

<p>Institution: University of Strathclyde</p> <p>Unit of Assessment: 21 Politics and International Studies</p> <p>a. Context The School of Government and Public Policy (GPP) has a clear strategy for pursuing impact from its research on public policy, governance and representation. This focuses on three interlocked circles of beneficiaries: a core of public policy decision-makers; an intermediate circle of civic society organisations; and an outer ring of news media linked to wider public debate. The development of specialist skills for knowledge exchange and engagement is underpinned by the School's research centres - the European Policies Research Centre (EPRC), the Centre for the Study of Public Policy (CSPP), and the Centre for Elections and Representation Studies (CERS).</p> <p>b. Approach to impact b.1 Management of impact The School's commitment to research with impact is evident in: (i) management structures within the School and the wider institution; (ii) policies and practices to promote impact; and (iii) tangible results, notably long-term relationships with research users and other impact-related activities. First, with respect to <u>management structures</u>, the strategic objectives of promoting impact are set by the School Management Committee chaired by the Head of School and including senior staff with specific responsibility for knowledge exchange and continuing professional development. The approach is facilitative, encouraging and incentivising individual initiative and ensuring a coherent approach to maximising opportunities. Impact is also on the agenda of School and sub-School meetings, e.g. EPRC staff meet weekly to review funding calls from European institutions and other national and international bodies and to assess opportunities for knowledge exchange. At Faculty level, a Vice-Dean for Research & Knowledge Exchange promotes knowledge-sharing on external engagement, facilitates the establishment of CPD courses (including GPP opening its MSc in Public Policy to practitioners) and provides seed funding for external collaboration. The Faculty has a dedicated Research & Knowledge Exchange Team, working closely with the University's Research & Knowledge Exchange Services office, to provide high-quality administrative support to researchers on knowledge exchange and funding opportunities. GPP has used an EPSRC-funded University programme 'Pathways to Impact' to fund practitioner engagement in new research on innovative EU policies. Also at University-level, the new Strathclyde International Public Policy Institute (SIPPI), part-managed by GPP, has a specific goal of ensuring that new interdisciplinary research is designed in close cooperation with policymakers. Second, <u>policies and practices</u> reinforce the attention GPP staff give to impact. As part of the annual Accountability & Development Review process, staff are assessed on their knowledge exchange activity, with appropriate objectives and targets agreed for the year ahead (e.g. presentation of results at practitioner workshops, writing for policy periodicals, press or social media, and dissemination events). The process is used to identify GPP training needs, which has led to training being organised on workshop facilitation, intellectual property and using the media. GPP uses a Visiting Scholars programme to bring practitioners to the School from across Europe for short stays (1-3 months) to stimulate awareness among School staff on policy needs. Former practitioners are hosted as Visiting Professors for three years or more to work together with School staff; over the REF period, these include Andrew Goudie (former Chief Economic Advisor to the Scottish Government), Jane Morgan (Senior Civil Servant in the Scottish Government) and Martin Hughes (former Senior Director in Scottish Enterprise). Lastly, these structures and practices help sustain <u>long-term relationships</u> with research users. Two EPRC-led research consortia, funded by policy organisations, have been running since 1978 (EoRPA: European Regional Policy Research Consortium) and 1996 (IQ-Net: Improving the Quality of Structural Funds Management). The CSPP-led New Barometer surveys have been funded since 1991. The relationships with the National Centre and the Scottish Centre date back to 2001. These relationships enable the School to understand the priorities of policy organisations, gain access to data and high-level interviewees, provide opportunities for research exploitation and inform the School's research strategy. The significant level of research funding, £6.003 million for the REF period, is substantially due to GPP's record in attracting funding from government departments and European institutions, as well as research councils.</p>

b.2 Engagement with public policy decision makers at multiple levels

b.2.1 National government institutions and agencies: Public policy research has been exploited for the benefit of national government bodies in several policy fields since 2008. With respect to *regional policy*, the EoRPA consortium includes an annual, three-day 'Chatham House' meeting for international senior government officials to debate government thinking on regional development. IQ-Net includes two international policy conferences each year in different parts of Europe for senior officials to exchange experience on implementing EU Cohesion policy. Regional policy advice has been provided by **Bachtler, Davies** and colleagues in: Finland (Ministry of Economy & Employment); Germany (Federal Ministry of Economics); Ireland (Enterprise Ireland); Poland (Ministry of Regional Development); and the UK (Scottish Government, Welsh Government).

A related area of impact is **Wishlade's** work on *competition policy*, involving advisory work for the Madeira Region on State aid and tax competition, and on regional aid (associated with EU policy reforms) for governments in Austria (Federal Chancellery), France (DATAR), Ireland (Enterprise Ireland) and the UK (Department for Business, Innovation and Skills).

Other examples include **Rüdig's** work on elite attitudes to *energy policy* issues, presented at the British-German Environment Forum on 'Energy Policy for the 2050s' at Wilton Park. **Riera** has advised the Spanish government on *reform of the electoral system* for the Lower Chamber. **Dellepiane Avellaneda's** work on *development policy* (political conditionalities and foreign aid), was presented at an ECPR workshop for senior European and national officials and global NGOs. Lastly, in the IR field, **Ong** was an invited discussant at the 2013 Taiwan Round Table.

