

## Impact template (REF3a)

**Institution:** Queen Mary University of London (QMUL)**Unit of Assessment:** C20 (Law)**a. Context**

The School of Law has always had a culture and ethos of seeking to identify external users who can benefit from the fruits of its research. It has a strong, though not exclusive focus, on developing links with policy-making bodies, at both governmental and non-governmental (NGO) level, as well as developing links with commerce and industry. The School has sought to identify opportunities to engage with a wide range of external users in specific areas of expertise that are particularly relevant to influencing policy as well as in areas where our research can have an influence on a wider community. Our researchers influence the legislative process where there is a current programme of reform in place, such as the reform of criminal law (both domestic and European) and the reform of civil procedure. Our researchers also have an influence in the development of new approaches to policy in fast-moving areas of modern law with a cross-border or international dimension, such as banking, computer and intellectual property law.

The School has identified and worked closely with a number of users in these areas during the REF period, and with whom we will continue to interact with in the future. The non-academic policy-making beneficiaries of our work include legislatures, governments, and non-governmental organisations and charities. In the UK, our researchers have acted as special advisers and given evidence to parliamentary committees, both in the House of Commons and House of Lords. They have also shared their research with government departments, including the Home Office, Ministry of Justice, and Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (including its Intellectual Property Office). Other official bodies that we work closely with and that use our research include the Law Commission (**Ormerod** is a member), the Civil Justice Council of England and Wales (**Mulheron** is a member), the Equality and Human Rights Commission (**van Bueren** is a member), the Bank of England, and the Financial Services Authority. Our researchers also seek to engage with non-governmental bodies, such as the Equality and Human Rights Commission (one of our researchers is a commissioner) and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. Examples where members of our School have actively engaged with the work of policy makers in the UK and world-wide include **Lastra** (gave evidence to the Treasury Committee of the House of Commons on the accountability of the Bank of England and the House of Lords European Union Committee), **Ashcroft** (member of the Tobacco Advisory Group of the Royal College of Physicians and has given evidence to both the House of Commons Select Committee on Health and the All Party Parliamentary Group on Tobacco in relation to the ethical basis of tobacco policy in the UK), **Walden** (appointed to the PCC Phone Hacking Review Committee and gave evidence to Parliamentary Joint Committee on the Draft Defamation Bill), **Malleson** (submitted report and gave evidence to the House of Lords Constitution Committee Inquiry on Judicial Appointments), **Mitsilegas** (appointed Specialist Adviser to the House of Lords European Union Committee, and a member of the Experts Group on EU Criminal Policy, advising Justice Commissioner and Commission Vice-President), **Mulheron** (was commissioned to produce reports for the Civil Justice Council of England and Wales and the Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform), **Alldrige** (advised on the Draft Bribery Bill and gave evidence to the OECD Working Group on Bribery in International Business Transaction), and **Hörnle** (commissioned by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to carry out a study on the Enforcement of Consumer Protection Law on the Internet).

Official policy makers overseas who benefit from our research include the European Commission and the European Parliament. Our researchers have also advised a number of official bodies in the United States, China, Hong Kong and in several European countries. Other international organisations who use our research include the International Monetary Fund, the European Central Bank, the Financial Stability Board, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Intellectual Property Organisation, Oxfam and Médecins Sans Frontières.

Besides this impact on public policy and law, the School also seeks to ensure its research has impact on the economy, culture and society at a broader level. Our researchers' work in the fields of commercial and business law helps to shape and inform organisational policy on matters such

## Impact template (REF3a)

as the successful development of cloud computing or the use of arbitration. The target users for this work are international business corporations, and in particular corporate counsel within such organisations. The work done in the fields of public law, human rights and history serves to improve social welfare and to enhance heritage preservation, particularly as a way of promoting social inclusion. Such wider impact is more difficult to gauge and measure; nevertheless, in a number of projects, including RELIGARE and PEDEC (described below), researchers have sought through engagement with a wider public to change attitudes. Alan Dignam's collaboration with QMUL's School of English and Drama on "Human Rights, Bloody Human Rights" is an example of using inter-disciplinary cooperation to promote public debate around key issues in our legal research. Involving the theatre company Menagerie and Amnesty International, this exciting project used the techniques of dramatic performance and interactive workshops to engage the audience in examining the human rights impact of globalisation and corporate capitalism.

**b. Approach to impact**

The School of Law benefits from a robust strategy for impact and public engagement in QMUL.

