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<p>Institution: University of Lincoln</p>
<p>Unit of Assessment: 20 – Law</p>
<p>a. Overview</p> <p>Lincoln Law School has a well-established, lively and proactive research culture. Research within the School includes a broad array of doctrinal, empirical and theoretical work, as well as exploring Law’s role in broader social science complexities, particularly at the European and global level. Areas of specialism focus on critical issues affecting the modern world, and in which law has a central role, including global environmental change, human rights (including gender equality), dispute resolution, and corporate governance.</p> <p>The majority of the work falls within one of a number of research clusters, These relate to European Law (Velluti, Ryland), International Law (French, Dennett, Davidson), Human Rights (Stone, Cooper), and Corporate Law (Okoye, Durcan). Research is also carried out by individual scholars (e.g. Peysner – civil justice). Section c below sets out the School’s plans for further strengthening and transforming these clusters into increasingly active research networks.</p> <p>Lincoln Law School currently comprises 15 members of academic staff, including three professors and a reader. Of these, 12 are Category A staff. In addition, one of the Deputy Vice-Chancellors (Davidson) researches in Law. Staff research is augmented by a growing number of PhD students (currently 10), working primarily in areas aligned to the clusters of Human Rights, International Law and European Law.</p> <p>In 2013 the University moved from a Faculty to a College structure and is now organised into three academic colleges, with Law being located in the College of Social Science. A key driver in this reorganisation was the desire to enhance inter-disciplinary collaboration for research and enterprise. The Law School is well positioned to take full advantage of this.</p>
<p>b. Research strategy</p> <p>Developments since 2008</p> <p>The priorities for research identified for the Law School in its submission to the RAE 2008 were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the boosting of research activity by all staff in the School; • appointment of research active staff, as additional appointments, or to replace retiring colleagues; • increasing the number of postgraduate research students; • development of new postgraduate programmes to reflect and supplement the research-interests of staff, as well as endorsing the University’s ‘Student as Producer’ ethos to promote research at all levels of University education. <p>The Law School has made significant strides in achieving the first three of these objectives, as is detailed in section c. below. This has been led by the appointment of a new Head of School in 2012 (French), tasked specifically with promoting further research excellence. Further support has come from the appointment of a designated Director of Research for the Law School (Stone), the introduction of peer-to-peer research mentoring for all staff, increased research remission in workloads, clear research targets in annual appraisals, and a study-leave scheme. Together, they evidence an increasingly vibrant research culture. The fourth objective has been achieved by the validation of new LLM programmes in International Law and International Business Law, which make full use of the research strengths of research-active staff, and which provide the opportunity for students to progress on to postgraduate research.</p> <p>Current strategy</p> <p>The Law School’s current research strategy is aligned to the University’s strategic research</p>

objectives and the College Research Strategy. Key aspects are: to continuously improve the research environment; to invest in the building of key research capabilities and resources; to underpin the continued professional development of researchers; to raise the quality and impact of research outputs; to develop new research income streams; and to further strengthen the postgraduate offering. In addition, there is a clear strategy for supporting research in the period beyond 2014, with, for example, increasing emphasis on all of embedding impact-related features of research as an integral component of research mentoring, research leave, and research funding.

The following aims are identified in the Law School strategy, to:

