

Institution: University of South Wales

Unit of Assessment: C22

a. Overview

The University of South Wales

The University of South Wales was formed in April 2013 following the merger of the University of Glamorgan and the University of Wales, Newport. The University currently has over 33,000 students and, of the total 2,464 core staff, 40% (977) are academic. Of these, 49% (488) are involved in STEMM subjects. The University of South Wales is one of the five research universities in Wales forming the St David's Day Group.

Research at the University is organised around five Research Institutes: Computing and the Digital Economy, Energy and the Environment, Humanities and Social Sciences, Science and Health, and Creative Industries. Research Institutes have been established in the areas where the university already has significant research strength and has made a strategic decision to support this area of research. The main internal function of the Research Institute is to create an organisational framework to support and sustain good-quality research. This includes assisting established researchers to continue their work, while at the same time encouraging early career and other developing researchers to achieve their own research potential. Its main external function is to develop an outward face as a means of promoting its research activities and obtaining the benefits of enhanced external status and research funding.

Unit of Assessment

The Social Work and Social Policy Unit of Assessment (UoA) is part of the Humanities and Social Sciences Research Institute. The Unit covers the staff of two University departments (Criminology and Social Policy). The department of Criminology is also known as the Centre for Criminology and operates as a traditional university department involved in teaching and research. The department of Social Policy is similarly configured for research purposes as the Centre for Social Policy. The Centre for Criminology was established in 2001 and has a long history of collaborative research within and outside the Centre. The Centre for Social Policy was established in 2008 as a means of co-ordinating research on social and public policy. Since the merger and the inclusion of new staff with expertise in political theory and ethics, the Centre will shortly be reconfigured as the Centre for Social Policy, Political Theory and Governance.

Centre for Criminology

The Centre for Criminology was established in 2001 to encourage, support and motivate research and publishing activity. As a team, the Centre for Criminology has received research funds from a wide range of sources, including: the ESRC, Home Office, Ministry of Justice, Council of Europe, European Framework Programme, and the National Policing Improvement Agency. More locally, the Centre has been successful in receiving funds from the Welsh Government, the National Offender Management Service Cymru, Rhondda Cynon Taff Council and the Local Criminal Justice Board. Since its inception in 2001, the Centre has been awarded over £1.5 million in research grants. The main fields of research have included substance misuse (**Bennett** and **Holloway**), animal abuse (**Maher** and **Pierpoint**), volunteers in the criminal justice system (**Pierpoint**), homicide investigation (**Brookman** and **Allsop**), gangs (**Maher**), offender rehabilitation (**Maguire**), youth crime and justice (**Evans**) and social control in developing countries (**Wardak**). The group has published widely in peer-reviewed journals and reports for government and criminal justice agencies.

Centre for Social Policy

The Centre for Social Policy has conducted a wide range of research including work on sex education policy in Wales (**Oerton**), the changing profile of faith in Wales (**Chambers**), as well as research on migration (**Thompson**), and consumer participation in public services (**Farrell** and **Law**). The Centre has also conducted research on school governance (**Farrell**), and community regeneration (**Adamson**); as well as the study of policies affecting young people in countries

covered by the Council of Europe (**Williamson**). Social Policy organised the 40th UK Public Administration Committee Conference, the first time it has been held in Wales. The Centre has also recently established the Centre for Advanced Studies in Public Policy (CASPP), which is a leading hub for public policy analysis and provides policymakers and professionals with new ideas, new evidence and innovative solutions. The recent merger with University Wales, Newport has introduced new research expertise in the areas of ethics and diversity (**Calder**), marriage and family law (**Gaffney-Rees**), and political theory and human rights (**Smith**).

b. Research strategy

The strategy

The UoA met as a group shortly after the submission of RAE2008 and reviewed its research strategy. The pre 2008 strategy had served us well and resulted in an excellent profile. However, our research objective was to improve on these grades in the next REF, which meant making adjustments to our approach. This resulted in a revised strategy which would serve to enhance our research income and improve the quality of our research outputs. Early in 2009, we designed a strategy for the next five years (2009-2013). While the UoA was based on two research centres (Centre for Criminology and Centre for Social Policy) the research strategy for the two centres was the same.

