

Impact template (REF3a)

<p>Institution: University of Strathclyde</p>
<p>Unit of Assessment: UoA20 Law</p>
<p>a. Context As outlined in REF5, research in the Strathclyde Law School has “usefulness” at its core and seeks to enhance debates on the legal profession and the judiciary, how law <i>matters</i> in society, and how law <i>operates, is used, not used and experienced</i> in society. Multi-disciplinary scholarship is the foundation of research in the unit’s three centres where generation of impact is strong: The Centre for Law, Crime and Justice, the Centre for Internet Law and Policy and the Centre for Environmental Law and Governance. The case studies submitted describe impact derived from the research of Barry, Scoular, Paterson and Tata in the areas of crime and justice and the legal profession. However, research in the Law School in the areas of internet law and environmental law has also generated significant impact during the REF period, demonstrating the UoA’s strength in depth in contributing to the University’s historic mission as a ‘place for useful learning’.</p>
<p>b. Approach to impact The University of Strathclyde has an ambitious vision that its research be useful and should reach a range of audiences that will benefit from the research. The Law School engages with service users in ways that make a positive social impact through greater awareness of legal issues. Our approach to impact is to be innovative and relevant in all our scholarship, facilitated by a strategy based on focused research areas, support of staff through sabbatical leave and research funding, and a policy to make grant applications for research that will produce beneficial impact. A priority of our research strategy since RAE 2008 has been to actively encourage staff to engage in multi-disciplinary legal scholarship approaches by being more pro-active in taking their research into the wider world where impact might begin. The use of internal University resources has been pivotal in the development of staff and the creation of an impact focussed ethos within UoA20. The mechanisms used to generate impact and the beneficiaries are outlined below, with illustrative examples.</p> <p><u>Leveraging of Internal Resources</u> The Faculty funds a Research and Knowledge Exchange Team (RaKET) which offers administrative support for funding bids, and for setting up conferences and other meetings at Strathclyde. Law School staff have used institutional facilities and programmes of support to secure funds for pump-priming projects and to gather groups of people together whose work can connect with non-academic audiences. For example, a Faculty Strategic Award supported Barry and Piacentini in preparing for their successful ESRC award, which is designed to have impact (see Barry’s Case Study). The Law School’s Research Centres each receive funding for seminars that are structured on impactful research and provide a focus for colleagues to explore the impact their work has had or may have. The Strathclyde Research Development Fund (SRDF), established by the Law School, is available to colleagues to fund work of strategic importance to the Law School. Staff use SRDF for conferences and to interact with key users in an advisory capacity, as evaluators of projects, as reviewers of proposals for legal reform, and as committee members on government agencies. Staff also follow-up on research to identify resulting impact. For example, Barry is involved in impact assessment of her research on re-offending and young people that was funded by the ESRC. Barry has also brought her impact experiences to the ESRC’s Knowledge Exchange initiatives in which she is involved.</p> <p>The Law School has been successful at obtaining internal and external grants for research that integrates KE in a more responsive way. Rodger used his sabbatical leave and an Internal Faculty Grant in 2011 to produce a successful grant bid to the AHRC on Comparative Private Enforcement and Consumer Redress in the EU (2011-2013). Rodger’s work is reaching organisations and individuals involved in access to justice in relation to unlawful business market behaviour across Europe. Those who benefit from this research across the EU include the European Commission and national policy makers, national judiciary, consumer organisations and other parties seeking to enhance and facilitate access to justice in this context. Scoular was awarded £19,000 from the Scottish Universities Insight Institute to look at legal responses to rape in Scotland. The research formed around a series of workshops and seminars that brought together health professionals,</p>

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police experts, survivor groups and criminologists concerned with challenging common assumptions and forge new understandings. **Paterson**, who is the author of one of the case studies, has also been a highly successful scholar in producing impactful research. He has been awarded funds from Nuffield (£51,500) to develop work on poverty-related legal services and cost-effectiveness.

Promoting access to justice

The Strathclyde Law Clinic (LC) is making an impact in the area of promoting access to justice. The LC provides legal services to people in Glasgow and beyond who do not qualify for legal aid and is intended to be complementary to existing legal services provided by lawyers and other agencies. It is the first and the biggest Law Clinic in Scotland and works directly with the community. The LC has been the recipient of numerous awards for its outreach work, and its positive impact on students and the legal profession, by putting at the centre of its work legal ethics, community rights and social justice. The Law Clinic's public engagement activity develops and applies research from the Law School as illustrated by the following examples:

1. The Prisons Project gives legal advice to prisoners and relates to research strengths in crime, law and justice and the work of **Piacentini** and **Barry**. The LC has recently linked up with journalism specialists in Strathclyde's School of Humanities to become part of the 'Strathclyde Innocence Project'.
2. The Schools Project aims to take forward public legal education and is linked to research conducted in human rights law (the work of **Webster** and **McDiarmid**).

Paterson's research also makes impact in the legal profession and on ethical standards in law training with emphasis on poverty-related law expertise that seeks to ensure that the goals of justice, quality and ethics are maintained. **Barry**, **Paterson**, **Tata** and **Norrie** provide opinions on cases concerning human rights to the Scottish Parliament. **Scoular's** work is impacting on Women's Aid provision and **Norrie** is contributing his research to the debates on reforming civil partnership status in Scotland through hosting research workshops that seek to accomplish impact in changing the legislation to take into account human rights dimensions.