1. *Ensure all teaching and research staff are research-active, with 85% to be publishing at least one high-quality research output per year by 2016* – this is being achieved via the 1-2-1 research mentoring scheme, a discrete research budget devolved to the Director of Research from the School non-pay budget (around 15-20% of the total budget), the establishment of a study leave scheme, annual research planning, and embedding research within the formal institutional appraisal schemes, as described below. The combined effect of these measures has markedly increased the number of research outputs, as well as significantly strengthening the overarching research environment, including supporting individual researchers, both those submitted within the REF process and those new to research;
2. *Increase submissions for research funding to research councils, EU, charities, etc.* – this is being achieved by a variety of mechanisms, including: encouraging collaboration, within the institution and externally, with those with major experience of attracting high quality research funding; ensuring that information on funding opportunities is circulated in a strategic manner through the College Research Officer; benefiting from College seed corn funding of research (for example, **Cooper** and **Velluti** have received such funding). Recent bids include submissions in relation to Marie Curie (**Velluti** (2011), FP7 (**French** – environmental crime (2012)), and Leverhulme (**Velluti** (2013 – awaiting decision)).
3. *Identify and developing additional research themes and clusters* – as the number of research active staff increases, the existing clusters in European Law, International Law, Human Rights, and the emerging interest in Corporate Governance will develop into more formal research groups with specific targets, resources and PhD students attached. The prioritisation of these clusters will continue to align with key societal challenges, funding opportunities, and impact strategies;
4. *Make optimal use of University and College support for research* – colleagues are encouraged and supported via research mentoring to take advantage of the wide range of opportunities available, which include relevant training and development activities delivered by professional service teams and academic colleagues across the University; attendance at networking events to stimulate relationship developments (including College research away days); and awareness of cross-institutional opportunities through the College Research Officer. Staff also have access to the University's £500,000 annual Research Investment Fund, which invites applications for funding to develop new strategic research initiatives.
5. *Achieve a PGR group of at least 10 FTEs by 2016*: the recruitment of staff with higher research profiles, and the development of research among existing staff, is assisting in attracting PGR students – the current figure is 7.5 FTE (up from 1 in 2008); the reinvigoration of the LLM programme, focusing on cutting edge aspects of international law and international business law, will produce additional applicants for research degrees; the School is already taking advantage of bursary schemes being offered within the University and the College of Social Science (three PGR students have been awarded such bursaries to date). **Velluti**, as the Deputy Director of Research, oversees the School's PGR scheme;
6. *Identify opportunities for further collaborative working, both internally and externally* – the new College structure is facilitating collaboration with other Schools – e.g. **Peysner** is working with the School of Health and Social Care on legal and ethical issues relating to end of life care. We are

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also developing links with Schools outside the College (e.g. **Ryland's** work on animal welfare with the School of Life Sciences), and existing collaborative contacts will be built upon. Regular attendance at appropriate conferences is producing more opportunities for external collaboration. In particular, as the number of research-active staff increases, strategic links (e.g. through visiting professorships) are also increasing. Following **French's** trip to UNISA, Australia, as adjunct professor in the summer of 2013, he is co-organising a conference there in November 2014 on global and comparative approaches to the regulation of hydraulic fracturing ('fracking'). Collaborative working will also increase opportunities for diversifying and improving research income streams.

7. *Enhance links with legal and other professional practice in the research context* – this is being developed, for instance, through **Peysner's** work on civil justice, **Velluti's** engagement with EU institutions, **Stone's** ongoing initiatives on entry powers, **Cooper's** work on legal-technical interfaces on the right to water in developing countries, and **French's** leading involvement in the International Law Association, a global association of lawyers, judiciary and academics. Reciprocally, in October 2013, a solicitor member of the Law School's Advisory Board delivered a research seminar on Sports Law to staff and students from across the University;

8. *Strengthen, make more explicit, and actively encourage the environmental and public engagement impact implications of our research* – we are building on existing links with practice, and also ensure that we are making effective contributions to policy consultations, both at national and international level (see impact case studies). We will continue to build public engagement and involvement into our research work at the outset (for example, working closely with the University Office for Public Engagement). Impact-related activities are also a clear requirement of the School study leave scheme. In addition, we have, for example, been working with NGOs (**French**, see below), research and training networks (**Cooper**, WaterNET) and charities (**Ryland**, Feline Advisory Bureau (now International Cat Care)).

Structural re-organisation of research: As part of the process for ensuring the implementation of this strategy the School reorganised its research structure so that it now has a Director (**Stone**) and Deputy Director (**Velluti**) of Research, and a Research Committee, made up of Professors and Readers, which reports directly to the Head of School. These processes help ensure that the profile of research within the School develops appropriately, and, via careful monitoring, result in progress towards achieving the planned improvements in research activity.

