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<p>Institution: Queen’s University Belfast</p>
<p>Unit of Assessment: 20 Law</p>
<p>a. Context</p> <p>As a major Law School in a small jurisdiction, Queen’s has a long history of combining research excellence with producing policy relevant work, employing staff who are directly involved as lawyers, activists and advisors across a spectrum of legal fields. This role has become particularly important following full political devolution. The School combines impact on a regional, national and international stage. Most staff are engaged in developing relationships and producing work which is designed to have an impact beyond academia. Staff conduct research for, on and with local and international NGOs and civil society (including bereaved families; restorative justice groups; prisoners’ rights and ex-prisoners groups; anti-slavery groups and others) which is specifically designed to impact beyond academia (as evidenced in the impact case studies led by Allain, McEvoy and Scraton). Staff also produce research that impacts directly upon government departments and statutory bodies (e.g. Maruna case study re prisons, probation and justice departments; also Scraton’s case-study on Hillsborough; Harvey’s work on budgets and socio-economic rights and McCrudden’s research on procurement – discussed below). Other staff have been involved in a range of impactful research, policy and practice work for NI government departments and Assembly committees, local and international NGOs, and national and international professional and practitioner organisations.</p> <p>b. Approach to impact</p> <p>QUB Law’s approach to impact has been to inculcate a culture wherein: (a) the majority of research projects produce both high quality academic research <u>and</u> reach and impact upon user groups beyond academia through policy-relevant outputs and interventions. Staff are encouraged to see impact upon user groups as integral to the planning of research from the outset; (b) the development of relations with local, national and international user groups is seen as the role and responsibility of the researcher in making a contribution to the community locally, nationally and internationally; (c) work allocation is configured to support impact (including research leave and adhoc relief of teaching and administration – see RA5 for details). Staff and PG students are encouraged and funded to attend impact training events within Queen’s and externally.</p> <p>c. Strategy and plans</p> <p>Queen’s has a range of central strategies and plans regarding impact which the School of Law has played a leading role in creating and executing. These include: an impact portal which disseminates policy-relevant research to user groups; a series of Business Alliance / Research Managers attached to Schools to foster links with communities beyond the University; a range of events throughout the academic year and related publications showcasing the impact of QUB research (including an event at Stormont jointly hosted by the Minister for Education and Learning and the Vice Chancellor); a Vice Chancellor’s Impact Prize and a University fund for supporting impact. Community involvement through research has also long been a promotion criteria at Queen’s. The impact of research by McAlinden, McEvoy, Scraton and Wheeler was featured at Impact events. For example, Scraton’s work on Hillsborough (case study) won the Vice Chancellor’s inaugural QUB prize for impact. Wheeler chairs QPOL, a knowledge transfer vehicle specifically created to develop impact channels between Queen’s and the local Assembly. QPol’s steering group consists of academics and outside policy makers. It hosts an annual series of Knowledge Transfer seminars and has an expert directory for use by the Assembly.</p> <p>At School level, the strategies and plans which have facilitated maximising impact long pre-date the emphasis on impact in the current REF process. Those have included:</p> <p>(i) <i>School Structures Designed to Enhance Relations and Maximise Impact with User Groups.</i></p> <p>The School of Law has a series of permanent structures as well as partnership models of practice</p>

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which are designed to enhance relations with user groups beyond academia and thus maximise the impact of its research. The boards of the two research centres in the School – the Institute of Criminology and Criminal Justice (ICCJ) and the Human Rights Centre (HRC) - are made up of local users as well as national and international academics. For example, the ICCJ board is chaired by a local Judge and includes the Head of the Public Prosecution Service, the Prison Service, PSNI Assistant Chief Constable, Director of the Probation Service as well as Directors of a range of local criminal justice NGOs and Charities. The School also maintains strong links with the local judiciary and legal profession through a Judge in Residence and staff involvement in commercially provided legal training and a well-developed system of CPD. UG students are provided with opportunities for participatory research through involvement with Science Shop research projects for community groups as part of both assessment and as pro bono work.

(ii) A Partnership Approach to Funded Research

The School encourages a partnership approach to funded research which is designed to feed into NI policy and practice. For example, in partnership with local ex-prisoners groups, **Jamieson** (retired), **Maruna and McEvoy** completed projects examining the residual discrimination faced by ex-prisoners in NI. That research has featured heavily in the lobbying efforts of the various prisoner groups. **McEvoy** (with **Anthony** and Mallinder, University of Ulster) is leading an AHRC Follow-on Funding project in partnership with local NGO, Healing Through Remembering, on prosecutions and dealing with the past. That project, which emerges from a previous comparative AHRC grant on amnesties led by **McEvoy** (with **Dickson** and Mallinder UU), is designed to influence the policy of key criminal justice and political actors on whether conflict related prosecutions remain in the public interest. **Scraton** led a project (in partnership with the Prince's Trust and Save the Children) which explores the impact of the legacy of the conflict on children and young people in disadvantaged communities, which is designed to inform service delivery/interventions in such communities. In partnership with the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission, **Scraton** (with Moore, University of Ulster) also led an investigation into the treatment of women prisoners which in turn fed directly into the recent government appointed review of prisons in Northern Ireland chaired by Dame Anne Owers. **Wheeler** led the Changing Ageing Partnership (funded by Atlantic Philanthropies) which was a partnership between Age NI, QUB, Age Sector Platform and the Workers Educational Authority-NI. A significant impact from this project was the inclusion in the latest Programme for Government of a Bill to outlaw age discrimination in the offering of goods and services such as insurance. **Harvey** (with O'Connell, UU and Nolan, Nottingham) led a two-year project examining public expenditure in NI by using economic and social rights-based budget analysis – funded by Atlantic Philanthropies. The project steering committee included local human rights and equality NGOs. The team prepared a policy response for the Department of Finance and Personnel's (DFP) Review of Spending Plans which was in turn cited by the relevant Assembly Committee to critique social elements of the spending plans of the DFP. Amnesty Ireland circulated the team's policy response as an example of how to explain human rights to politicians and civil servants. The launch of the 'Housing Case Study' was welcomed by the Minister for Social Development who used it in his budget negotiations with other Ministers.

