from the EU, the UN and a wide range of other organisations with a primary focus on governance, policy and practice, has been strongly encouraged and supported, with a growing number of successful bids. Such research typically has a strong focus on impact, engagement and application, both nationally and internationally. This has benefited from strong central support and expertise from the Research, Business and Innovation service (RBI), providing professional support to identify opportunities, advice and training, support for bidding activity and facilitating engagement. The UOA has also benefited from work at a University level, with the National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement (jointly hosted by UWE and the University of Bristol), to develop thinking on research impact and engagement and to provide workshops and other forms of developmental work.

c. Strategy and plans

'Research with Impact' is one of the University's four priorities set out in its new "Strategy 2020", and this will provide the guiding principles for further development of the UOA's approach to impact. The UOA's strategic objective is 'to encourage, support and enable research and scholarly activity that will have a positive, practical, impact on fairness, justice and respect for the rule of law nationally and internationally'. Plans to secure this include:

- an explicit focus on, and commitment to, research engagement and impact in departmental, research centre and research unit strategies
- using HEIF and internal investment explicitly to incentivise and support research impact
- support and encouragement for bidding to, and collaboration with, agencies and funders with a direct interest in impact, and requiring all funding submissions (whether externally or internally funded) to include a 'pathways to impact' statement
- staff and PGR student training and support to develop understanding, skills and capacity
- building and expanding on existing strategic alliances with a range of organisations which provide a focus on policy and practice and routes to impact
- increased dissemination and profiling of research to non-academic communities and networks as a means of enabling more active engagement and impact.

d. Relationship to case studies

Both case studies exemplify the strong emphasis on and support for impact across the UOA. That on *Suspects and Defendants: assessing rights in practice and influencing policy (Cape)* builds on research funded by a wide range of bodies engaged in governance and practice nationally and internationally, and NGOs with a direct interest in the application and impact of the research. Impact and influence have reflected close collaboration and multiple ways of working with these organisations and with practitioners and professionals. The case study *Enabling the growth of mobile money business in the telecoms industry in new territories in compliance with international banking regulations (Ryder)* entailed external funding, supported by internal investment, including a six month research sabbatical in 2008/9 and HEIF funding. Both case studies benefited from internal investment in the form of (annually awarded) timetable allocation for research. They were also facilitated by flexibility in terms of timetabling including support for international fieldwork and collaboration (in Europe, South Africa and Latin America in the case of **Cape**). Both provide exemplars for staff within the UOA of high impact work combining excellent research with wide-ranging and significant benefits and beneficiaries.