

<b>Institution: University of the West of England, Bristol</b>
<b>Unit of Assessment: 20 - LAW</b>
<p><b>a. Overview</b></p> <p>The 14 FTE staff submitted to UOA 20 are members of the Centre for Legal Research (Director, <b>Rumney</b>), a University-recognised research centre within the Law Department. They provide research leadership for the Centre's five research units: Commercial Law; Criminal Justice; Environmental Law; Family Gender and Equality; and International Law and Human Rights. These include submitted staff, early career researchers and others developing their research profiles, and PGR students, providing a focus for research and knowledge exchange and for investment in support of the Department's research strategy. Research in the UOA is managed at Faculty level by an Associate Dean, together with a Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee (incorporating the Research Strategy Implementation Group), and supported by the University-wide Research, Business and Innovation service (RBI). A University-wide Graduate School has been established to provide support for PGR students.</p>
<p><b>b. Research strategy</b></p> <p>Research strategy as of 2008 was designed to build upon the increasing quality of research in the UOA, to support and encourage both established and new researchers, to support wide-ranging research-based activities and to undertake monitoring and evaluation of research activities and outputs in order to guide effective investment of resources. The research strategy was reviewed and refocused in 2010 in the light of the national context for research priorities and funding and the University's own strategy and objectives.</p> <p>The overarching goal of the new research strategy adopted by the Law Department in 2011 is:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>'To develop and sustain a dynamic culture of high quality research, demonstrating relevance and impact, and underpinning knowledge exchange, teaching and learning.'</i></p> <p>Key objectives are, in summary, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• continue to develop, support and invest in research, generating work of internationally excellent quality published in the leading journals, with a strong emphasis on demonstrable impact;</li> <li>• focus research activity and investment in order to establish sustainable concentrations of excellent research with profile and impact, whilst supporting a broad base of research and knowledge exchange activities, in order to build a broad base of research and knowledge exchange and to underpin teaching and learning;</li> <li>• provide opportunities for current staff, including early career researchers, to develop and sustain research careers including through internal promotion, alongside strategic investment in the appointment of new, research active staff;</li> <li>• increase the volume of research funded from a range of external sources to a level at least equal to that of a comparable HEI;</li> <li>• ensure a high quality PGR-student experience, timely completion, an increased volume of externally and self-funded students, and a stronger focus on research priorities;</li> <li>• further develop collaborative and interdisciplinary research and research funding bids, including with collaborators in other HEIs;</li> <li>• increase the scale and scope of interaction and collaboration with business and other organisations in terms of applied research, knowledge exchange and impact.</li> </ul> <p>An Implementation Plan and Performance Indicators (KPIs) were drawn up following adoption of the new strategy, with a Research Strategy Implementation Group (a sub-group of the Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee) responsible for this. Annual KPIs include, for example, outputs in highly rated journals, research funding bids submitted, funding bids and value of external income secured, number of externally/self-funded PGR students, PGR completions, collaborative bids submitted and secured, research collaborations with business and other organisations, and forms of impact commensurate with REF 3a criteria. Activities in support of the research strategy as a whole are set out in section d) below.</p> <p>In terms of achievement against strategic objectives:</p>

## Environment template (REF5)

- The number of staff submitted to UOA 20 is about the same as in 2008, but we believe that this represents a marked improvement, in line with our strategy, in terms of the proportion of high quality outputs in leading journals and other publications. Furthermore, the Law Department has a strong group of new and early career researchers whose profile is developing well;
- Internal investment in research, internally-funded timetable allocation for research, and administrative and professional support has increasingly focused on key research themes within the Centre for Legal Research;
- Investment in internally-funded staff time for research, mentoring, and staff training and development, has supported career development and internal promotion including specific support for early career researchers. Strategic appointments of research leaders and research active staff have been made over the REF period – strategy and progress on staffing are set out in section c) below;
- External research income has totalled £150,311 over the REF period. Whilst this is comparable with research income for the RAE 2008 period, we have not met our objective of improving the level of external funding and we have, therefore, adopted a strategy to improve our performance in this respect (see below);
- PGR completions totalled eight over the REF period, compared with three for RAE 2008. Time to completion has fallen over the REF period and student experience and support has been enhanced with the establishment of a University Graduate School (see section c ii);
- A significant amount of collaborative and interdisciplinary research with UK and international HEIs and other organisations has been carried out (detailed in section e) below);
- The increased emphasis on external collaboration and impact is reflected in the scale and scope of collaboration with non-HEI partners (also detailed in section e) below).