Our mission was to improve the quantity and quality of our research and to enhance our internal and external research esteem and impact. Our immediate aim was to stimulate research activity as a means of providing the data and framework for producing good-quality publications in books and peer-reviewed journals. This was to be achieved by supporting grant applications through making available funds for pilot work and writing grant proposals and enabling the preparation of future publications through buying out members of staff from teaching duties. The research strategy also made provision for professional support through mentoring and growth of expertise through conference attendance and networking. We were also cognisant of the need to produce research that would provide impact and methods were included in the strategy to engage with policy makers and practitioners to ensure that our research was conducted with their support and input. We were also aware of the need to provide a suitable context for this activity for both staff and postgraduate students. With this in mind we sought to provide the means of stimulating staff discussion and awareness of the research being conducted by developing a research culture which helped motivate and steer research activity.

Our method for monitoring the success of our activities was to use one system for monitoring both our research strategy and our progress for submission for REF2014. This involved producing a continually updated record of outputs, impact and environment and checking our progress against the various REF milestones that the University had put in place. This enabled adjustments to be made through encouraging grant acquisition, providing advice on publication, and funding time out for writing.

The implementation of the strategy

In order to achieve our research aims, we implemented several schemes for providing financial and professional support for researchers.

The *Research Activities Scheme* invites members of the Unit to submit applications for funds to conduct research activity; normally fieldwork and data collection or writing up and submitting publications. The *Research Sabbatical Scheme* provides funds to buyout staff from teaching duties for one or two terms. The aims of the scheme are to give staff time to pursue or complete research and publication activities. The scheme is particularly useful for staff who are looking for an extended period time, free from teaching duties, to complete a set of research or publication tasks. The *Research Symposium Scheme* invites members of the Unit to submit applications for funds to organise a research symposium. The model for this is to run two-day events based on 5 or 6 specially invited participants from the UK and abroad who aim to take forward a new area of research activity. The first day involves presentations of papers to an invited audience and the second day involves meetings among the core members who arrange to take forward ideas for

research and publication on the topic area of the symposium.

The *Seminar Series Scheme* encourages internal discussion on research issues; promotes closer engagement among staff and potential collaborators, partners or funders; and raises the external profile of the Unit. The *Special Events Scheme* aims to fill a gap in the current funding structure by making funds available for one-off events, such as: single lectures or seminars, mini-symposia, mini-conferences, book launches and the like. The *Ph.D. Scholarship Scheme* runs intermittently in response to an invitation to bid from the head of the Unit of Assessment. The scheme provides funds to cover the fees for Ph.D. students over three years with a small residual for travel and research expenses. The *Mentoring Scheme* has been in operation since 2009 whereby each member of the department has a mentor. Mentors and mentees have formal meetings at least once a year and at other times during the year as required. The mentor has responsibility for the research development of the mentee.

In order to improve communication, external esteem, and impact, the Unit has developed and updated its websites. Criminology and Social Policy each have websites covering research conducted by members of the Unit's research centres. The Unit also has direct links to several external web sites which provide an external face for its activities, including the Centre for Criminology website, the Centre for Advanced Social and Public Policy (CASPP) website, and the Welsh Centre for Crime and Social Justice (WCCSJ) website, all of which contain links to other websites.

The outcomes of the strategy

The results of these initiatives have been encouraging. Since January 1st 2008, the UoA (Criminology plus Social Policy) has raised £830,000 in external research funds and has published over 180 articles, book chapters, conference papers and other published outputs.

We have also held two very successful research symposia as a direct result of the Research Awards Scheme. The first symposium, 'Situating Animal Abuse in Criminology', was held in 2009-2010. A second, titled 'Investigating Homicide', was held in 2010-2011. The organisers of both symposia have produced special issues of peer-reviewed journals on the topic of their symposium and are both in the process of preparing edited books. An additional outcome has been the creation of new international research networks based on the original participants, as well as new members. The scheme for making available funds for sabbatical leave has resulted in major research impacts including our submitted impact case studies on changes on developments in Afghanistan (**Wardak**) and homicide investigation methods (**Brookman**).