A culture of vibrant research activity is also supported through:

Research seminars: an annual series of research seminars (organized by **Velluti**) covers themes and topics of the research network in the areas of International and European Law. Guest speakers include leading experts and eminent academics in the field, visiting professors and early-career scholars (see www.lincoln.ac.uk/home/law/research/upcomingevents). These research seminars provide a forum for fruitful discussion and debate about key and topical legal issues at domestic, regional and international level. In 2012-13 speakers included Prof Erika Szycsak (Leicester), Prof Martin Trybus (Birmingham), Dr Tobias Lock (Edinburgh), and Dr Vassilis Tzevelekos (Hull)

The Law School also runs a short series of more informal seminars in May-July of each year. These are designed for members of staff, especially those relatively new to research, to consider new ideas, for more experienced researchers to share current research projects with colleagues, and for PGR students to report on the progress of their research. All members of staff are encouraged to participate in these seminars, whether or not they are currently working at a level which would lead to REF submission. These have started to result in outputs, with, for example, a presentation by **Porteous** subsequently being converted into a published article.

In short, current and future strategy will seek to build on the gains made since 2008, to capitalize on the strengthened processes put in place, and to support staff (as per section c below) to benefit

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both themselves and the School.

Fundamental to this ongoing move forward in research excellence is the setting of ambitious targets, a supportive environment, and the continuing development of the research clusters, leading to measurable outputs, including research funding applications.

c. People, including:**i. Staffing strategy and staff development**

The development of research in the School is supported by the University's People Strategy, a comprehensive range of policies around employment, equal opportunities, research management and ethics, each with an element designed to facilitate and support research activity among staff and students. The University has signed up to principles of the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers. It has introduced minimum academic standards regarding research productivity within its annual appraisal system, and staff members are expected to produce peer-reviewed publications every year. Every researcher has access to a Further Study Fund, which can be applied to cover all or part of fees for further study. This area is central to the overall development of research within the Law School, in relation to both staff and research students. For example, **McCaffrey**, **Porteous** and **Summan** are currently being supported to undertake research degrees through this fund. The strategic importance of this cannot be overestimated, as previously non-research active staff become increasingly engaged in research activity.

As indicated above, in section b., a key element of the Law School's research strategy relates to increasing the number and proportion of research active staff. In 2008 the Law School was in the early stages of its development as a research unit; the University had not submitted under Law in any previous RAE. The strategy for development since then has included ensuring that new appointments were of staff who were, or had the clear potential to become, research active, and encouraging existing staff to become research active. During the REF period, six staff (including 2 who were research-inactive) left the School, to be replaced with research active staff. In addition, the University has provided funding for two additional research appointments, one at Professorial level. The School now has a number of Visiting Professors, including Professor Louis Kotze, a leading South African academic, who further enrich the research environment of the School by leading research seminars, assisting with the supervision of research, and contributing to postgraduate instruction.

The second element of the staffing strategy relates to staff development. All non-professorial members of academic staff have a research mentor – a Professor or Reader – whose role is to advise and encourage the development of research and publication through at least three meetings a year. This has been presented as an exemplar to other schools within the College. Every member of staff is expected to have a research plan, which is reviewed on at least an annual basis by the Director of Research. This is discussed with the mentor, and also forms part of the more formal annual appraisal, which is part of the University's staff development structure. All appraisals are carried out by the Head of School to ensure focused and strategic direction. For those new in their career (e.g. **Cooper** and **Okoye**), the monitoring of probation fulfils the role of appraisal in encouraging the establishment of research activity, including by setting of objectives for research activity.

More tangible support for research development takes a number of forms. The allocation of teaching loads takes into account the member of staff's research plans, with reductions of contact time of up to 40 per cent of a teaching load being granted by the Head of School, in consultation with the Director of Research. The Director of Research has a budget from within the School's non-pay allocation, which can be used to support conference attendance or other research related activities, including the payment of bursaries for student assistance with research projects (in 2013, for example, **Cooper** and **French** made use of this scheme in relation to ongoing research projects). A research leave scheme has been introduced, to promote research excellence and to provide space for larger grant applications, writing opportunities or impact activities.