A range of measures has been put in place to support and drive the research strategy:

- Staff performance against the research strategy is supported and monitored through the annual Performance and Development Review (PDR) process which includes a focus on research activity including outputs, bidding, projects secured, PGR, collaboration and, in the case of Associate Professors and Professors, research leadership and contribution to the discipline and the research base;
- There has been an increasing focus, since adoption of the new research strategy, on bidding for external research funding and on the quality of outputs. Professors and Associate Professors are expected to submit at least one bid annually to the EU, ESRC, AHRC, a research charity or other major research funder, and the Centre for Legal Research has instigated a series of staff seminars and workshops on research funding. These measures have already produced positive results in that the number of research funding bids more than doubled between 2010 and 2012. All staff are expected to focus outputs on higher quality journals and other forms of publication, and this is encouraged and monitored through the PDR process and via the academic workload model;
- Internal research investment allocated to the Law Department is used to support research under the auspices of the Centre for Legal Research, as well as PGR bursaries. Staff are also able to bid on an annual basis for internal funds in support of specific research activities;
- The University-wide academic workload model includes specific provision for internal investment in research and research development (see section d) below). Professors and Associate Professors receive an as-of-right allocation of research time. All staff are eligible to apply for research time which is allocated annually under the academic workload model, with staff bidding for time which is assessed on the basis of recent performance and planned activities and outputs for the year ahead;
- Staff are required, in accordance with the research strategy, to incorporate explicit plans – a ‘pathways to impact’ statement - for securing and demonstrating impact from their research activities, including both internally and externally funded projects. This is supported and monitored through the PASS system of bid approval, individual PDR and the academic workload model processes, and by the provision of training and development opportunities. In addition, Higher Education Innovation Fund (HEIF) 5 funding is used to support research dissemination to non-academic communities;
- Early career researchers are allocated a research mentor and supported through ring-fenced

## Environment template (REF5)

allocations of research time under the academic workload model, and through resources for specific projects under the University ECR support scheme (SPUR) (see section c) ).

The Law Department Research Strategy adopted in 2011, along with the Implementation Plan and KPIs, will continue to drive research strategy over the next five years, subject to review and renewal taking into account the 'Research with impact' priority under the University's new "Strategy 2020", and the Faculty of Business and Law's Research with Impact Strategy.

### c. People, including:

#### i. Staffing strategy and staff development

The staffing strategy supporting the research strategy has, since 2008, combined support for career development for existing staff with recruitment of research active staff, with a particular emphasis on early career researchers and investment in the renewal of research leadership capacity in response to significant turnover amongst more senior staff. Two professorial staff submitted to RAE 2008 have retired since 2008 (Chandler and Light). However, four staff have been promoted to a chair since 2008 (**Jones, Razzaque, Rumney, and Ryder**), joining **Cape** as the fifth professor, and eight staff have been appointed or promoted as Associate Professors (Claydon [left 2013], **Blanco, Chambers, Jones, Quenivet, Ryder, Razzaque, Turksen** – three of whom were further promoted to professor). Six submitted staff have been appointed to the Law Department since 2008 (**Chambers, Das, Gillen, Grant, Turksen and Young**), two of whom are early career researchers (**Das** and **Young**). In addition, two further early career researchers (Devine and Elliott) have been appointed during the assessment period. Both have been awarded PhDs since joining the Law Department and are making good progress towards being eligible for entry in the next research assessment exercise.