(iii) Impact through Public Service Appointments

Many staff have been appointed to important government bodies. These include the Judicial Appointments Commission (**Morison**); Policing Board (**Dickson**); Northern Ireland Procurement Board (**McCrudden**); Lord Chief Justice's Consultation Group on Sentencing (**Wheeler**), Human Rights Commission (**Harvey**), the National Offender Management Service and Scottish Advisory Panel for Offender Rehabilitation, Reference Groups for the Northern Ireland Youth Justice Review Team and Review of the Northern Ireland Prison Service (all **Maruna**); and the Northern Ireland DNA Database Governance Board (NIDNADGB, **Flear**). Staff are encouraged to use their research to achieve impact through such appointments. For example, **Morison** helped shape the Judicial Appointments Commission's work on representativeness and his research (with QUB colleagues) on judicial appointments was drawn on extensively by both the Northern Ireland Assembly (Research Paper, NIAR 954-2011, 2012), the Lord Chief Justice and Assembly Committee Members (Official Report, Hansard, Session 2011-12, 08 March 2012, 02 May 2013). **Harvey's** research on Bills of Rights helped shape the Commission's final advice on a Bill of Rights (as

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mandated by the Belfast Agreement 1998) to the Secretary of State for NI. **Maruna's** work on both the Youth Justice and Prison Review in NI is featured heavily in the conclusions of both the Youth Justice and Prison Reviews. **Flear's** contribution to the NIDNADGB, drawn from an ESRC Research Seminar Series grant of which he is Principal Investigator, shaped the Board's work on accountability including the public reporting of the gender and racial impact of the use of DNA collection and storage powers. **Anderson** draws on his sports law research in his role as an arbitrator for the national sports disputes resolution tribunals of Ireland (Just Sport Ireland) and the UK (Sports Resolutions) promoting the cost efficient, expert-led and swift resolution of sports disputes. **McCrudden's** research on procurement resulted in him being appointed as a member of the Northern Ireland Procurement Board where he was able to influence the development of public policy in those areas. His work was drawn on by the Research Service of the Northern Ireland Assembly in preparing Research Paper 03/09 on "Social Clauses in Public Contracts" and following an invited submission to an Assembly Committee inquiry into public procurement in 2009, his work is quoted extensively in the relevant Committee Report (NIA 19/08/09R).

(iv) Bespoke Strategies for Research Impact in Politically Sensitive Areas

The post-conflict context of Northern Ireland means that specific support strategies had to be developed by the School to facilitate the work of scholars involved in politically sensitive research. **Jamieson** (retired 2011), **Maruna** and **McEvoy** have all conducted work on former politically motivated prisoners and their families in Northern Ireland, working closely with ex-prisoner groupings across Republican and Loyalist paramilitary factions. **Ellison** has conducted sensitive research in Republican areas exploring the extent to which post-devolution policing arrangements have become embedded 'on the ground'. This work required a system of constant support amongst the academics involved with regard to negotiating access, agreeing protocols concerning data management and analysis and systems to guarantee the independence of the research; agreeing forms of outputs (e.g. accessible reports) and dissemination strategies (including media protocols). **McEvoy's** work on community restorative justice (case study) also required particular support strategies to be put in place including permission by University Senior Management to have dialogue with the IRA; safety protocols; and oversight of two PhD students (Eriksson and Payne since completed) who were placed with the community-based restorative justice organisations to facilitate their fieldwork. Former paramilitaries joined the ICCJ Board in 2009.

(v) Maximising International Impact

At the international level, the School has mirrored the above strategies to maximise impact beyond NI. For example, **McEvoy's** international comparative work on amnesties and lawyers (£305,000 funded by the AHRC and £490,000 funded by the ESRC respectively) has been done in collaboration with local NGOs and activists in the 11 transitional jurisdictions studied and included bespoke policy outputs for those local contexts. **Allain's** work on slavery (case study) included the production of international guidelines for judges, activists and governments (the Bellagio-Harvard Principles) and involved close cooperation with international anti-slavery NGOs. Staff have also taken up international appointments. **McEvoy** was an Expert Advisor to the Presidential Commission on Ex-combatant Reintegration in Colombia and the Qatar based Countering Violent Extremism project which advised governments in 11 countries on 'smart counter-terrorism'; **Morison** and **Anthony** are active members of the European Public Law Organisation and as such, have been involved in numerous research based capacity building projects in Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, India, Indonesia and Mongolia. Their 3 year EU-funded Asia-link project on 'Human Rights and Good Governance' involved work with scholars from Indonesia and Mongolia designing university and public sector training courses and produced a handbook. **Ellison** was a Special Advisor on the U.N. Development Programme in Ankara on a 2.2 million Euro project making recommendations for civilian oversight of the security sector as part of Turkey's reform commitments under EU accession criteria. **McCrudden** was a member of a team commissioned by the European Commission to produce a report and draft guide on social aspects of public procurement.

d. Relationship to case studies

The links between the School strategies and the individual case-studies are outlined above.