Unit staff have been closely involved in four 'trialogue workshops' for policy makers, practitioners and researchers organised through the WCCSJ. For example, the first of these was held at the launch of the WCCSJ at the Millennium Centre in Cardiff. In this event, members of the Welsh Government, practitioners, and researchers (including **Bennett** and **Holloway** as key speakers) came together to discuss drugs research and policy. Plans are underway to hold further 'trialogue' meetings with these and other group members to discuss further ideas relating to research collaboration. The Special Event Scheme has been very successful in bringing together researchers and research users. Notably, the David Dunkerley Annual Lectures and the Open Seminar series have attracted large and distinguished audiences, while the informal internal research discussions have been well attended and provided encouragement and advice for staff planning new research bids.

Future developments of the strategy

The future development of the strategy is likely to be influenced by recent changes in the internal and external research environment and the relative stage in the development of the two centres within the UoA.

The external research environment has become more competitive as a result partly of the Research Excellence Framework (REF) and partly as a consequence of cuts in available research funds. This in turn has triggered an internal adjustment in the University strategy

towards a policy of focusing on research excellence and sustainability. This in turn has led to the development of large Research Institutes which govern and direct the development of research in the University. It will be to our benefit to align our Unit's strategy with that the HUMSOC Research Institute covering our Unit. This means that, during the early stages of rapid research grant acquisition, we should take the opportunity of drawing on Research Institute support and momentum.

The strategy is also being reviewed with respect to the different stages of development of the Centre for Criminology and the Centre for Social Policy. The Centre for Criminology has existed for over 12 years and has reached a level of maturity which should now be capitalised on by moving more firmly onto the world stage. The Centre for Social Policy is at an earlier stage in its development. The revised strategy will need to take into account these differences. For example, the Centre for Criminology needs to recruit at a senior level with a focus on research staff. This can be achieved by developing new posts that build in a substantial research time commitment. The Centre for Social Policy needs to consolidate its recent period of rapid growth by strengthening ties with the public sector and working closely with the Welsh Government. The new strategy will be developed and launched early in 2014.

c. People, including:

i. Staffing strategy and staff development

The *Centre for Criminology* has 9 full-time permanent members of staff and 2 part-time permanent members of staff (2 x 0.4 FTE) and 1 full-time contract research assistant making 12 staff in total. The *Centre for Social Policy* (UoG), has 12 full-time members of staff, and one full-time member on staff secondment to the Welsh Government, whose salary is paid by the University, but reimbursed by the Welsh Government. In addition, there are 10 full-time members of staff from what was the University of Wales, Newport who are attached to our Unit of Assessment (2 to Criminology and 8 to Social Policy). We have no Category C staff.

Staff in the Centre for Criminology are fairly well spread over the age groups ranging from early career researchers to senior professors. The overall spread is a small number of staff in their 20s and 30s, a larger proportion in their 40s, few in their 50s and small number in their 60s. In terms of overall continuity of expertise, we could benefit from a few more junior and senior members of staff, but there is no evidence that this has caused any problems to date. In part this is because two of our younger members of staff have recently become professors and have taken on the role of more senior mentors. Staff in the Centre for Social Policy also cover a range of ages and expertise with most of their strength in the middle age range. If any adjustments were to be made it might be at the level of more junior staff coming in and some senior recruitments to provide experience and guidance. In relation to both Centres it is hoped that these small imbalances can be corrected.

All staff in the Unit are on permanent renewable contracts with one exception and most staff are full time with just two on part-time contracts from their own choice. We currently have one member of staff on a short-term contract replacing another member of staff on maternity leave.