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The School ensures equality of opportunity within these processes by making the possibility of bidding for research time available to all. Similarly, support from the School's research fund is available not only to experienced researchers but also to early-career researchers (**Cooper** was funded to attend conferences in South Africa and Ireland within the probationary period, for instance) and those who are also interested in pedagogical research or research into clinical legal education (such as **Durcan**, who presented a paper at a conference in Galway). Colleagues completing PhDs registered elsewhere (**Cooper, Ryland**) are also supported through workload relief.

The annual promotions round, of which research is a key component, provides the opportunity for staff to produce a case for additional recognition and advancement, and this process led **Velluti** to be promoted to reader in 2012.

In terms of ethical issues, the College has a robust monitoring procedure in place to ensure that all research projects take account of relevant issues, and all research projects are signed off by the School, College or University research ethics committee, depending upon the issues.

ii. Research students

The School has significantly increased the number of research students since 2008. During the period of the last RAE there were two students being supervised for PhDs, and one completion. In contrast, there are currently 10 students registered as PGRs (7.5 FTE) with the Law School, and more registrations are imminent. One student has completed a PhD in the REF period, and another is expected to complete by the end of 2013. Three students have been successful in obtaining bursaries from the University or College to support their PhD studies – one for the period 2010-2013, and two for 2012-2015 and 2013-2016 respectively. The funding of bursaries (which includes a generous additional discrete allocation for conference attendance and self-development) has ensured the recruitment of outstanding students, which will in turn improve the overall research environment in the School, and support the research clusters as they move forward. The College will provide additional bursaries for research students in the coming years.

Every research student is a member of the University's Graduate School, which fosters the development of postgraduate research and champions the interests of research students at the University (see section d). The School offers research education and career development programmes and a support network for all research students. Research students get support to present their work at seminars and at an annual Postgraduate Student Conference; to get work published; to identify potential research funding; and to learn skills transferrable to the workplace. This is in addition to the extensive online and physical library facilities and IT support that is available for all students.

Research training for PGR students is provided at the College and University levels, and the increased number of Law PGRs means that specially tailored research training is being developed within the School. Research students are encouraged to be involved in all of the Law School's activities; some contribute to teaching (for which induction and ongoing support is provided), and all are expected to attend research seminars. As noted above, there is an expectation that PGR students will give an annual presentation of their work as part of the May-July seminar series.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Research and external income targets are set annually, and delivery is supported by the university Dean of Research and a Research and Enterprise team. They work closely with Business Development Managers and College Research Officers in each College to help identify opportunities for funding and collaborative ventures and to develop effectively written grant applications. This combination of staff working at university and College level ensures that approaches are structured, co-ordinated and effective. In addition, each College has a Director of Research, with dedicated administrative support, to lead and encourage a strong research culture. The School has two representatives on the College Research Committee which in turn feeds in to

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the University Research and Enterprise Committee.

Income

The Law School has received funding to support external activity, consultancy and research from a variety of sources during the REF period, including:

- AHRC
- Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission
- Civil Justice Council
- Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (now the Department for Business Innovation and Skills)
- City Solicitors' Educational Trust
- Swiss Reinsurance
- National Accident Helpline
- League Against Cruel Sports
- Feline Advisory Bureau (now International Cat Care)

One of the priorities for the School for the short to medium-term is the development of cross-institutional links to support further participation in consortia bids to funders.

Infrastructure and facilities

The School benefitted from a £10.1 million institutional investment in January 2011, with the opening of a new building dedicated to the Business and Law Schools. This has provided a much improved research environment for staff, increasing the opportunities for the development of informal research related discussion and fostering a culture and environment of research vibrancy. For research students, in addition to the facilities available to all PGRs in the Library, there is a dedicated workspace available for all PGR students of the Law School and the Business School in the Business and Law Building. This space is well provided with IT and networking facilities, and provides a valuable resource for students.