Early Career Researchers in the Law Department are mentored by a research leader in their field and are supported through the award of internal investment in research time within their workload allocation. They are also eligible to bid for University funded Early Career Grants (SPUR). The scheme requires applicants to demonstrate that the award will result in substantive published outputs and the submission of bids for follow-on funding. Staff in the Law Department have secured three awards (**Chambers**, Devine and Elliott) to the value of £31,800 since inception of the scheme in 2009. The range of work supported is demonstrated by the project titles: **Chambers** – 'Virtual economies and financial crime: Money laundering in cyberspace'; Devine - 'Translating the duty to safeguard children into child protection referrals: Evaluating Training Effectiveness and Outcomes in an Education Setting'; and Elliott - 'The Identification of Putative Trafficked Women in the UK: Barriers to Identification'. During the assessment period the Law Department has also supported five staff undertaking PhDs through time awarded for PG research under the academic workload model, three of whom (Elliott, Devine, and Hassler) have successfully completed their studies, and two of whom will be submitting their theses in the near future (Singh and Khan).

The University introduced a Women in Research Mentoring Scheme in 2011 in order to promote equality and facilitate professional development for women researchers. The scheme provides individual mentoring but also sustains a supportive university-wide interdisciplinary network, and training and development activities. Although we do not claim it as a direct result of the scheme, the promotions detailed above and other activities set out in REF5 do demonstrate our commitment to enhancing the prospects for women researchers. Nine of the fourteen staff submitted to UOA 20 are women, as are two of the staff promoted to a chair, and six of the staff appointed as Associate Professors (which includes the two who were further promoted to a chair). All of the Law Department staff awarded SPUR grants are women, as are all of those staff who have received Law Department support for their PhD studies. The Women Law Students' Forum (WLSF), which is affiliated to the Family, Gender and Equality Research Unit, provides an important link between research, equal opportunities for staff and the student experience. Activities have included a joint staff/student led event 'Busting Myths about Sexual Violence!', presented as part of the ESRC funded Festival of Social Science in 2012.

The Law Department and UWE is committed to implementing the principles of the *Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers (2008)* as part of its strategic plan. A comprehensive 'gap analysis' was undertaken which reviewed all the relevant policies and

procedures against the Concordat. An Action Plan to enhance support for staff on research grades (published on the UWE website) has been put in place and is being implemented. Law Department researchers participate in the UWE Researchers' Forum. Established in 2005, and led by one of UWE's four Associate Deans for Research, this provides training and development activities and a network to enable all research staff to share good practice and common issues to be addressed, and represents researchers' interests in the University. All staff on fixed-term contracts are moved on to open-ended contracts after a maximum of four years.

Standards of research quality and integrity are supported by a rigorous research ethics regime which was reviewed and strengthened in 2007. Procedures have been put into place to ensure that all staff and PGR students who are proposing to conduct research involving human participants, either directly or indirectly, are required to secure approval from the Faculty Research Ethics Committee. The Committee and associated procedures also ensure that all staff involved in NHS research comply with current NRES regulations. Ethics procedures are included in staff induction and in PGR training. It is an expectation – included in UWE research conduct procedures - that academic staff will include PGR students contributing to published research as joint authors.

## ii. Research students

The Law Department Doctoral Programme is a significant and substantial component of research strategy, activity and investment. There are currently 16 PGR students registered in the Law Department. Equal opportunity is a key aspect of recruitment procedures, and eight of those registered are female. Five are EU or overseas students, and eleven are studying part-time. The University has provided significant support for PGR through internally funded bursaries (Graduate School Scholarships (GSS)), and completion bursaries. Three PGR students in the Law Department have received support under these schemes in the REF 2014 period.