The Centre for Criminology currently has one early career researcher and has had several more in the past. Our policy is to integrate new researchers into the work of the Centre. In both recent cases, early career researchers have been invited to take on important administrative duties (such as Award Tutor or Subject leader) to help integrate them quickly into the life of the Centre. We help them as much as we can with their early teaching through making available slides and other information relevant to their course. At the same time, we encourage them to maintain (even at reduced levels) their research activity and will support them with their publications by reading manuscripts and offering advice. The first year for an early career researcher is always demanding, but on the two recent occasions that we have had early career researchers, they have risen to the occasions and benefited from the experience.

The Unit has an equal opportunity approach to staff research development. Staff are recruited using strict rules of recruitment developed by HR and implemented by us. The formal side of staff development is governed mainly by our research strategy and the procedures implemented to provide financial and other support for research activities. All staff can apply for funds and all requests for research funds are considered using their same procedures and scrutiny. The mentoring scheme has also provided an opportunity to monitor and guide the career development of individual members of staff. The Centre for Criminology has one early career full-time permanent member of staff (**Allsop**). The Centre also has one short-term contract research assistant (**Edwards**) who (with the exception of being able to apply for internal research funds, which are only available to permanent staff) has all the support made available to other staff. Since the merger, the new University has reaffirmed its commitment to research and the staff involved in research activity and strongly supports the Concordat. It uses the principles within the Concordat to inform its actions relating to the career development of researchers.

Standards of research quality have been guided to some extent by the current and previous research assessment exercises and the quality of research produced has been monitored by the mechanisms linked to it. Staff are encouraged to submit publications that will receive high REF ratings as well as achieving University and Faculty research objectives. It is University policy that all research and fieldwork is considered for ethical integrity. Research conducted in the Unit is assessed by the Faculty Ethics Champion (**Williamson**), by the Faculty Ethics Committee, or by the Research Strategy Group which oversees QR funded research.

ii. Research students

Support for PGR students includes careers conferences which have to date been organised annually by **Maher** and involve talks from staff from local agencies on the employment opportunities in their organisations. Support has also been made available by the recent opening of the new Postgraduate Research Centre which offers an opportunity for a range of activities involving PGR students. In each year since 2010, the Centre for Criminology has hosted a one-day doctoral conference at the University, organised and chaired by **Pierpoint** to enable PhD students from the Centre to share details of their research and their research experiences with fellow students and staff. Doctoral students from the Centre are also invited each year to give presentations at the Welsh Centre for Crime and Social Justice (WCCSJ) annual conference for criminologists, students and practitioners across Wales.

Doctoral and Masters students also play an active part in attending and giving presentations at the seminars organised as part of the Welsh arm of the British Society of Criminology. These are held two or three times a term, usually at the University of South Wales or Cardiff University as well as Swansea University and the University of Wales, Newport. We also encourage students to attend national and international conferences and some of our students have given poster presentations at the annual American Society of Criminology conferences and attended British Society of Criminology conferences. In 2009, when the BSC conference was hosted by the University of South Wales (then the University of Glamorgan) and Cardiff University, postgraduate students attended the sessions and helped run the conference.

All Doctoral students are allocated a shared room for their own use and are encouraged to play a full part in the informal life of the Centre. Postgraduate students are also encouraged to attend events organised by the Centre, such as the open seminar series and other seminars and gatherings, the WCCSJ annual conferences, as well as joining staff for Christmas lunches and other kinds of social events.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

The University has been awarded the HR Excellence in Research Award by the European Commission for its work to implement the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers. Infrastructural support includes university-wide provision of IT and computing facilities, library resources and access to online publications, print room printing and duplication services, plus the work-load time allocation for research and scholarship. The major source of

research support at the University is provided through the University Research Office. The office supports funding applications and assists staff in the development of research excellence. It is also responsible for implementing and supporting the strategic objectives of the University research strategy and reports directly to the Deputy Vice Chancellor. The University occasionally runs doctoral scholarship schemes which provide full fees and maintenance costs for Ph.D. students. The Centre for Criminology has been successful in winning two of these doctoral scholarships since 2008. The University has also operated during the period of assessment a Research Investment Scheme which has made funds available through competitive bidding to cover the costs of research activities. The University internal promotion scheme has also benefited the Unit in awarding three new professorships during the last 5 years (2 to Criminology and 1 to Social Policy). There are now more women than men professors in our Unit of Assessment.