This is in addition to the extensive online and physical library facilities and IT support that is available for all students. All researchers (staff and PGRs) have access to extensive online, law-related, research databases provided by the University (e.g. Westlaw, LexisNexis, HeinOnline, Lawtel), which can be accessed both on campus and remotely. The School also funds individual subscriptions to journals and databases for both staff and PhD students to undertake the highest quality research. PhD students have also benefited, as noted above, from the development of the Graduate School.

e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base

Research Fellowships include:

Peysner is a Fellow of the Society of Advanced Legal Studies, for example, as well as Visiting Professor, City University. There are also strong international links: **French** is an Adjunct Professor at the University of South Australia, and in 2012 **Velluti** completed a three month visiting professorship programme under the research heading, 'International Regional Law – Present and Future', at the School of Law, University of Cagliari (UNICA), Italy. As a result of this she will produce at least three research outputs by 2014: two chapters in edited collections to be published by Ashgate and Routledge, and a monograph to be published by Springer.

Collaboration:

Staff are involved in significant collaborative work both cross-institutionally and beyond the University. For instance, on a broad range of projects, **French** has worked closely with academic

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colleagues in universities around the world including New Zealand, Australia, Chile, Canada, and India, *inter alia*. **Peysner** has collaborated with the Socio-Legal Centre at the University of Oxford, in an on-going relationship on research into third party funding of litigation, with Strathclyde University on an AHRC funded study of third party damage claims, and with Lincolnshire Community Health Services Trust NHS Clinical Development Team on end-of-life issues. Other examples of collaboration include **Ryland** with a colleague at Middlesex University (Dr Angus Nurse) on animal welfare, and **Velluti** with the EU Committee of the Regions – European Union and the University of Cagliari (Dr Francesca Ippolito).

Contribution to the discipline (including selected conference presentations)

The School makes an important contribution to the discipline, demonstrated by both the significant advancement in collective research profile since 2008, and the scale of effort in a School comprising twelve research active staff.

The following provides an indicative picture of the level of activity and engagement.

French is General Editor, *Environmental Liability: Law, Policy and Practice*, as well as being on the board of various other journals; gave an invited presentation to the United Nations preparatory session (UNCSD) on Rio +20 (sustainable development) (April 2012) at the request of the International Development Law Organization; is a Senior Research Fellow, Centre for International Sustainable Development Law (CISDL), Montreal; Rapporteur of International Law Association (ILA)'s Committee on Sustainable Development (2003-2012), which authored the 2012 Sofia Guiding Statements on the Elaboration of Sustainable Development Principles by International Courts and Tribunals (www.ila-hq.org/en/committees/index.cfm/cid/1017); and Chair of ILA's Study Group on Due Diligence (2013-).

Peysner has been involved with advising on the Jackson proposals for reform to costs in civil procedure. Recent conference presentations include Third Party Funding (Geneva Association (Global Insurance Insurers and Re-Insurers)) and Defamation Bill (Westminster Legal Policy Forum). **Stone** has advised the Home Office on reform of powers of entry. **Cooper** participates in WaterNET, an African regional research and training network on water.

Velluti has been: invited to participate as expert respondent in the World Justice Project's Rule of Law Index 2011 and 2012 reports (The World Justice Project is an independent, non-profit organization working to advance the rule of law worldwide. It was launched in 2006 by the American Bar Association and other 21 leading global organizations. Detailed information about the Project is available at: www.worldjusticeproject.org); invited to speak as expert on the 'New Governance' phenomenon at a research event organised by the Committee of the Regions of the European Union: Joint Atelier with the European Movement International (EMI) on 'Territorial Strategies Towards Social Inclusion: A First Comparative Analysis', Brussels, 6 October 2010, information available at: www.cor.europa.eu/ateliers; invited to speak as expert on the 'New Governance' phenomenon at a research event organised by the Committee of the Regions of the European Union: Second Atelier on 'Multilevel Governance in the EU', Brussels, 7 November 2008, information available at: www.cor.europa.eu/ateliers.

Davidson is a member of the Editorial Board of the *International Journal of Marine and Coastal Law*, London: Kluwer Law International (1987 – present), of the Advisory Boards of the *New Zealand Yearbook of International Law* (2003- present), and the *New Zealand Journal of Public and International Law* (2003- present). **Ryland** is a visiting professor at Andrzej Frycz Modrzewski Krakow University and has been invited to contribute to a book honouring Professor Zbigniew Maciag, in conjunction with the Jagellonian University.