

Institution: University of Derby
Unit of Assessment: School of Law and Criminology' Law in Society Research Group (UoA 20)
a. Context

The UoA is characterised by the undertaking of diversified and multi-disciplinary collaborative research themes which currently include the convergence of law and cosmopolitan legal studies, data privacy, the investigation of criminal suspects, eyewitness testimony, kidnapping and organised crime, global sustainability of food crops, contemporary understandings of the aetiology/control of crime, medical ethics, policing governance, and victims of crime. Research is developed in collaboration with end users to ensure that it possesses relevance, applicability and implementation. The early development of the research careers of many UoA members is clearly displayed in the modest level of impact upon the beneficiary organisations and groups with whom we engage (e.g. the NHS, local authorities, and law enforcement agencies). Measured impact has nevertheless occurred. An externally-felt imprint, particularly in relation to data sharing and patient confidentiality in the NHS in the UK (see Case Study 1), and in regard to law enforcement agencies' methodologies in suspect interviewing (see Case Study 2), has underlined an applied contextual approach or praxis to our research. In turn, this research informs an applied teaching agenda underpinned by employer engaged education. The benchmark of progress made by the School is the extent to which organisations engage with the School in partnership, in order to enhance either performance or strategy.

Jamie Grace's research programme from 2008 to date and collaborative activity (see Case Study 1) has led to changes in national NHS policy, with regard to the fundamental rights of patients in relation to their own personal data and the ability patients have under the law to make reasonable objections, where practicable, to data sharing across NHS networks. The School funded Grace's attendance at seminars and conferences, allowing research dissemination either by conference papers or publications (in particular, a co-authored published article concerned the work, legal regulation and policies of the NHS Health and Social Care Information Centre). Grace's research has been conducted while having to meet the demands of part time doctoral study, LLB programme leadership, TU representative duties during 2010-2012, as well as having a taxing teaching load. Another example concerns the influence upon professional practice for those investigating crime, both in the UK and overseas; this has arisen from Dr. David Walsh's research, which has examined models of investigative interviewing suspects (see Case Study 2). Walsh has, over the past five years, extensively disseminated and built upon his research, as undertaken with Professor Ray Bull, promulgating his findings through conference proceedings, publications, and over 40 presentations to professional audiences of investigators (such as the police and other law enforcement agencies). His research has produced collaborations with academics and practitioners in the investigation field from several countries, including Belgium, Norway and the USA, leading in turn to the influence exerted on models of interviewing suspects in several countries, most distinctively in Norway and China, where his research has been translated for use by new detectives. As a result, investigators in these particular jurisdictions can be identified as users of Walsh's research (similarly, investigators from UK local authorities). Walsh's research endeavours have been conducted regardless of undertaking simultaneous lead of three criminology programmes in the School (at UG/PG/FdA levels), completion of his research PhD, alongside ten peer-reviewed journal publications, book co-authorship, Assistant Subject Head duties, and high teaching and personal tutee loads, alongside his major responsibilities with the International Investigative Interviewing Research Group.

Although these staff are not in the REF submission (indicative of the early stages of their own PhD research), other impactful activities in the UoA include Karen Clubb's engagement with Derbyshire Trading Standards in examining vulnerable victims' experiences of being (criminally) mis-sold equipment. Angela Neville's research in partnership with Derbyshire Constabulary, examining the experience of victims of domestic violence, seeking innovative and effective means of case resolution, also engaging both victims themselves and victim support agencies. Nick Howe's research with both Derbyshire Community Safety and Staffordshire Constabulary has featured on-going engagement with those partners, and other community organisations, in examining youth crime, community (multi-agency) policing in seeking crime preventative and crime diversionary measures. As a result of the foregoing, it can be seen that close working relationships occur regularly with public bodies. Indeed, the overall approach to impact involves prioritising

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multidisciplinary and applied research, developing relationships with external agencies, and actively recruiting end user stakeholders in research projects.

In summary, the School has travelled a very long distance, almost from a standing-start, in terms of its research development since 2008, when it rightly did not make a RAE submission. However, the journey made since then provides confidence in the UoA that it will continue along this trajectory of significant progress by the time of the next REF assessment.

b. Approach to impact

In recognition of both the limited amount of available research into, and an increasing volume of, investigative activities in the range of non-police agencies, Dr. David Walsh has examined practices and professional beliefs/attitudes of these particular groups of criminal investigators (Walsh & Milne, 2007; 2008). The applied nature of this research has secured funding from five University of Derby research grants with Walsh continuously engaging with many agencies gaining field data and co-operation, while disseminating findings. School support has been crucial in providing resources both to gain access to these organisations, and to provide research assistance to help analyse data.

With Professor Ray Bull (also from the UoA), such endeavours led to further published findings (Walsh & Bull, 2010a; 2010b, 2011a, 2011b, 2011c; 2012a, 2012b, 2012c, 2013a, 2013b). School resources have also been made available for Walsh and Bull to undertake international collaborations, in order to provide a forum for the original dissemination and create partnerships. The research highlighted here has been supported throughout by the UoA enabling Walsh to present his research at twelve international conferences during 2008-2013.

This policy-practitioner interest in Walsh's research led to engagement with more professionals from other local authorities, government departments, and also his engagement in international collaborations. These in turn led to further international presentations of his research to the police and academics in Belgium (whose interrogational practice required changes following an ECtHR judgement). This activity directly led to an advisory capacity with the University of Maastricht where their academic collaborations with the Chinese police, in turn, led to further interest in Walsh's research during 2010-2012. Engagement also occurred with the Norwegian Police's national training college where his research is required reading for new detectives since 2010 to date. Several Constabularies in England and Wales (e.g. Avon and Somerset; Derbyshire; Lincolnshire) also engaged from 2009 to date with Walsh in regards to his research.

