

**Institution: Cardiff University**

**Unit of Assessment: UoA 20**

**a. Context**

Cardiff is a research-intensive Law School with a diverse and wide-ranging portfolio that bridges methodologies (socio-legal, doctrinal, theoretical, empirical) and disciplinary fields in, and cognate to (e.g. Criminology, Politics, Sociology), Law. The School generates impact across its extensive research expertise. Organised through focused research Centres and four thematic groups, the School has impact at international, European and national levels and engages with users, audiences and beneficiaries in political and legal/judicial institutions, legal and related professions, the commercial sector and civil society. Research impact provides informed advice (leading to manifest changes in practice and policy), supports professional practice, provokes debate and disseminates knowledge to society at large. As the only 'Russell Group' Law School in Wales, a country increasingly distinctive in legal and policy terms, the Unit's impact has a particular reach with Welsh public institutions (the Welsh Government (WG) and National Assembly for Wales (NAW)), the professions, civil society organisations and wider audiences across a variety of topics. Research engages users involved in policy/law-making processes at all levels, illustrations during the assessment period include:

Examples of **international law** research users are: Non-communicable Diseases Alliance (for a UN Civil Society event: Syrett); Special Commission on the Hague Abduction Convention (Lowe); International Organisation on Migration (Nelken). Influence on **EU institutions** embraces M Smith's 'administrative principles' advocated by the European Parliament, consulting Smismans on access to EU law by the European Commission, Committee of the Regions and the European Economic and Social Committee. Users in **other jurisdictions** include: major NGOs (litigating health rights for the Kenyan AIDS Law Project: Harrington); Serbia (reform of child abduction law: Lowe); Czech Parliament (legal advice: Priban); Austrian government (the International Criminal Court Rome Statute: Byron); Polish Senate (planned EU regulation of clinical trials on medicines: Krajewska); Irish Law Reform Commission (Privy of Contract Report: Kelly).

A range of **UK policy makers** use School research. Examples include: Royal Commissions (Stokes, environmental pollution); House of Commons' Committees (Morris, Lewis, Transport Committee: *The Cost of Motor Insurance*); House of Lords' Select Committees (Lowe, adoption); and the Law Commission (Douglas, intestacy law). **In Wales**, the School is an active, critical interlocutor of the WG and NAW (e.g. through Wales Governance Centre (WGC) research on the law, politics, government and political economy of Wales and territorial governance across the UK and Europe). Colleagues work with NAW Committees (e.g. Lee, Special Advisor, Environment and Sustainability Committee). Expertise helps to: define emergent government structures in Wales (Wincott, Wyn Jones); identify appropriate responses to policy (Fennell, Specialist Legal Advisor to Welsh Affairs Committee scrutiny of NAW (Legislative Competence) (Health and Health Services and Social Welfare) Order 2010); and evaluate the legitimacy/effectiveness of legislation (Miers, UK Parliament Command Paper on Post Legislative Assessment of the Government of Wales Act).

**Judicial impact** is illustrated by citations of Lowe (child abduction) in the US and New Zealand Supreme Courts, European Court of Justice and UK Supreme Court and Byron (military law) in the Baha Mousa Public Enquiry. Legal and related professions' use of research is exemplified by: human rights training for judges and lawyers in Pakistan (Khaliq); lectures at the French École Nationale de la Magistrature on criminal procedure (Field); Mental Capacity Act Seminar Papers by Fennell (who has also informed Mental Health Tribunal advocates); and Doughty's advice to the Care Council for Wales (training material for court use) and Fostering Network (Welsh legislation).

Research also provides resources to **empower and mobilise wider audiences**. The European Foundation for Living and Working Conditions' online 'European Industrial Relations Dictionary' (co-author Smismans) has c.350,000 yearly web visitor-users. Clements' disability, mental health and community law guides are used by practitioners and the voluntary sector (e.g. Cerebra) and have contributed to social care practice. WGC seeks to shape public debate on UK and Welsh governance; reference to the *Future of England Survey* (Wyn Jones, Wincott with Edinburgh and the Institute for Public Policy Research) in four broadsheets prompted 3,180 online comments.