Eight PGR students completed in the REF period (6 PhD and 2 MPhil). This compares with three completions in the 2008 RAE assessment period, thus representing a significant improvement, which will continue as those currently registered complete their studies. Following an extensive review of PG research, student support, training and development, monitoring and progression, and administration have been integrated into a single, UWE-wide Graduate School. This supports PGR Programmes across the University, with the focus for the student experience remaining at the level of schools and departments. Within the Law Department there is now a strong emphasis on ensuring the quality of students selected, fit with supervisory teams and ensuring adequate financial support. The academic workload model ensures appropriate time allocation for supervisory teams. Enhanced monitoring and progression procedures have been established on an annual cycle and all students are now normally expected to complete within four years (full time), and six years (part time). All new research students are required to complete a Law Department induction programme, and are encouraged to participate in regular PGR seminars and other events (described further below). Supervisory teams must include an experienced Director of Studies who has supervised at least three students to successful completion, and a second supervisor who may be less experienced (providing opportunities for staff career development). All new supervisors take a dedicated module which is part of the University's accredited Academic Development Programme. All *vivas* are conducted by an independent chair (who has undertaken training for this role) and two examiners. Eleven of the 14 submitted staff are, or have been during the assessment period, members of PGR supervisory teams.

All PGR students undertake a (minimum 60 credit) assessed training programme, appropriate to their needs, which includes research design, data collection and analysis, and additional law-specific modules. Students are also required to complete a programme of generic skills training which is mapped against the Research Council's *Joint Skills Statement*. This is provided by the University Research Support unit and covers digital research, getting published, small group teaching, poster presentation, social enterprise, bidding for funds, software training, project management, undertaking and completing doctoral research, and managing working relationships. PGR students are encouraged to take a full part in the research units and to lead at least one research seminar per year, to participate in the Faculty Annual Doctoral Student Conference along with supervisors and other academic staff, and to present papers at this conference during the period of their studies. In addition, the Graduate School organises a programme of training and

development events for PGR students.

#### **d. Income, infrastructure and facilities**

The approach to bidding for external research funding is closely, although not exclusively, linked to the strategic objective of pursuing research that will have a positive, practical, impact on fairness, justice and respect for the rule of law nationally and internationally. A major strategic element is collaboration, nationally and internationally, with universities and NGOs in securing funding from international bodies such as the EU and NGOs, and national bodies such as the ESRC, in which impact is designed to be a central feature. Funders of research during the assessment period have included the European Commission, UNDP, UNODC, ESRC, SLSA, the Open Society Justice Initiative, the Soros Foundation - Moldova, Orange Communications, and GTZ (see further section e.). External research income in the REF assessment period totals £150,311, including £49,000 from UK business and £79,000 from the EU. This represents an almost 15 per cent increase on external research income for the RAE 2008 assessment period but, as noted in section b. above, the UOA has a strategy, and has introduced mechanisms, to increase both the number of external research bids and the level of funding secured.

Research funding from external sources is supplemented by internal research investment which, as noted in section b., funds research time through the UWE academic workload model and the SPUR scheme for early career researchers. In addition, internal investment supports specific research projects, research staff in university research centres, research administrative support and PGR bursaries. For example, in 2012/13 internal investment enabled Law Department staff to be supported for the purposes of research by the equivalent of 25 working days each week through the workload model. HEIF funds for Law Department projects totalled £20,000 in 2011/12 and 2012/13 and, as noted in section c, SPUR funding for early career researchers has totalled £31,800 since its inception in 2009. Decisions regarding all of these forms of funding are based on applications by staff in respect of specific projects or publication plans, designed in part to develop funding application skills. HEIF funds have supported projects on: Establishing a sexual violence research network; Green skills for a low carbon economy: Linking business, trainers and communities; Drafting a United Nations Convention on Violence against Women; The Shame Of Honour-Based Violence – Issues, Tensions and Challenges; and the creation of a highly regarded human rights blog – ‘Eurorights’ (see <http://www.eurorights.org.uk/>).

Research activity, including PGR, is supported by the UWE central support service, Research, Business and Innovation (RBI). The Research Administration team provide integrated, university-wide support and administration for research including pre-award bidding, post-award support and project management, identification of funding opportunities, training and development for academic staff on research funding opportunities and strategies, monitoring of research data; support for the governance of research and for dissemination activities. The UWE Graduate School supports recruitment, admissions, training and development, monitoring and progression, supervisor and examiner training, and examination procedures.