*College structures:* **QMUL Public Relations** provides expert advice and builds tailored strategies focussed on impact and connecting research with the right audience via press releases, Twitter and RSS feeds, podcasts, iTunesU and a YouTube channel. An active record of staff research expertise is maintained for external users ('Find an Expert') and media appearances are archived centrally. Media training is provided by QMUL's Centre for Academic and Professional Development. **QM Innovation and Enterprise** (QMI) is QMUL's technology transfer and business office. Its Business Development Managers are responsible for identifying and managing all intellectual property (IP) generated from research at the College. There is a dedicated Business Development team for the Humanities and Social Sciences, including Law, and it has been instrumental in successful research bids and knowledge transfer activities including work by **Dignam, McConville, Ashcroft, and Mitsilegas**. As well as advising the School of Law on knowledge transfer activities, QMI benefits from advice from staff in the School's Queen Mary Intellectual Property Research Institute. QMI supports the development of knowledge transfer and pathways to impact. Its annual Prospect Fund (£100k pa) invites bids for up to £10k for knowledge transfer activities. **The Centre for Public Engagement** is led by a Vice-Principal for Public Engagement, and aims to set a new international standard for the ways HEIs engage with the public. Using a circa £300k start-up grant from RCUK and £1m HEIF5 funding (2011-2015), the Centre provides training, support and funding for new and existing public engagement activities. The Centre provides support to the School's dedicated Outreach Officer. **CreativeworksLondon** (CL) is a QMUL-led consortium of 38 universities, museums, libraries and archives bringing new collaborative research opportunities to London's creative businesses (AHRC £4m, 2011-15). The School has actively engaged with CreativeworksLondon; one example is **Shemtov** who in collaboration with QMUL's Centre for Digital Music in Electronic Engineering and Computer Science has developed an interdisciplinary research project, which aims to develop viable business models (both in legal and technological terms) for small and medium enterprise start-ups that aim to enter the fields of music and textile design in the context of digital technology.

*School structures:* The infrastructural mechanisms to support this interaction between researcher and non-academic end-user can be seen in the very structure of the School. The School consists of two departments, the Department of Law and the Centre for Commercial Law Studies. In 1980, the Centre for Commercial Law Studies was established, with the aims of being a world-leading centre for research in commercial law, and of bringing the skills of its members and the insights derived from their research to the wider financial and commercial communities. Both departments use research centres to promote interaction with user communities: these include the Institute of International Financial Law, the Institute of Computer and Communications Law, the Queen Mary Intellectual Property Research Institute, the School of International Arbitration, the Criminal Justice Centre, the Centre for Law and Society in a Global Context, and the Centre for Culture and Law.

These units have sought to develop links with external, non-academic partners, to promote research of use to the external users. For instance, the Institute of Computer and Communications Law (ICCL) was awarded a contract in 2008 (worth €54,600) by the Directorate General for Trade

of the European Commission to examine the *de jure* rules in five major service sectors in twelve major trading countries, with a view to assisting Commission trade officials in their future negotiations. In 2009, the same Institute was awarded £463,084 of funding from Microsoft for a six-year project to examine the legal implications of cloud computing. Also ICCL has been awarded £498,539 by the European Commission for 2012-16 for a multi-disciplinary, pan-European investigation into what accountability might mean in the cloud context and how it can be achieved; the project (led by Hewlett-Packard) integrates the work of computer scientists, social scientists and lawyers, and ultimately aims to devise mechanisms for achieving accountability along the entire chain of cloud actors.

Since 2008, the School of International Arbitration (SIA) has been awarded £218,000 by the auditing firm PricewaterhouseCoopers and the international law firm White & Case to conduct four empirical arbitration surveys; SIA has also developed close links with London law firms by appointing visiting fellows from these firms. In 2010, the Queen Mary Intellectual Property Institute formed a strategic collaboration with the Intellectual Property Institute, an independent public research organisation and charity, which has for over 30 years co-ordinated collaborations between industry, the professions and academia. The aim of this collaboration is to create a leading resource for policy development and influence in the future. The Criminal Justice Centre is supported by Peters & Peters Solicitors LLP, one of the country's leading law firms dealing with business crime.

The Department of Law also hosts a number of projects that seek to interact with external users and influence policy formation. These include the Equal Justices Initiative, which is a forum to bring together academics, practitioners, judges and policy makers to work towards gender parity on the bench. It also hosts the AHRC-funded research network PEDEC (Promoting Equality and Diversity Through Economic Crisis), a research network to bring together scholars, practitioners and activists to explore the implications of the economic downturn. The School also leads projects which aim at wider public engagement. The Centre for Culture and Law has an active programme of public engagement, and its director is a member of the RELIGARE project, a research project funded by the European Commission to examine new normative frameworks in the field of religion and secularism, with a view to making policy recommendations for improvement.