### b. Approach to impact

Its socio-legal and empirical traditions have given the School a strong record of engaged research by individuals and groups. The School's research Centres have become increasingly important vehicles that deliver impact. Each Centre links to one of four thematic groups (Procedural Justice; Regulation of Commercial Activity; Medicine, Health Care and Society; Governance and Constitutionalism), which identify the impact potential of individual research, and connect it to other research in the School, the University and beyond. Research Centres (Business Relationships, Accountability, Sustainability and Society (BRASS); Centre for Crime, Law and Justice; Centre for Economics and Social Aspects of Genomics; Centre for European Law and Governance (CELAG); Centre for Health and Social Care Law (CHSCL); Centre for Human Rights and Public Law; Centre for Law and Religion (CLR); and WGC) serve three main functions: providing support - and a sounding board - for the generation of impact from individual research; engaging with external constituencies; building research and impact teams. Colleagues are also encouraged to work with other institutions to maximise research impact potential: e.g., Douglas' (Nuffield Foundation and ESRC funded) research on inheritance law and changing family structures with Bristol, Sheffield and the National Centre for Social Research was acknowledged by the Law Commission as a decisive influence and cited by Lord Lester (col 1657) and Baroness Deech (col 1662) in the House of Lords 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Debate (19 October 2012) on the Inheritance (Cohabitants) Bill.

**Creating and Sustaining Relationships with Users.** Multi-stakeholder, cross-discipline research Centres engender collaboration with users (e.g. non-academic members of the CLR (Crammer, Hill, Wadham) have facilitated work with the: Churches Legislation Advisory Service (Westminster); UN Special Rapporteur on Religious Freedom; and Equality and Human Rights Commission. WGC sustains links with legal practice and reform in Wales by, e.g., recruiting expert practitioner staff (E Lewis, Senior Fellow in Welsh Law, leading to an AHRC Collaborative Development Award (CDA)). Users are directly involved in research design e.g. the CLR's Interfaith Legal Advisers Network annually gathers representatives of different faith groups to discuss common legal issues. This led to the interdisciplinary, AHRC-funded project, *Social Cohesion and Civil Law – Family Law and Religious Courts* (Douglas) involving Network members. Hosting regular forums sustains wider, non-academic, engagement. Examples include CELAG's bi-annual *Debating Europe Series* and CHSCL's annual, research-based conferences which prompt practitioner debate.

**School Support.** Impact is emphasised in appraisal, mentoring and thematic groups. These structures encourage staff impact based on public reputations rooted in research publication. They also seek to align empirical research to users' needs (contributing e.g. to the Special Commission's acknowledgment of Lowe's *Statistical Analysis of Applications Made in 2008 under the 1980 Hague Convention*). Flexible teaching, a generous leave policy and individual research funds (£1500 p.a.) support researchers' engagement beyond the academy (e.g. Rainey's presentation to practitioners at the International Association for the Treatment of Sexual Offenders Conference Oslo 2010, resulting in an invited presentation to the UK's National Organisation for the Treatment of Abusers). Pro Bono project investment builds links with beneficiaries and advocates their rights and interests (e.g. the NHS Continuing Healthcare Scheme, run jointly with a regional law firm, and developed from Clements' research). Staff participation in high profile skill development is encouraged (e.g. Stokes in the impact-focused *Welsh Crucible*). A full-time Publicity and Marketing Officer promotes research internationally, nationally and locally via the press, web and social media – a recent Law School blog (Douglas) was re-posted by the Institute of Family Law Arbitrators (Family Arbitrator.com) and linked to Butterworths Family Law Online Service.

**Institutional Support.** Through the Strategic Plan for Research, Innovation and Engagement and the Pro-Vice Chancellor (International and Engagement), the University has supported the School for example, in cross-School centres (such as BRASS) and collaboration with strategic partner universities Great Western Four (GW4: Bath, Bristol, Exeter) and the Wales Institute of Social and Economic Research Methods and Data group (WISERD: Aberystwyth, Bangor, South Wales and Swansea). The University Directory of Expertise (UDE) offers direct media access to research expertise (resulting e.g. in Doe appearing before the NAW Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee). The Publicity and Marketing Officer works with the Community Engagement Team to maximise dissemination, e.g. via the ESRC Festival of Social Science (Clements, Morris) and the Cardiff Series at the Hay Festival (Stokes, Vaughan, Wyn Jones).