Indicative of a strategic approach taken to underpin funding bids and both dissemination/collaboration Walsh engaged firstly with professional audiences in 2006-2007, then disseminating findings to international academic audiences, notably by way of the inaugural conference of the *International Investigative Interviewing Research Group*, organised by Walsh and held at the University of Derby in 2008. This conference was also made available to University students to engage their interest in research, leading to their working with Walsh as Research Assistants, on a series University/School funded projects. Walsh's research was duly disseminated in an incremental fashion, either at conferences (in the first instance) or in peer-reviewed journals. Walsh's research endeavours were bolstered by the recruitment of Professor Ray Bull as University Professor in Criminal Investigation. Their combined presence has also attracted a Chief Constable, as well as other senior serving and retired police officers, and heads of other national law enforcement teams, to engage with the School.

The UoA has engaged in legal and criminological research, using supervised student activity and interests to provide evidenced-based decision-making support functions in the sector. Low level, public engagement research projects at UG level since 2008 have involved students as impactful researchers, undertaking 'live' research projects with several external organisations (E.g.; Derbyshire Constabulary; Derby City Council, Derbyshire Trading Standards; Derbyshire Probation; Derbyshire Youth Offending Service; in addition to various local charities involved with assisting either offenders or victims) concerning crime prevention and community safety.

c. Strategy and plans

With due attention to University and Faculty research plans, strategic planning to maximise opportunity for research impact now commences in regular meetings of the School's Research Group. Consultation and liaison within the school proceeds from this level in both formal and informal manner, enabling opportunities for discussion between managers and researchers. The current strategy focusses maximising research impact opportunities bolstering both our multidisciplinary research base and the externally face of our research. With regard to developing

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a long-term strategy for increased levels of impactful research, the School's entire staff will aim to be successful researchers capable of publishing in high quality academic journals, while being effective educators both in and out of the classroom, actively contributing to the operational needs of the School, the University, and professional organizations. Supportive of this strategy, management have recruited increased numbers of staff, reducing student-staff ratios, and the number of teaching hours with the specific aim (and expectation) of all staff in the UoA to be become research active, having specific plans to disseminate their research through peer reviewed journals. As such, these staff will be expected eligible entrants in the next REF exercise.

This Strategy focuses primarily on research and teaching expectations of team members, consistent with their academic work and experience, their research and teaching goals, and the School's teaching and strategic goals. Line managers and mentors will support individuals in designing achievable plans to enable their research development, negotiating required resources Further, in recognition of the requirement (and ambition) to develop income generation profiles and increased partnership working with external partners, particular from the justice sector/professions (as the demand for research impact increases), there will be expectation that some senior researchers in the UoA develop income generation profiles and, where applicable, collaborate with junior members in external funding bids.

We are also reviewing our research activities to enable identification on specific areas of research that will likely enable research impact (e.g. criminal investigation, community policing, and data protection) In recognising the current areas of research expertise in the UoA (while building on existing external professional collaborations, e.g; Staffordshire, Derbyshire, Avon and Somerset constabularies; Gangmasters' Licensing Authority; Royal Malaysian Police) plans have been developed to enhance partnership working and develop increased significance in research impact in areas such as investigation, policing, criminal justice, data privacy, and global sustainability. Supporting this strategy will be the appointment of visiting professor/fellows who have extensive expertise/experience in these areas. Among their roles will be to assist in the design of research strategy of a new Centre for Research, so that realistic research opportunities are identified and exploited. Seeking yet further opportunities to bolster research impact in areas of existing research strength, taught PGR and doctoral students will undertake applied research in these areas too. Our aspiration is to have at least two successful bids from external sources by the next REF assessment. However, as preludes to external funding bids, all research staff will be expected to make at least one application for University funding during 2014-2019.

Plans for immediate future developments emergent from research related activities involves working towards the further development of policies which recognise and reward successful researchers, being linked more closely and explicitly to research impact. We are also undertaking a major overhaul of our research group website in early 2014 to focus on key research themes.

d. Relationship to case studies

The specific case studies reflect how the UoA has capitalised upon the diverse research interests in the UoA. They also demonstrate (particularly in Case Study 2) strategies of augmentation of engagement with the professions from the initial impact. The research activities and dissemination involved in both case studies have been enabled by resource allocation from the UoA. The UoA's strategy has been measured insofar as it recognises the limited research skills base of the UoA that existed up until 2011. Collaborative endeavours with professionals and academics has allowed for impact to occur. In both case studies strategies are well in place to progress the current research developments, and continue to make further engagements with the professions, as outlined in the foregoing. As such, it would be expected that further impact to have occurred by the time of the next REF assessment. The various modes of dissemination are good examples as to how UoA staff have engaged with the professions and policy makers, and in so doing have increasingly served to visibly illustrate to these external audiences the research activity within the UoA. The case studies each demonstrate the requirement for professionals to critically think about their existing strategies, prompting revisions to be undertaken that are based upon a more informed approach, as provided by the UoA's research endeavours. The culture of applying our research to real-life contexts and working directly with research users is reflected in the two case studies. In sum, we contend that both the case studies are representative of the School's commitment to applied research with resultant demonstrable benefits outside academia.