

<p><b>Institution: University of Exeter</b></p>
<p><b>Unit of Assessment: Law</b></p>
<p><b>a. Context</b></p> <p>The Law School's research has three principal groups of non-academic beneficiaries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• policy-makers and government;</li> <li>• legal professionals and third sector organisations (including international NGOs);</li> <li>• the general public.</li> </ul> <p>Building on longstanding public engagement with legal professionals and working with a range of relevant bodies and the media, Law School impact has been nurtured, promoted and achieved at regional, national and international levels through research carried out primarily but not exclusively within its established research clusters of <b>family law, legal history and European/international law</b>. The reach and significance of this research is evidenced by examples from a range of areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Impact on policy-making at national and international levels.</i> This can be observed in the Family Law context (see Case Studies), but also <b>Stebbing's</b> legal historical research and analysis on tax tribunals which was used in the formulation of new rules of practice and reform of <b>modern tax tribunals</b> following the Leggatt Review of Tribunals (2001) and the Nuffield Foundation Policy Group on Administrative Justice, having continuing impact until further reform in 2009; <b>Addo's</b> research in international law <i>Human Rights Standards and the Responsibility of Transnational Corporations</i> (Kluwer, 1999) led directly to his appointment in 2011 as a member of the <b>UN working group</b> (established under UN resolution A/HRC/17/4) on human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises and in turn contributed to the PIV world investment report 2012: <i>Towards a New generation of Investment Policies</i>. <b>Sari's</b> work on parliamentary control over the armed forces in Germany informed the <b>Select Committee on Constitution</b> in 2012. <b>Hawkins'</b> intellectual property research assisted in the preparation by the <b>Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology</b> of a 2012 briefing paper for the government on Biomedical Patents which cites her.</li> <li>2. <i>Impact on Legal Professionals and the Judiciary.</i> <b>Trinder's</b> research on post-separation parenting has informed judicial training by the <b>Judicial Studies Board</b> in 2011 and <b>Barlow's</b> Exeter research on cohabitation was debated in terms of solicitor opportunities to advise and raise the legal awareness of cohabitants at a public lecture given to members of the <b>Peninsula Family Justice Council</b> in 2009; <b>McAuliffe's</b> research on <i>Translating Laws in the EU</i> (2011) is now regularly used in training seminars given at the <b>Translation Service of the European Court of Justice</b>, University of Luxembourg and <i>Délégation générale à la langue française et aux langues de France (mission du développement de la langue)</i>, Paris; <b>McEwan's</b> research on the efficacy of judicial case management (2011) has been endorsed by the <b>Law Society Criminal Law Committee</b>, inviting her to give a keynote address to their conference in 2012 which has subsequently been used as a commercial continuing professional development resource for solicitors. <b>Economides'</b> recommendations in <i>Preparatory Ethics Training for Future Solicitors</i> (with Rogers of the Law Society) (Law Society, March 2009), has led to a greater focus on ethics in the requirements for the academic stage of legal education in the <b>Law Society's Training Regulations</b>. <b>McAuliffe et al's</b> ESRC seminar series on childhood brain injury and criminality in later life has resulted in the <b>Youth Justice Board</b> introducing medical checks on admission to custody.</li> <li>3. <i>Impact on the general public (including impacts on creativity, culture and society).</i> Active engagement with the media around family justice reform issues by <b>Trinder</b> and <b>Barlow</b> (see case studies) has informed the public debate around the pros and cons of post-separation shared parenting and cohabitation law reform. <b>Musson's</b> historical work both on outlaws and medieval lawyers has enhanced public awareness through features in broadcast and print media. <b>Dupré's</b> research on human dignity has informed public debate on what dignity means in a legal context, being the focus of a <i>Guardian</i> article in March 2011 and cited by Baroness Hale in a public lecture available on the website of the Supreme Court of Justice.</li> </ol>
<p><b>b. Approach to impact</b></p> <p><b>The Law School</b> is committed to the view that Law is a discipline in which much impact can be achieved, although the relationship between research and policy and practice impact is often complex and not always obvious. Our approach to impact after 2008 was to pro-actively enhance existing relationships with the identified user communities during the census period, whilst thinking creatively for the future about wider public engagement with new possible impact beneficiaries and</p>

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stakeholders, particularly at the Law and Humanities and Law and Science interfaces. In this way, we have aimed to embed impact in our thinking about research development in the wide range of areas of research interest across the School.

The Law School has longstanding relationships with the local legal profession and a number of non-academic beneficiaries but has strategically sought to both broaden and deepen these since 2008 with a range of organisations regionally, nationally and internationally, using its established research centres - the **Network on Family, Regulation and Society**, the **Bracton Centre for Legal History Research**, and the **Centre for European Legal Studies** - alongside its developing research groupings focused on International and Human Rights Law; Science Culture and the Law; Commercial Law and Gender, Sexuality and the Law. These have provided useful vehicles for supporting its work on impact and enabled it to reach out to a wide range of research users. To underline its importance further, a dedicated **Impact Director** post held by a senior professor was created to develop understanding of impact and promote and support impact activity. More specifically, the Law School has:

- developed research projects with the support of the legal profession or key policy bodies such as the Law Society (**Economides**), Law Commission, Ministry of Justice (**Barlow**), DfE (**Trinder**), Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (**Hawkins**) wherever appropriate.
- encouraged and supported staff such as **Addo** (UN), **Waelde** (Intellectual Property Office Expert Advisory Group on Copyright) and **Barlow** (Family Justice Council) to take up national/international committee appointments where research evidence informs policymaking.
- worked with Research and Knowledge Transfer and the Press Office to develop links to user organisations and engage in national media debates where appropriate (**Trinder**, **Barlow**, **Devenney**, **Waelde**)
- encouraged and supported **all staff** to think creatively about stakeholders and impact opportunities (notably when applying for research council and other grants and in dissemination activities) both individually and through group staff development activities.