Business organisations and work-place relations

Clark's research into mediation is enabling a selection of new and research-focused mediation practices in commercial environments to take root in Scottish Civil Courts and in the European Parliament's Civic Mediation Group. **Busby** is a partner in a four-year programme of research funded by the European Research Council (total grant €1.02M) entitled 'New Sites of Legal Consciousness: a case study of UK advice agencies'. The overall aim is to investigate ways in which third sector advice agencies are becoming new sites for the emergence of legal consciousness. The project is impactful as it will examine how clients of the Citizens Advice Bureaux pursue employment disputes following their first interaction with the bureaux. **Busby's** research is also being applied in the area of women's rights (2011-2014) and enforcing workers' rights. **Clark's** research is influencing mediation development, policy and practice in Hong Kong, along with influence in the Scottish legal and construction sectors.

Criminal justice organisations and stakeholders

As outlined in REF 5, we are particularly strong in the area of Criminal Justice scholarship. Scottish, Irish, and other international Court Systems have benefitted from the research conducted in this area (see the **Tata** case study). Also, the Scottish Government has implemented changes to legislation in relation to domestic violence research, and in relation to research on violent offenders' (see the **Barry** case study). The UK Network of Sex Work Projects and the European Centre for Sex Work Research involving academics, NGOs and policy makers are linked in directly with Law School research (**Scoular**). **Piacentini's** work is being cited in Irish Supreme Court Law Lord Rulings on extradition cases to Russian prisons. Her research is being used by lawyers in affidavits supporting cases against extradition on human rights grounds. The re-configured Centre for Law Crime and Justice has developed impact via a portfolio of mechanisms, successively building on its predecessor, the Centre for Sentencing Research. In particular, it has hosted over 20 events since 2009 that have brought together leading academic scholars and professionals from public policy, senior judiciary and third sector groups to discuss penal change and criminal law. The Centre also engages with the non-academic criminal justice community through its post-

graduate degree: Crime, Justice and Penal Change, which is targeted at criminal justice professionals.

Government and Government Agencies

Law School research is being picked up by politicians and governments in the UK and internationally. **Yusuf** has been appointed to the Truth Commission in Nigeria where his work is contributing to law and justice reform. **McHarg** is advising the Scottish National Party on the Scottish parliament’s Referendum Bill Committee. His research is being cited in key debates on the forthcoming Scottish Devolution Referendum. **Norrie** is active at the Scottish Parliament in the area of law reform and has worked on guidelines that seek to benefit specific social groups in society (Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006, Adoption and Children (Scotland) 2007, Children’s Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011).

c. Strategy and plans

We believe our approach to impact has achieved significant results and we will continue with this successful approach for the following submission period, building additional capacity by:

- a. providing support for colleagues who are best-placed to engage with non-academic organisations and to focus on key strengths in areas of impact. [Example - in 2012, **Scoular** began working with policy makers and stakeholders across Europe as part of a COST Action on Sex-Work].
- b. supporting ECRs to engage with policy makers and/or communities so that that their research outputs can be effectively used to generate impact in areas of strength. [Example - **Edwards** is mentoring early career scholars in the CREATE initiative to have an impact in digital economies over the next 5 years].

Impact will continue to be a key criterion in making awards from the School Strategic Fund. Over the next 5 years we will strengthen existing research capacity in areas that make genuine and meaningful impact in the areas of IT Law, Criminal Justice and Environmental/Public Law. We have a number of opportunities to have an impact in these areas:

- The Strathclyde Law School, led by **Edwards**, is a partner institution of the new Centre for Copyright and New Business Models in the Creative Economy (CREATE), run by a consortium of seven UK universities, which seeks to examine a range of multi-disciplinary issues relating to new digital technologies.
- Policy debates in criminal justice remain focused on how to improve public and policy awareness of the kinds of provisions that tackle re-offending. We are well placed to contribute to these debates.
- We have established a new multi-disciplinary research cluster, the Strathclyde Centre for Environmental Law and Governance, which together brings Law School staff working in environmental law research (**Sindico, McHarg** and **Yusuf**).
- **Barry** and **Piacentini’s** Scottish Criminal Justice research, funded by the ESRC, seeks to not only improve standards in dealing with repeat offenders, but also intends to influence professional judicial cultures and criminal justice social work experts who work with offenders.
- **McHarg’s** research on natural resources and energy networks is also feeding into international debates on climate change reform. **Sindico** is working across law into the disciplines of Water Resource Management, Geology and Bio-Science on the conservation of water management. His KE collaborations with the Brazilian Government seek to enhance regulation of water conservation and biodiversity practices.

d. Relationship to case studies

Law is experienced in diverse ways and our impact cases reflect this. **Barry’s** work on compliance and non-compliance of breach is illustrative of our research on criminal justice policy and practice. Our strategic vision to produce scholarship on how law matters to a range of external audiences, and how it reaches diverse environments, is also reflected in **Paterson’s** and **Tata’s** case studies. Our work is having a positive effect both on access to justice and on the legal profession at the solicitor level; and also at the judicial level in how lawyers conduct their professional lives with ethical values that enhance professional practice.