

Impact template (REF3a)

Institution: Bangor University

Unit of assessment: UoA 20 Law

a. Context

The main non-academic **user groups and beneficiaries** of our research differ among the three main themes of the Bangor Law School. The Law Commission of England & Wales, Administrative Court Users Group, Legal Aid Agency, National Assembly for Wales, Counsel General for Wales, the senior Judiciary, the Courts Service, Law Chambers / Law Firms, the Law Society & Bar are likely to be the main users of our **public & administrative law research**, while beneficiaries and users for our **international criminal law** research include NGOs, such as Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and peace institutes, along with war crimes investigators and prosecutors, international criminal tribunals, lawyers and the UN. Our **public procurement research** is intended to be useful to the Welsh & UK Governments, the judiciary, procurement lawyers, international procurement policy formulators (e.g., EU, Canadian Government), public sector procurement officials and SMEs across UK & Europe seeking to win public sector contracts.

Likewise, the **nature of our impacts** has been varied. Firstly, we seek to influence **policy debate** within the legal profession, at regional, national and international levels. We have influenced the National Assembly of Wales' assessment of the costs and benefits of establishing a separate legal jurisdiction for Wales, and we have engaged with international institutions to influence the development of a model code for the prosecution of international crimes, as well as new processes for the evaluation of different types of evidence in international criminal tribunals. Furthermore, we seek to influence **practice of legal and public sector bodies**: our work on the benefits of regionalisation has influenced instruction patterns for solicitors, leading to the direction of more work to regional Administrative Courts. As a direct result of reports resulting from our procurement research, the Welsh Government and public sector bodies have altered their tendering policies and practices. Finally, we endeavour to realise **wider economic and societal benefits**, for example, adoption of our recommendations on tendering practices in Wales has significantly improved SMEs' tendering success rates, thereby enhancing their competitiveness, and contributing to economic regeneration in Wales.

b. Approach to impact

Responsibility for the development of research impact lies with the Head of the Law School, advised by a Research Committee, who is responsible for ensuring that budgetary allocations and staff workload management (implemented via annual performance development reviews) are used to promote the agenda of research with impact-generation potential. The Head of School represents the School on the Executive Committee of the College of Business, Law, Education and Social Science. Expertise and advice is provided by the College Director of Research, who also represents the College on the University's Research Strategy Task Group and the Impact Task Group, both chaired by the University Director of Research, who is responsible to the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Enterprise) for management of the Research and Enterprise Office, who have experts in marketing, fund-raising, business development and innovation, and have excellent links to business, local and national government and the EU. This structure ensures effective consultation, dissemination and collaborative leadership in the management and promotion of research with impact. The School's strategic plan, developed as part of the overall College plan, is annually updated, with explicit costed targets for Research and Impact, and is approved by the University Executive. Our **strategic approach** to impact is based on four key mechanisms: collaboration in research, cultivation of personal relationships with key individuals, service on significant committees and public dissemination.

(i) Collaboration with practitioners and industrial partners and their representative bodies throughout the research process facilitates eventual uptake of research findings, leading to rapid economic impact. Our Administrative Court research has involved 35 English & Welsh non-academic user groups, fostering research impact take-up by lawyers, officials, Judges & Bar. Since 2009, our *Barriers* procurement research has been conducted with 118 Welsh companies and has led to a major change in Welsh Government procurement policy. Our *Winning in Tendering* (WIT)

procurement transparency research project has interacted regularly with a 300-strong SME user group in Ireland & Wales. Our free trialling with them of our tender review methodology / instrument ensured that they readily took up our research findings. The procurement group also participates in an international project (TESLA) to promote the growth and development of high-potential startup companies. Both TESLA and WIT steering boards have stakeholder members, providing them with rapid access to our research insights, and in turn enabling them to use their influence to ensure the adoption of our findings among major private sector representative bodies such as the Confederation of British Industry, Federation of Small Businesses and Irish Business & Employers' Confederation.

ii) Building personal relationships with leading figures in government, policy and industry ensures that our research findings are brought to the attention of senior non-academic decision makers, helping ensure they are built into policy formulation and implementation. For example, we feel it is likely that our research on international criminal procedure and developing a model code for the prosecution of international crimes is more likely to lead to changing practice as a result of the active interest shown by the international advisory board of our Centre for International Law, whose membership includes several key international judicial figures, including a former UN Special Rapporteur on Independence of Judges, the Seychelles Chief Justice, and an ICTY/ICTR Appeals Chamber Judge. A former Welsh Minister for Finance & Public Service Delivery serves as a member of the WIT Steering Board (2010-13), which has been a major factor in the recommendations of our *Barriers* research (2008 / 2009) appearing in the Welsh Labour Party Manifesto for Government 2011 and subsequently being mandated as Government policy in 2012 in the Welsh Government Public Procurement Policy Statement. Participation by the former President of the Queen's Bench (and now Lord Chief Justice), in Nason's Administrative Court Regionalisation expert research workshop has helped ensure that her research insights were given priority attention, consideration and take-up by key user groups. The involvement of the Senior Administrative Judge for Wales, Midlands & Western Circuit has also been pivotal, as is Nason's continuing contact with senior judicial and Government legal officers in England & Wales, gained via annual Legal Wales events. Finally, the Confederation of British Industry & Federation of Small Businesses are regularly briefed on our research and rely on it when lobbying policy makers.