The Law Department has a local IT support unit which is an integral part of central IT services. This supports general purpose and specialist research software and systems for PGR students. Full-time PGR students have dedicated desk space, computers, telephone, photocopying, fax machines, and 24/7 Library access and support. The Centre for Student Affairs provides financial support, counselling and careers advice. There is disabled access throughout the University. Language support for international students allows various IELTS related entry points with further support available via the Inter-faculty Language Programme.

#### **e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base**

Law Department staff have been engaged in a significant number of collaborative projects during the assessment period, including: 1) A series of research projects concerned with procedural rights in criminal proceedings in Europe and Latin America, involving collaboration with Maastricht University (Netherlands), Warwick University, Avon and Somerset Constabulary, JUSTICE (a London-based NGO), the Open Society Justice Initiative (OSJI, a Budapest-based NGO), and a number of NGOs in Latin America including Dejusticia in Columbia. The collaboration has resulted

in the publication, during the assessment period, of two books (with a third forthcoming), journal articles, and presentation of the results at numerous national and international conferences. It also resulted in a commission by the UNODC and UNDP to write a handbook on early access to legal aid in criminal justice systems (2013); 2) A series of projects concerned with environmental regulation, biodiversity, and human rights in collaboration with and/or funded by Wuhan University (China), the UNDP and GTZ. Evidence of success of these collaborations includes a visiting professorship at Wuhan University, many conference presentations, and participation in the UN Institute of Training and Research/Yale University project on human rights and the environment; 3) The EU funded MUTRAP project on international trade law in Viet Nam, involving collaboration with the Hanoi Law University, with outputs including training courses for academics, public authorities and business, and the founding of an electronic journal (in English and Vietnamese) on international trade law; and 4) An inter-disciplinary empirical project (with Criminology) on attitudes to male rape, resulting in a range of scholarly outputs.

In addition to the collaborative projects identified above, Law Department staff have participated in a large number of collaborative funding bids, and unfunded projects. The criminal justice research unit, for example, is a cross-faculty, interdisciplinary unit including criminologists, educationalists and economists, and collaborative bids and projects have included those on the use of new technology to combat human trafficking and child sexual abuse (2012), the use of neuro-scientific evidence in court (2012 onwards), an evaluation of an offender education programme (2009-2010), and a project on healthy identities in young offenders (2010-2013). A key driver, and facilitator, of collaborative work are research networks, including those that extend beyond the academic field. During the assessment period Law Department staff have been instrumental in establishing a number of formal networks with a view to developing research and collaborations related to 'real world' problems, and to providing a vehicle for achieving impact, including: the Global Network for the Study of Human Rights and the Environment (<http://gnhre.org/>); the Business and Society Partnership

(<http://www1.uwe.ac.uk/bl/bls/research/centreforlegalresearch/businessandsociety.aspx>); the Asia Network on Trade Investment and Sustainability

(<http://www1.uwe.ac.uk/bl/bls/research/antis.aspx>);

and the newly formed Financial Crime Research Network involving five universities and a number of major commercial and other organisations such as Lloyds TSB, Avon and Somerset Police Authority, KPMG and the Chartered Insurance Institute. For similar purposes, staff are also active in a number of existing networks such as the Environmental Law Foundation, the Wales Assembly of Women, the South West Fraud Forum, the Wales Fraud Forum, SOLON, and the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law.

Linking research and teaching **Pontin**, supported by internal investment, has pioneered 'research-based learning' in which undergraduate students conduct original research under supervision of a member of staff. His work, in which students researched the local context of leading nuisance actions, was used as a case-study in Fry, Ketteridge and Marshall's *A Handbook for Teaching and Learning: Enhancing Academic Practice* (2009), and was endorsed by Professor Julian Webb as a mechanism 'around which we could reconstruct the role of the teacher in a more research-based legal education process'. Research carried out by undergraduates under this programme was incorporated into **Pontin's** recent book, *Nuisance Law in Action*.

