

<b>Institution:</b> University of Abertay Dundee
<b>Unit of Assessment:</b> 20
<b>a. Context</b> <p>Outputs from UOA 20 Law at Abertay address two distinct audiences - the law enforcement and criminal justice communities, and the employment law and practice communities which are reflected in two distinct themes, <b>Policing and Security Law</b>, and <b>Employment Law and Employment Rights</b>. Abertay University adopted a new 5-year Research Strategy in 2013, known as R-LINCS, (Research-led Innovation Nodes for Contemporary Society), with a focus on innovative solutions to societal problems through four cross-University themes: Environment, Security, Society and Creative Industries. The <b>Policing and Security Law</b> research contributes to the R-LINCS Security theme, and <b>Employment Law and Employment Rights</b> aligns to the Society theme. The R-LINCS framework will assist in developing the early career researchers in this return, and other emerging researchers who are not presently being submitted to develop their research and potential for future impact.</p> <p>The case studies submitted are both drawn from the <b>Policing and Security Law</b> group which, to date, has been the more focused on engagement with end users. Research output from this theme addresses both the law enforcement community, nationally and internationally at the operational level, and at the strategic level those charged with the development and enactment of new policies. The impacts targeted are accordingly both at the operational and strategic levels. In relation to the former in promoting, through dissemination of research findings, changes to law enforcement practice, and better understanding of the contexts of legal frameworks emanating from devolved, national, EU, and international regulatory and standard setting organisations and their implementation in practice. In the latter, the impact is intended to inform and shape the debate with those charged with developing policies and practices which will require to be implemented within the law enforcement community. Evidence for the impact on police practice is available from a police liaison officer based with Police Scotland. Evidence on the current and potential future impact on UK laws and practices is evidenced by a House of Lords report into EU cross-border law enforcement provisions.</p>
<b>b. Approach to impact</b> <p>Building relationships with, and gaining the trust of, practitioner communities, such as the police, has been an important foundation of the strategy to permit research to be conducted in a sector which is naturally guarded in the sharing of information. The second complementary strand to this approach has been engaging with government and parliamentary calls for evidence when drafting or reviewing policy to be implemented by legislation where the fruits of the first strand can be brought to that strategic audience from a reflective academic viewpoint independent of but complementary to the practitioner communities. Communication with other interested parties through web-based research outputs is intended to leverage effect which, in due course, should lead to influencing government decision making at all levels.</p> <p>A strategy of engaging with both the policy community and the law enforcement community has therefore been adopted. On-line free access journals were deliberately targeted with research outputs in order to ensure wide dissemination of material. This should lead to research being used by interested parties, including special interest lobby groups. However, given the requirements for security, surrounding the work of agencies tasked with tackling serious and organised crime and counter-terrorism, evidence of impact in <b>Policing and Security Law</b> research is undoubtedly more difficult to demonstrate.</p> <p>The impact achieved is based on on-going interaction with, in particular the Scottish law enforcement community, and responses to a House of Lords enquiry into a UK Government proposal. Throughout the assessment period the University has been a member of the Scottish Institute of Policing Research (SIPR), a consortium of 12 Scottish universities and (what is now) Police Scotland. One of the submitted staff is a member of the Policing Organisation Network steering group, with the other having had her PhD co-funded by this organisation (<a href="http://www.sipr.ac.uk">http://www.sipr.ac.uk</a>). This led to regular engagement with the Scottish police service, including attendance at police and police/ academic conferences where papers were presented. Face to face meetings with senior police officers, both before and after research had been conducted, were also held.</p> <p>Evidence, <i>inter alia</i>,  <a href="http://www.sipr.ac.uk/downloads/ResearchTools_Prog_300508.pdf">http://www.sipr.ac.uk/downloads/ResearchTools_Prog_300508.pdf</a></p>

[http://www.sipr.ac.uk/events/Outputs\\_Conference2008.php](http://www.sipr.ac.uk/events/Outputs_Conference2008.php)  
[http://www.sipr.ac.uk/events/Police\\_College\\_280409\\_Programme.php](http://www.sipr.ac.uk/events/Police_College_280409_Programme.php)  
<http://www.dundee.ac.uk/environment/news/2013/article/human-trafficking-and-online-n>  
[http://www.sipr.ac.uk/research/Money\\_laundering.php](http://www.sipr.ac.uk/research/Money_laundering.php) .

A key objective has been the identification of senior officers in the police or those with specialist roles who can engage with the research aims, provide researchers with appropriate access, and disseminate research materials to the relevant staff within the organisation. In addition, organisations networked with the police service may also be accessed or informed of the research. Police liaison officers are normally appointed to individual policing research projects. In order to facilitate a feedback mechanism a police journal in the UK was targeted. An Austrian journal also approached a submitted member of staff. Other published material was submitted to on-line journals, so that the published output could be circulated to key contacts in the Scottish police services.