The School has also sought a wider organisational engagement with non-academic communities – for example, hosting the British Institute of Human Rights, a body which undertakes policy analysis in the area of human rights, lobbies government and legislators, and delivers training and consultancy for voluntary and public sector bodies. The School also has a Legal Advice Centre, where students (under the guidance of staff) provide free legal advice to members of the public. The Centre is supported by the law firms Allen & Overy, Field Fisher Waterhouse, Mishcon de Reya, Nabas Legal and Reed Smith. It has been shortlisted for a *Times Higher Education* award for Knowledge Transfer in 2011, as well as winning numerous other awards. As well as offering a general law clinic, the Centre offers specialist advice to the creative industries via its 'Law and the Arts' programme, to families of serving members of the Armed Forces via the 'Supporting Those who Serve' initiative, and to the LGBTQ community through 'Pink Law'. Our QLegal initiative provides free legal advice to tech start-ups, in partnership with the Legal Advice Centre. The policy of the School has been to give institutional and logistical support to these centres and projects, to assist them in fundraising, in organising events (such as colloquia and conferences) and in developing as many contacts as possible with policy makers. At the basic level of infrastructure, we seek to disseminate our work in a way that will be accessible to both non-academic and academic communities. We maintain a user-friendly website, where working papers can be downloaded. Members of staff also blog on recent development of interest to the public (whether policy making or not) and engage with the wider public through Twitter, as well as through more traditional media. Members of the School working in areas such as human rights or public law are frequently interviewed in the media. **Mitsilegas** has spoken on privacy, migration law, and extradition (BBC radio, the *San Francisco Examiner*, the *New York Times*); **Malleson** has spoken on judicial diversity (*The Times*); **Mulheron** has commented on class actions (*The Guardian*); **van Bueren** has commented on equality law and child rights (BBC Radio, *THE*, *The Times*); **Heinze** has discussed hate speech and hate crimes (*Berlinske Tidschrift*); **Gragl** has discussed extradition (Voice of

**Impact template (REF3a)**

Russia). In addition, members of staff have been asked to advise broadcasters on programmes including BBC One's 'Who do you think you are?' and Radio 4's 'Analysis', and to draft historical briefs for counsel.

In planning research projects, academic staff are invited to identify potential non-academic users and stakeholders, and to develop personal contacts with potential users. The School has successfully received funding for the AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Awards, where PhD students are jointly supervised by a member of staff and someone from the non-academic community. For example, in 2012 the School received College funding for two Collaborative Doctoral Awards (CDA), one involving the Immigration Law Practitioners' Association (ILPA) and one involving the National Archives. As AHRC has informed us, QMUL has more Collaborative Doctoral Awards than any other UK university, and we intend to build on this success, consolidating our reputation for supporting collaborative research and identifying suitable new partners in particular in the NGO community. Immigration and human rights law are prime areas of expertise in this context.

**c. Strategy and plans**

Our strategy over the next five years is to develop impact in key areas, focused on the centres described above. We have already established a core of well-known experts, whose expertise provides a reliable knowledge-base for public bodies, including parliamentary ones. We will seek to build on these connections, and ensure that all funded research projects achieve their maximum impact. We will also encourage all staff to engage with relevant non-academic stakeholders, through the organisation of public workshops conferences and consultations. We have appointed a dedicated Public Engagement Officer, who leads on our liaison with schools and colleges, the local community and the legal professions in London. We have also appointed two (1.0 FTE) Media and Communications officers, who lead on our social media and internet presence.

We will continue to develop and build our research centres and collaborations. Building on the success of a collaborative masters programme taught with the School of Economics and Finance, we plan to develop a research stream which will bring together the researchers in CCLS's Institute of International Financial Law with researchers in the School of Economics and Finance, further strengthening our ability to influence policy on banking and financial issues. The School is also developing a Centre for Science and the Law to undertake interdisciplinary research at the intersections of law, science and technology. It will explore the normative and regulatory challenges created by new technologies (such as medical or computing innovations) as well as exploring commercial problems (relating to property rights and commercial exploitation) generated by technological change, building on existing strengths in the School in the area of medical law. The new Centre will present a unique opportunity to impact on the industry of information technology and bioengineering. Other areas where new centres will be developed, with high potential for impact, include a Centre for Law, Energy and Natural Resources and a Centre for Insurance Law.

**d. Relationship to case studies**

The case studies submitted reflect the targeted, policy-oriented strategy behind much of our research agenda. All of the case studies aim to inform policy, whether in the immediate 'short term' of current legislative programmes (as with Mulheron's work on class actions and Alldridge's work on bribery) or in the more medium-term work of developing policies in light of complex evolving problems (as with Malleson and Barmes's work in equalities, and Lastra's work on international finance) or in the even longer-term work of changing the shape of the judiciary. The policy makers whose choices we seek to inform include both those in the public sector, and in the private sector (as with Hörnle's work on computing).

Each of these case studies develops from a programme of research within the School. They are supported by clear structures of organisation. Lastra is a member of the Institute of International Financial Law, while Hörnle is a member of the Institute of Computer and Communications Law. The institutional projects created by Mulheron, Alldridge, Barmes and Malleson are supported by the School of Law.