Law Department staff have been instrumental in organising a wide range of national and international conferences, for example: *Symposium on International Law and Armed Conflict* (Bristol 2008); *Governance in Triptych: Environment, Migration, Peace and Order* (Manila 2008, with the University of the Philippines); the *Child Protection Round Table Series* (Bristol 2009 and 2010); *Criminal Justice in an Age of Austerity and Change* (London 2010, with the Centre for Crime and Justice Studies and Warwick University); *Effective Criminal Defence in Europe: Advancing Beyond Stockholm* (Brussels 2010, with Maastricht University, JUSTICE and OSJI); *Corporations, Trade and Natural Resources* (Bristol 2011); *E-fraud: does it exist?* (Bristol, 2011, with the South West Fraud Forum); *Effective Criminal Defence in Europe* (Brussels 2012, with OSJI); *Fighting Financial Crime in the Global Economic Crisis* (Bristol 2012, with Cambridge University Press, Routledge Cavendish and UK Trade Investment); *Roundtable on Green Skills for a Low Carbon Economy: Linking business, trainers and communities* (Bristol 2013, sponsored by HEIF and iNets South West); the 2013 annual conference of the International Neuroethics Society in San Diego;

## Environment template (REF5)

the *Sustainable Severn Conference* (Bristol 2013, with the Bristol Port Company, RSPB and Regen South West); *Inside Police Custody: Investigating Procedural Rights of Suspects in the EU* (Maastricht 2013, with Maastricht University, Warwick University and JUSTICE); and *Fraud – policy and legislative updates* (Bristol, 2013, with the Fraud Advisory Panel). The Law Department successfully organised and hosted the SLSA annual conference in 2010. In an exciting recent development, **Chambers** organised the *First Virtual World Conference on Banking and Finance*, delivered via the 'Second Life' platform (September 2013). In addition, the Centre for Legal Research, and the research units, organise their own seminar series programmes (e.g., the CLR Forum).

Staff in the Law Department have founded two international journals during the assessment period: *Journal of Human Rights and the Environment*, and *Journal of International Humanitarian Studies*. In addition to these journals, staff members hold editorial positions for a range of journals including: *Criminal Law Review*; *Criminal Justice Matters*; *Law, Crime and History*; *Environmental Law and Management*; *Journal of Environmental Law*; *Financial Regulation International*; *Cyberlaws*; *International Trade Law*; *Information and Communications Technology Law*; *Financial Regulation International*, and *Crime, Punishment and Law*. Guest editorships have included for *New Criminal Law Review*, the *Liverpool Law Review*, and *Information and Communications Technology Law*.

Contributions made by members of the UOA to learned societies and professional associations include: the Commonwealth Legal Education Association (**Chambers** was Director-General from 2010-2012, and executive member thereafter, and **Turksen** is an executive member); SLS Council/Executive (**Jones**, Edwards), and subject conveners (**Jones**, **Ryder**); SLSA subject conveners (**Razzaque**, **Chambers**); and the Law Society Criminal Law Committee's police station sub-group (**Cape**). Other evidence of esteem includes: UK delegate to the UN Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting on Strengthening Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems, November 2011 (**Cape**); patron of the Legal Action Group (**Cape**); member of the Legal Affairs Committee of the Welsh Centre for International Affairs (**Jones**); chair of the Wales Assembly of Women (**Jones**); keynote speaker at UCL Current Legal Issues symposium, 2009 (Claydon); keynote speaker at the Wales Fraud Forum Annual Conference, 2011 (**Ryder**); keynote speaker at the South West Fraud Forum Annual Conference 2011 (**Ryder**); keynote speaker at the Law Society Criminal Law Annual Conference, 2013 (**Cape**); member of the UNEP Panel on human rights and the environment (**Razzaque**); member of the UNEP Expert Panel on Ecosystem Services, 2008 (**Razzaque**), member of the UN Expert Panel on Business and Human Rights, 2010 (**Razzaque**), and member of the ESRC peer review group for the ESRC/DFID 'Growth Programme', 2011 (**Razzaque**).