The new staff members will ensure that this tradition of engagement continues. **Studlar's** comparative research on tobacco control regulation is used by health agencies in Canada and the US, and his new work on policies for obesity is also internationally relevant for policymakers. **Koga** maintains strong contacts in the Japanese government and is engaging with the Japanese foreign ministry on advisory opportunities. In collaboration with Bueno de Mequita (NYU) and Stokman (Groningen), **Thomson** has applied game theoretic models of decision-making to advise public and private sector clients involved in complex negotiations (e.g. public bodies contracting with infrastructure developers).

b.2.2 International government bodies: The exploitation of research for European institutions includes advisory roles for the European Commission (on EU Cohesion policy, proposals for policy reform – **Bachtler**; reform of the EU Regional Aid Guidelines - **Wishlade**); and the European Court of Auditors (options for performance assessment – **Bachtler**). Funded by the EU's Jean Monnet Programme, **Thomson** advised policymakers in the European institutions to discuss the policy implications of treaty changes. **Bachtler** facilitated meetings of ministers and senior officials under the Czech, Polish, Cypriot and Lithuanian EU Presidencies; and presentations were made to policymaker meetings of the Hungarian, Slovenian (**Bachtler**) and Irish (**Charles**) Presidencies.

De Francesco's research has led to the design of quality assurance mechanisms for development programmes, via the 'Better Regulation for Growth' Programme of the International Finance Corporation and World Bank. In the same field, **Shephard** contributed research on Westminster practices for a review of World Bank legislative oversight and budgeting.

Global public policy impacts stem from the work of the CSPP. **Rose's** New Barometer surveys are being followed up with a four-year study, with Transparency International, on global measures of corruption. Integral to the New Europe and New Russia Barometer surveys is external engagement with international institutions (e.g. World Bank, EBRD, UNDP). **Charles** participated in two OECD peer-review exercises examining university regional engagement in Australia and Spain. **McMaster's** research on territorial cooperation was also exploited by the OECD for an assessment of the North Atlantic region and by the EU-funded Northern Periphery programme.

b.2.3 Legislatures at subnational, national and EU levels: Research-informed evidence has been presented to parliamentary committees. At UK level, these include: the Foreign Affairs Committee (**Rose** on the EU's priorities) and House of Lords EU Committee (**Rose** on EU enlargement; **Bachtler** on EU Structural Funds). At Scottish level, UoA members contributed to the European & External Relations Committee (**Bachtler** on the EU budget review) and the Scottish Parliament Convenors' Group (**Shephard** assessing committee operations). **Thomson's** research on the EU Presidency was used for briefing the Northern Ireland Assembly. At EU level,

Bachtler, Mendez, and Wislade advised the European Parliament's Regional Development Committee, and the EU Committee of the Regions on the options for EU Cohesion policy reform.

b.3 Nongovernment, political and civic society organisations

Innovative work by **Shephard** and **Patrikios** on the organisation, practices and impact of youth parliaments in Europe was used by the Scottish Youth Parliament (SYP) for training materials. **Curtice** chaired an independent commission on SYP election procedures, with key recommendations (e.g. internet voting, lowering of the voting age) being enacted by the SYP Board of Trustees. Other research studies incorporated engagement with non-government bodies, quasi-governmental agencies and user groups at national and European levels; for example, **Davies** contributed to the ESRC Festival of Social Science, drawing on an ESRC-funded research on innovation in peripheral regions, which was also utilised by the UK Innovation Research Centre. **Rüdigg's** research interest in Green politics has been utilised through advisory work for the European Green Party, the Green Group in the European Parliament and the German Green Party (*Die Grünen*).

b.4 Broadcast and news media linked to wider informed public debate

Research findings have been used as the basis for frequent contributions to public debate through the broadcast and news media. **Curtice** has made prolific interventions in public debates and analysis of political, especially electoral, activity for the Scottish, UK and international press and broadcast media. **Shephard** has also contributed media commentary. The innovative collaborative venture between the BBC and the School involving **Patrikios** (with Cram and Mitchell) to gauge the mood of the nation, was a path-breaking exercise both in engaging the public in the research process and in impacting on public debate.

c. Strategy and plans

The School's strategy is to maximise its contribution to the University's Outcome Agreement with the Scottish Government which aims to exploit the impact of internationally competitive research by increasing collaboration (through KE, CPD and consultancy) with industry, business, government and the third sector. Within this framework, the School has five objectives: (i) to increase significantly the School's contribution to international public debate on key policy/governance issues; (ii) to launch a new CPD programme of courses and 'policy round tables' for international politicians and civil servants that exploits the strong European and global policy networks of the School (particularly via its research centres); (iii) to integrate KE objectives, activities and specific targets in all grant applications (applying ESRC practice to the full spectrum of School funding); (iv) to utilise institutional strategic funding to achieve consistent exploitation of the impact potential of all grant funding; and (v) to develop the skills base by ensuring that all staff participate in the KE courses of the University's Researcher Development Programme (for junior/middle-level staff) and the Strathclyde Programme in Leadership & Research (for senior staff).

A key part of the School's future strategy is the Strathclyde International Public Policy Institute (SIPPI). Co-founded by GPP, SIPPI was launched in 2013 as an interdisciplinary, cross-departmental initiative to increase Strathclyde's contribution to national and international public policy debates on critical policy issues. Led by a management team of academics and policymakers, SIPPI is focusing initially on the critical policy themes of economic development, renewable energy, health technology, and smart cities. GPP has been awarded first-round SIPPI funding with projects on economic development and wellbeing, involving a mix of new research and international public policy conferences, seminars and other KE activities.

d. Relationship to case studies

The three impact case studies provide concrete examples of the main areas of impact described above. First, the impact on public policy is demonstrated by the case study relating to the work of **Bachtler, Mendez, Ferry and Polverari**, which has both informed the policy debate on reforming EU Cohesion policy and influenced the European Commission's legislative package for the future of the policy. Second, the case study by **Rose** illustrates the impact of research on governance, specifically the development of reliable measures for assessing corruption in public service provision. Lastly, the case study of **Curtice** on voter behaviour at elections is representative of the School's impact on political decision-making and public and media awareness.