

Institution: Liverpool John Moores University

Unit of assessment: UOA20, Law

a. Context

Knowledge transfer to users and practical application of research are a core element of our philosophy and impact strategy. The UOA's research aims to promote change in public policies (e.g. criminal law reform in the UK); in the way professionals do their work (including forensic medical examiners, forensic psychiatrists, judges etc.); in the behaviour of groups of people (e.g. tackling non-consensual alcohol-related sex). Our knowledge transfer strategy also includes regular engagement with the media, to promote research-informed understanding of, and reflection on, complex legal/socio-political issues among the public. During the REF period impact was mainly generated by our research in Criminal Justice, Socio-Legal Studies, Terrorism and Policing. Impact derived also from other research streams reflecting a more doctrinal approach (European Law and Public International Law).

b. Approach to impact

Our impact strategy during the REF period followed from three approaches to impact: A) Academic-practitioners 2-way communication channels and participation in influential 'think-tanks'/networks; B) Work in partnership with public authorities; and C) Knowledge transfer to the public through the media.

A) Academic-practitioners 2-way communication channels and participation in influential 'think-tanks'/networks – During the REF period staff engaged in knowledge transfer activities to users of research by participating in academic-practitioners networks and/or by creating communication opportunities between users and researchers. In this way end-users' needs were captured, acted upon and the research findings communicated more effectively to relevant audiences. To this purpose since 2010 UOA staff are involved in the activities of the International Police Executive Symposium (IPES), an organisation of academics who research policing/criminal law and practitioners (including serving police officers, both detectives and uniform officers). This created a permanent 2-way communication channel between the UOA's research on Terrorism/Policing and police authorities in the UK and overseas. In the context of IPES the Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine (FFLM) commissioned our Policing expert, Lowe, to develop a research-informed questionnaire to allow the selection of suitable Forensic Medical Examiners (FMEs). The questionnaire was completed in 2011 and, as a result, the training of FMEs was altered together with their qualification specification, to ensure that they are suitable for examining the mentally disordered/vulnerable. All FME examination rooms were upgraded, including the medicines and the quality of the equipment. The FME's recording practices were tightened up, so that FFLM have a record of the category of detained persons the FMEs examined (drunk, on drugs, physically injured, mentally ill etc.). All these changes were brought in during the spring of 2012 by all police authorities in England and Wales. During the REF period staff also engaged in work within influential 'think-tanks' and in dissemination activities with the objective to promote change in law/policy through their research. For example, since 2010 Burke has been a member of the research advisory group of the Howard League for Penal Reform (a charity promoting penal reform in England and Wales) and in this capacity he is contributing to defining the Howard League's research strategy and priorities for the next 5 years. During the period of assessment staff disseminated the findings of their research at practitioner or 'mixed' (academic and practitioner) conferences and forums (Burke, Carline, Lowe, Mair, Millings, Wilson).

B) Work in partnership with public authorities – A great deal of our research aims to improve the way in which public authorities address certain social phenomena (e.g. crime) or perform certain functions (e.g. community justice). Accordingly, a considerable part of our impact is the result of work done in partnership with, and commissioned/funded by, public authorities. An example of this approach is Mair/Millings' extensive observational research (2009-10) on the North Liverpool Community Justice Centre (NLCJC), the first and most advanced example of community justice in England and Wales. Mair/Millings' report was able, in the first instance, to identify areas of working practice that the Centre Manager (with whom the research team met to discuss the findings/recommendations in person) could usefully develop (amongst other things, raising the profile and measuring the impact of mock sentencing events, monthly practitioner 'away-days' to raise awareness of partners contributions to the NLCJC). The report also

identified the challenges of gauging and measuring the impact of such pioneering interventions and initiated and fed into a ministerial level assessment of the viability and broader ambitions of community justice orientated programmes. Another example of the same approach is the work conducted during 2012 by staff (Burke, Millings and researchers from the LJMU School of Humanities and Social Sciences, HSS) in partnership with Knowsley Integrated Offender Management (KIOM). The research team was commissioned by Knowsley Borough Council to evaluate the working practice of KIOM. A number of recommendations (concerning training, centralised computer system, information sharing etc.) were fed to KIOM through a research report and a day-long workshop. These recommendations became part of the current modus operandi of KIOM.

C) Knowledge transfer to the public through the media – Knowledge transfer to the public reflects our aspiration to become a civic university serving the community. Accordingly, engagement with the media is key to the UOA's strategy to promote knowledge and understanding of our research among the public, as well as to stimulate wider reflection and debate. During the REF period media appearances of researchers from the UOA (Carline, Lowe, Mair, Millings, Wilson etc.) included interviews and expert opinions to: Guardian; BBC TV ('World News', 'News 24', 'Breakfast Show', 'The One Show', 'Northwest News'); BBC Radio (5 Live, Radio Merseyside); BBC website; ITV; Radio KGO Newstalk, San Francisco, USA; 'Pravda', the largest Slovakian newspaper; 'Die Presse', newspaper, Austria. The interviews and the expert opinions concerned subjects as timely and topical as the UK referendum on EU membership; street prostitution; the IRA and the Islamic terrorist threats; the 2011 UK riots; the use of intelligence by security services in counterterrorism; cyberterrorism; the European Arrest Warrant; the 'Arab Spring'.