At an institutional level the University set up the I-SPI (Intelligence, Security, Policing and Investigation) research network, which also led to further interaction with the policing and allied research communities. The UOA – 20 Law team obtained support from police, prosecutor and policy communities to assist in obtaining funding from the University Association for Contemporary European Studies (UACES), <http://policingandeuropianstudies.abertay.ac.uk/>. This was utilised to set up the UACES Policing and European Studies research network, based at Abertay, through a competitive process. This assisted in developing relevant contacts at the Scottish, UK, EU and international levels. The Ministry of Interior in Austria approached submitted staff through familiarity with the nature of the work being conducted at Abertay through the network. Four international research conferences have been held at Abertay, as well as one cyber crime and cyber security workshop. This continual engagement with the practitioner community has led to research targeted to real life issues, which has led to the impact claimed in the two case studies.

Opportunities to respond to government/ House of Lords enquires are regularly circulated amongst the subject group. One of the impact statements being based on the House of Lords European Union Committee inquiry into EU police and criminal justice measures: The UK's 2014 opt-out decision (13<sup>th</sup> Report of Session 2012-13, HL Paper 159). Deepening and broadening of the Law subject groups working relationships with both policy and practitioner communities is planned.

### c. Strategy and plans

The strategy looking forward focuses on the need to develop further the quality of the research based within the Law subject group, for our two research themes, while also raising the reach and significance of the impact resulting from that research. We intend to develop our research capacity, improve the quality of our outputs, develop and consolidate our position within research/practitioner networks, and thereby develop our impact. More experienced research staff will be encouraged and supported to take a lead in responding more effectively to the relevant policy and practitioner communities, to develop both the significance and reach of their impact.

Impact in particular will be addressed by engaging further with emerging issues of transnational human trafficking and cross-border financial crime, at the sub-national, national and EU policy level, in particular with the executive and legislature, with the intention of influencing policy developments in this area. Closer engagement with the police, criminal justice and policy community is also planned. Early (research) career staff from the existing staffing complement will benefit initially from Abertay University's R-LINCS strategy and its facilitating mechanisms. There is a need for the Law subject group to be able to act responsively to the evolving legal, political and constitutional frameworks, both within the UK and the EU, anticipating likely trajectories. The development of impact will be connected to the development of research output. Opportunities will be grasped to respond to Government consultations with a view to shaping and refining policy. Research findings will be widely disseminated, with a view to developing an impact on policy, and subsequent legislative development, which would have both significance and reach.

The main target audiences for Abertay's Law research output will be :

- **In Policing and Security Law**
  - for empirically based research, the practitioner communities of the police, investigation authorities and the judiciary, in the UK and EU,
  - and for literature, based research, the policy makers in government, the legislatures and the most senior levels of the practitioner communities.

**Impact template (REF3a)**

- in **Employment Law and Employment Rights**, for both empirically and literature based research – the government, trade unions and employer organisations.
- These objectives will be achieved using a strategy involving:
- exploiting the University’s R- LINCS capacity enhancing funding
- supporting experienced staff to develop external funding applications.
- maintaining existing research/practitioner networks
- extending these networks and developing new ones
- ensuring that these research / practitioner networks are focused on targeting research to the end user, and maximising its impact.

The strategic vision is supported by a clear plan of action:

Network topic.	Policing and European Studies	Scottish Institute for Policing Research	FAWN Families and Work network	Inequality of bargaining power/ atypical work <sup>1</sup>	International law and Security <sup>2</sup>	Data protection and information security <sup>3</sup>
2014	run	Participate in	Participate in	RLINCS application-set up		
2015	run	Participate in	Participate in	run	RLINCS application-set up	
2016	run	Participate in	Participate in	run	run	RLINCS application – set up
2017	run	Participate in	Participate in	run	run	run
2018	run	Participate in	Participate in	run	run	run
2019	run	Participate in	Participate in	run	run	run
Theme	Pol &Sec	Pol &Sec	Emp L&R	Emp L&R	Pol &Sec	Pol &Sec

It is also intended to increase research activity through targeted PhD studentships. Internal funding for studentships is already in place through the University’s investment in the R-LINCS studentship scheme; as well as external sources

- 2014 R-LINCS bid – PhD studentship on socio legal analysis in EU member states participation in European criminal law, and the impact on cooperation in the field of transnational policing
- 2015 R-LINCS bid - PhD studentship focusing on International criminal law

Developing one taught LLM programme in Transnational Criminal Justice and Security, which will be developed from our research activity, and will increase the visibility of that research amongst the law enforcement, policy and criminal justice communities of the EU and beyond.

**d. Relationship to case studies**

One of the case studies focuses on the current and potential future impact on a proposed decision by the UK Government affecting the UK’s ability to engage in transnational law enforcement and justice with the rest of the EU, and through the EU, the wider world. This impact reflects the strategy of the research group, which recognised that regular engagement with this particular user community would lead to research output that would have a significant impact. The second case study focuses on the reaction at the practitioner level of UK and EU provisions in the area of anti-money laundering operations. This second case study relies on practitioner engagement with and reflection on the research conducted into their day-to day activities, which will be evidenced by contacting the Police Scotland liaison officer to the project.

<sup>1</sup> Academic, practitioner, government, employer and trade union network, in the UK and EU.

<sup>2</sup> Research and Policy network.

<sup>3</sup> Research, Policy and Practitioner network, UK and EU level.