Whilst some of the groupings (e.g. around family law) have offered clear opportunities for influencing policy, legislation and public debate on topical issues which have been seized, in other areas (such as legal history) groups have been encouraged to think creatively about how to achieve impact by forging new links with creative arts, heritage or educational groups to enhance cultural understanding of legal history. **Musson** has worked with actors from the Elysium Theatre Company as part of the Royal Shakespeare Company Open Stages Scheme's project assisting their understanding of their characters in relation to the constitutional and legal issues in Shakespeare's historical plays, which led to 'The Wars of the Roses' performed at Buckfast Abbey in 2012. **Skinner's** 2009 article 'Stories of pain and the pursuit of justice' influenced and informed Canadian playwright Verdecchia's writing on police brutality. The group structure has provided support for impact activity, enabling colleagues in the same broad field to share ideas and opportunities about using their research to achieve non-academic (as well as academic impact).

**The University** has a centrally-managed Research and Knowledge Transfer (RKT) section which has supporting impact as part of its remit. Exeter participated in the HEFCE pilot for impact, and exemplar material is available on a dedicated webpage. **RCUK Catalyst funds for public engagement** have more recently become a means to foster further impact-priming activity. **The College of Social Sciences** has appointed an **Impact Officer** to support individual and group strategic impact planning and development and the **Law School** has taken full advantage of these structures and mechanisms to provide support for staff to achieve impact and embed it within their research. In particular, it has had notable success (14 awards since 2008) with applications to the **University's Link Fund** which finances research projects that involve a regional, commercial or public partner, with members of each of its research groups having secured funding for this purpose, specifically to assist with achieving greater research impact in the shorter or longer term.

### c. Strategy and plans

**The Law School** strategy recognises that it has a large cohort of early career researchers whose potential for impact is still being nurtured and that it has recruited senior academics whose research although of considerable benefit to non-academic users was undertaken prior to their arrival at Exeter. It therefore aims to expand its identified areas of current impact strength by

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supporting the former whilst using and sharing the experience of the latter to embed and enhance impact within Law School research as a whole.

The **Law School's strategy** for impact has therefore been to build an inclusive and dynamic approach to impact activity and development, by harnessing and building upon the support and expertise available at University and College levels as well as sharing expertise and ideas within the Law School itself. It is aiming to create a climate of research translation within the School and with potential users. This is being done in the following ways:

- **Regular impact-focused-activities** such as staff development seminars on 'Understanding Impact' and Research Away Day sessions, (including debate on how to create impact from non-empirical or critical legal scholarship) with invited speakers followed by plenary and research group discussions on the nature of impact, pathways to impact and stakeholder engagement in the legal and socio-legal research arena.
- **Supported delegation of impact development to Research Groupings** (following initial workshops that took place as part of the staff seminar series) in addition to centrally provided staff development events offered by the university). Each Research Group is tasked with regularly reflecting on the 'impact value' of the group's research (both in terms of individual members and collectively), sharing and debating impact experience and ideas alongside wider public engagement and the building of collaborative partnerships with users by research groups where possible. From this, foundations for future impact and strategies for on-going impact activities within and across research groups are being achieved and discussed at the Law School's Research Impact sessions and evaluated by the **Law Research Advisory Group** feeding back into the Research Away Day.
- **Embedding impact into the Personal Development Review process.** Each academic is supported by an **Academic Lead** who advises on publications, on research bidding and also on impact. A separate page on impact in the University's PDR document helps to structure these discussions and to generate an impact action plan for each colleague. Members of the **Law Research Advisory Group** support research bid writing and work to support impact planning within Research Council proposals. Each academic is asked to keep an **Impact Diary**, tracking their own research impact and this is submitted annually to the Directors of Impact and of Research and discussed with their academic lead.
- **Establishment of a Law Impact Strategy Fund** to complement other funding sources both to facilitate contact with users and stakeholders to develop research ideas which embed impact and to track down 'hidden' non-academic impact which research has achieved. Colleagues are also encouraged to apply for 'follow-on funding' to maximise impact where appropriate after the completion of funded projects and some experimentation of facilitating **impact through new social media** is ongoing.
- **Consolidation of its impact agenda within wider Law School strategies.** The Law School has recently strengthened its expertise in areas such as Commercial Law with a view to building capacity and capitalising on areas with potential impact (e.g. around responsible lending).

### d. Relationship to case studies

The two Case Studies arise from the interdisciplinary cross-institutional Network on Family, Regulation and Society formed in 2010, led by Exeter. They have both benefited from 'Link' funds which have facilitated impact activities alongside ring-fenced research impact time and support and feedback from the University impact advice team. Whilst there is a wider range of academic work in which the School is achieving impact, they are considered to be its best examples of high quality and high impact research, in an area of research strength with clear impact potential. Within the ethos of the School's Impact Strategy, lessons learned in the development of these Case Studies have been shared and in turn have helped to shape our Impact Strategy. In particular, the impact value of engagement and collaboration with research users at the point of research design, was accepted as good practice, with high take-up of the Law School and University 'Link' funds to facilitate this approach. This should promote future research excellence and impact creation. We will continue to use the Case Studies, and other examples of impact to take the planning forward.