Support: During the REF period support for impactful activities was at the forefront of the UOA's research strategy and included the following:

- Extensive training of research staff on 'impact' and 'public engagement' organised by LJMU Research & Innovation Services. Specific training on 'impact in Law' funded from the School of Law budget (LJMU, Feb 2012; Lancaster, Oct 2012; London, Dec 2012).
- Funding from the School of Law budget of specific impact-generating research streams (e.g. in 2012 Carline and Gunby received £1k for their research on alcohol-related non-consensual sex).
- Creation of strategic impact generating research collaborations within the UOA (e.g. Mair/Millings in relation to NLCJC; Carline/Gunby in relation to alcohol-related non-consensual sex) and beyond the UOA (e.g. Burke/Millings and researchers from LJMU HSS in relation to KIOM; Evans and TNS-BMRB Social Research in relation to good practice guidance for psychiatric reports for sentencing).
- Strategic corporate memberships (since 2012 the UOA is corporate member of IPES).
- Impactful research streams were prioritised when allocating research assistants' time.
- LJMU Marketing and Corporate Communications' office provided a permanent link between UOA's staff and the media.
- Impact of research was recognised/rewarded by the University when deciding on internal promotions and added considerable strength to promotion applications (e.g. promotion of Carline to Reader in 2013).

c. Strategy and plans

Over the next 5 years impact will remain a core element of our research identity and activity from idea inception through to translation. During the REF period some important lessons have been learnt by the UOA about how to generate/maximise the impact of research. The most important lesson is that research partnerships (approach A) and work commissioned/funded by public authorities (approach B) are the forms of external engagement which are more likely to create impact of considerable reach and significance. In particular research cooperation beyond LJMU (with national and/or European partners) is more likely to generate national or international impact thanks to greater resources employed (including funding, number of researchers etc.) and to the greater reach of activities (national/European, rather than merely local/regional end-user audiences). Accordingly in the next 5 years UOA staff will devote increasing attention to these types of engagement.

Another lesson learnt during the REF period is that the content of research outputs needs to be

communicated more effectively to end-users. The UOA will put in place strategies and fund appropriate dissemination activities (including workshops, conferences etc. with key users/practitioners; travel money to make personal contact with end-users to understand end-user needs and problems).

A third important lesson learnt over recent years concerns the support of staff producing impactful research. The UOA will grant those staff the full research allowance and will prioritise their bids when allocating internal resources (funding, research assistants' time, etc.).

Specific impact objectives of the UOA for the next 5 years include the following:

A) Academic-practitioners 2-way communication channels and participation in influential 'think-tanks'/networks

– UOA staff will continue their involvement in important academic-practitioners networks. The national or international dimension of some of these networks will expand the reach of our impact beyond the local/regional level. An example of this approach is Lowe's work as chair of a sub-committee of the Irish Government Commission on cross-border terror activity. Lowe's specific contribution to the works of the sub-committee (which have been completed this year) concerned police cooperation between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland (e.g. intelligence exchanges; collaboration with Europol; etc.). The research-inspired final report of the Commission (due in 2014) shall inform the future anti-terror policy of the Irish Government. Staff are also involved in influential 'think-tanks'/research networks. An example of such a network is the EU funded project 'Reducing Re-Offending in the EU' (Burke/Millings and researchers from the LJMU HSS; total €300k, of which €80k to LJMU; 2012-15). The LJMU team is working in partnership with local Criminal Justice agencies involved within KIOM and their counterparts in the Netherlands (The Hague) and Italy (Turin) to share good practice and explore what interventions successfully tackle prolific offending behaviour. The plan is to develop good practice guidance for practitioners. An example of participation in a 'think-tank' is Burke's involvement as representative for England and Wales in an EU COST 4-year action (2012 onwards). The objective of this action is to study the application of community sanctions across Europe and to disseminate the findings through a series of 'mixed' academic-policy-makers/practitioners annual conferences (2012-15).

B) Work in partnership with public authorities – Liaising with public authorities as key end-users of our research will remain an absolute priority for the UOA. In this context UOA staff are developing and strengthening links with local authorities (Liverpool City Council, Carline; Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council, Taylor and researchers from the LJMU Centre for the Study of Crime, Criminalisation and Social Exclusion); prisons (HM Prison Altcourse, Askew/Ragonese); courts (Liverpool Crown Court, Davies); other public services (Citizens Advice Bureau, Ragonese). Some of these partnerships have already brought external research funding to LJMU specifically for impact generating activities (e.g. £20k from Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council; £10k from HM Prison Altcourse etc.). Our specific objectives include the following: developing a range of research inspired interventions to tackle the phenomenon of sexual assault in the 'night time' economy in Liverpool; enhancing service provision to reduce the use and cultivation of cannabis in Knowsley; developing 'best practice' for resettlement at HM Prison Altcourse; developing England's pilot of pre-recorded cross-examination for vulnerable witnesses in the Liverpool Crown Court; improving the offender support service of the Citizens Advice Bureau.

C) Knowledge transfer to the public through the media – UOA staff will continue to transfer research-informed knowledge to the public through the media and to promote public awareness/understanding of complex legal/political issues relating to our research.

d. Relationship to case studies

Evans' impact case study on good practice guidance for psychiatric reports for sentencing is mainly the result of 2-way communication with key users of research (approach A). Evans received full training on impact at LJMU. Carline and Gunby's impact case study (*Developing a Sexual Consent Campaign to Raise Awareness and Educate Young Men on Sexual Activity, Consent, Intoxication and the Law of Rape*) is mainly the result of engagement with Liverpool City Council (approach B). The impact case study received support from the UOA in the form of: training; funding from the School of Law budget; creation of an impact generating collaboration within the UOA (Carline/Gunby).