(iii) Service on influential committees by our staff has been actively encouraged. It allows us to bring our research findings and recommendations to the attention of influential level policy formers, thereby helping shape policy development. Our invitation to be represented on the Law Commission's Welsh Advisory Committee may increase the likelihood that recommendations resulting from Nason's Administrative Court research are taken up in London by the Law Commission. Cahill's invitation to join the House of Commons Parliamentary Committee of Enquiry into the slow uptake of e-invoicing brings our e-procurement research to the attention of legislators, while his membership of the Welsh Government's Business Procurement Task Force and its Creative Procurement Forum has ensured that our tender review instrument (emanating from our WIT research) was adopted by Welsh Government. Linton's membership of the International Law Association's Committee on International Human Rights Law & Practice Expert Group on Int'l Criminal Procedure will make it more likely that the ILA adopts the model code she has developed and recommended.

(iv) Active public dissemination serves as a gateway to collaboration and to building closer relationships with key users. It is supported strategically by assistance to staff, from the school and central units. The University has helped raised the profile of our research, by nominating the Law School as a Top-3 Finalist in the University's Research & Enterprise Impact Awards in 2013. The University Research and Enterprise Office provide expert advice, personal contacts and staff resources to help bring our research insights and findings to key policy makers in the Welsh and UK Government, local authorities and business. Institutional support has been provided to our School's research dissemination officer, and the College media officer to assist them with organising events and delivering websites, twitter feeds and press releases. A selection of dissemination activities are outlined below. Shi regularly writes in the Chinese press on matters pertaining to China/UK topical legal developments and serves as correspondent to a number of mass media publications. Cahill has made frequent BBC radio & television appearances (supported by University media training). The School provided funds for Administrative Court research workshops in London to raise the profile of Nason's research among key non-academic user groups. Nason & Rees are regularly invited to give evidence at the Welsh Assembly on policy

discussion and have received AV training within the University. Mawhinney has appeared before Irish parliamentary and Geneva UN committees. Telles has given evidence before the House of Commons Local Government Committee. We have 3,500 LinkedIn followers, an active Twitter following (408 members) and have posted master seminars on YouTube discussing our research findings for a global audience (7,939 viewings in 2013). We host an annual Procurement Week, which in 2013, for example, was attended by speakers from 21 countries including EU officials who draft the EU Procurement laws, and the Procurement Ombudsman of Canada. Representatives of the Ministry of Finance Brazil were also in attendance, and we have recently signed an MOU with that organisation to promote knowledge transfer in the area of procurement law research.

c. Strategy and plans

We intend to build on our successes in realising the impact of our research, using the 4 key approaches outlined above. While not neglecting our already significant role within Wales, we plan to make particular efforts to expand our influence on central UK matters and to expand our international reach.

The **Welsh Government's** confirmation (2013) that Bangor Law School will host and organise the Welsh Government Procurement Awards for 2014 & 2015 grants us a prestigious platform to promote adoption of our research with key non-academic procurement user groups both in Ireland & UK. Our **UK National Impacts** are likely to include the challenge from the findings of our Administrative Court Regionalisation research to the UK Government's Summer 2013 reforms that limited access to judicial review and transferred asylum & migration cases to the Upper Tribunal. We will encourage non-academic user groups, such as the Public Law Project, the Judiciary, Admin Law Bar Association, and Law Society to cite our evidence in response to the Government Consultation and to challenge Government policy proposing further drastic changes to the judicial review procedure. Cahill's membership of the UK Parliamentary Enquiry into the Slow Adoption of E-Procurement will bring our procurement research to the UK Parliament's attention. The most obvious new development of our **International Reach** is likely to be through the new Confucius Centre, which is primarily focussed on Law, and will facilitate staff exchanges between Bangor and China and help build up research partnerships and aid dissemination of our research among Chinese institutions. During 2014-16, we plan to expand our procurement research findings to other EU regions, via our TESLA project network of non-academic partners, across 6 European countries. We will undertake research in conjunction with Canada's Federal Office of Small & Medium Sized Business, assessing the impact of our Tender Review Instrument methodology research in Canada and with Brazil's Ministry of Finance to assess the impact of our procurement law knowledge-transplantation-research-transfer to fight corruption in Brazil. We intend that our international criminal law research findings will be implemented through liaison with the influential non-academic advisory board members of the Bangor Centre for International Law, to advocate adoption of our model code and international criminal procedure findings among institutions such as International Criminal Tribunals, which could give our work a truly global impact.

d. Relationship to case studies

Our impact case studies demonstrate key features of our approach to impact. Nason's early establishment of a key user group ensured rapid impact of her **administrative court research**, as users recognised and were influenced by her findings. This example also shows the benefit of the school's financial support, as we funded Nason's workshops in London aimed at facilitating the uptake of her research findings. The **procurement case study** illustrates how our membership of key committees has led to impact – Cahill's Wales Business Procurement Task Force 2009/10 membership brought his research to Ministerial attention, and his findings were adopted by the Welsh Government. The presence of public sector participants on our Winning in Tendering Steering Group brought our research to senior policy makers in timely fashion exemplified by the uptake of the Barriers/WIT research by the Welsh Government in 2009/12. Our establishment of deep relationships with key non-academic figures, ensuring acceleration of research uptake is exemplified by the way Telles has guided the County Councils' low value procurement tendering pilot, ensuring that Bangor's procurement research reached and was adopted by non-academic user groups.