### c. Strategy and plans

School strategy seeks to continue to improve the quality, diversity, reach and impact of research

activity by building on existing foundations and previous success. Engagement flourishes when both the external constituency and the School benefit from working together. To develop engagement and translate it into research impact, the School:

**Encourages staff to embed impact within a balanced portfolio of high quality research.** The School will promote best practice across Centres; for example: CLR's user engagement in research design; WGC office presence in the NAW estate; impact-based grant capture (such as WGC's AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Award); and staff input to the Legal Wales initiative. It will also develop a database of external users to help staff engage with users in research design.

**Will increase existing capacity for impact through staff development and by encouraging participation in relevant School and University initiatives.** Administrative support for staff and PGRs, regular training activities, knowledge exchange activities organised by the Centres and thematic groups, and the consideration of impact in the appraisal process will all continue. The School has extended strategic leadership for its Engagement Team through a new post - Director of Impact and External Relations (Khaliq). It will introduce: an Impact Research Officer (to, e.g., support impact strategy design for each research grant bid); an impact mentor scheme to share the expertise of staff with experience of impact; an External Advisory Panel including research users.

**Be flexible and responsive to needs of external constituencies.** A School Impact Research Fund (£10k p.a.) will facilitate quick responses to EU, UK and Welsh government consultations with measurable impact potential and extend the School tradition of hosting 'rapid reaction' public seminars, round-tables and lectures for broader audiences on major legal/political developments.

**Collaborate with external constituencies throughout a project.** When possible, stakeholders will be involved from project design to research application for productive, lasting collaborations; e.g. extending its international work in church law to the ecumenical field, CLR will host a meeting of lawyers from eight global Christian traditions (Rome November 2013) to develop principles on church law/order for submission to, working with, and adoption by the World Council of Churches.

**Exploit the impact potential of strategic collaboration with partner Universities.** The *Gender and Work in the Corporate Environment* project (Roberts, Russell) with GW4 partners will continue to explore cross-fertilisation of ideas, methodologies and structures for maximum impact. The Network on Family Regulation and Society will continue to bring together School family law experts (Douglas, Doughty, L. Smith) with colleagues at Bath, Bristol and Exeter. Emerging research on the third sector and civil society will use WISERD to structure its pan-Wales engagement strategy.

**Exploit the new institutional environment, notably the College structure and strengthening institutional links between Law and Politics.** The School will intensify collaborative impact research across the boundaries of politics, policy and law (e.g., the Jean Monnet Centre (Director Smismans) will deepen collaboration with politics colleagues on the political and legal implications of European integration and devolution). A University-backed, College initiative for major capital investment in a Social Science Research Park will co-locate research centres and third party users, bringing together researchers across disciplines with policy-makers/practitioners to enhance impact through the design, conduct and evaluation of high quality interdisciplinary research.

#### **d. Relationship to case studies**

The selected studies showcase impact founded on established academic reputation and research publications (e.g. Burstow (MP) recommended Clements) and on sustained engagement with users. In each case, a research Centre: bolstered impact capacity by supporting impact-generating individuals (CLR/Doe, CHSCL/Clements) or through research teams (BRASS); facilitated impact by, e.g., bringing together academics with users, and testing underpinning research at Centre seminars. Together, the studies illustrate School commitment to global and national policy-relevance and the diversity, reach and significance of its impact research. Canon law research engaged directly with Anglican leaders worldwide and contributed to changing the self-understanding of global Anglicanism. Beyond his work on the covenant (with PGR D'Auria), Doe's membership of the Legal Advisory Commission, Church of England and his work on principles for the Anglican Communion Legal Advisers Network (which led to his appointment on the Lambeth Commission) all fostered engagement. Research on carers not only brought legal and social issues to the attention of UK law and policy-makers, it shaped the law in both Wales and England, benefiting carers, the 'cared-for' and third-sector organisations. Nanotechnology research benefits regulators, central government, consumers and business. It has influenced professional standards. Each case illustrates positive responsiveness to user needs, whilst maintaining academic integrity.