There has also been made available in the last five years a newly built Postgraduate Centre for research students which includes extensive computing facilities, seminar rooms, meeting rooms, work spaces, and various combinations of seating arrangements. One of the most important forms of infrastructural support provided by the University has been the allocation of QR funds to the Units of Assessment to promote research. These funds have been critical for covering the costs of the Research Awards Scheme which has been effective in raising research activity through grant acquisitions and publication.

During this period, Criminology has raised £657,000 in research funds (some in collaboration with other universities) from major funding bodies including the Home Office, Ministry of Justice, and the Welsh Assembly Government. These were all won on the basis of competitive tenders. The awards also include a one-fifth share of a collaborative award of £355,000, won by **Maguire** at the Centre and Aberystwyth from the HEFCW strategic development fund to establish an all Wales Centre for Crime and Social Justice (WCCSJ). **Maguire** was also successful as a joint collaborator in four recent research bids: an ESRC seminar series on 'Devolution and Crime Control' with Edinburgh, Queen's Belfast and Oxford; a study, funded by the National Offender Management Service (total grant £345,000) to develop and test measures of 'intermediate outcomes' to assess the impact of interventions with offenders; an evaluation of 'Invisible Walls Wales', funded by the Big Lottery (grant around £220,000); and a £2 million research project won from the National Institute of Health Research by Plymouth University and several other partners for developing interventions in the field of prisoners' mental health. **Maher** has also been successful in winning part of a large FP7 bid involving several European Universities to investigate trafficking in animals and animal parts. **Bennett** and **Holloway** have won over £200,000 in research bids to the Welsh Government relating to substance misuse including an evaluation of the substance misuse strategy for Wales and a national evaluation of the ESF peer mentoring project for substance misusers.

Since January 2008, the Centre for Social Policy has raised £174,000 in research grants from funding bodies including the Welsh Assembly Government and the European Commission. The research activities of the Centre also include holding journal joint editorships (Journal of Applied Higher Education), review editorships (Public Administration) and guest editorships (Public Money and Management). They also include membership of advisory groups (e.g. House of Commons Welsh Affairs Committee), external expert positions (e.g. Treasury Select Committee), and public appointments (e.g. member of the Welsh Assembly Government Advisory Panel on Substance Misuse).

e. Collaboration and contribution to the discipline or research base

Collaboration

All Criminology staff are members of the Wales Centre for Crime and Social Justice (WCCSJ) which is a collaborative group of members from all centres for criminology in Wales. The group has put together collaborative research bids and organised joint conferences and seminars. **Holloway** and **Bennett** have won three collaborative research bids involving two or more WCCSJ universities (Aberystwyth and Glyndwr). They have also published reports and several journal

articles with the same collaborators. **Bennett** and **Holloway** are co-leaders of the substance misuse network, **Williamson** is co-leader of the youth justice and community safety network, and **Brookman** co-leads the violence network, which together comprise three of the five 'Thematic Networks' of the WCCSJ.

Maher and **Bennett** are both members of the 'Eurogang' network, a mainly European and US consortium of researchers who meet at least annually, share ideas through a web link and put together cross-national research grant bids. **Brookman** has recently established her own international network called the Criminal Investigation Research Network (CIRN) which has a good membership of senior police officers, detectives, policy makers and academics. Members of the network are currently collaborating in putting together several research bids. Most members of the Centre are also members of the professional associations of the British Society of Criminology, the American Society of Criminology, and the European Society of Criminology all of which provide networking services and opportunities for collaboration.

Unit staff commonly work with academics in other universities in publishing scholarly work. For example: **Bennett** (Cambridge, Glyndwr, Aberystwyth), **Brookman** (Cardiff), **Holloway** (Cambridge, Glyndwr, Aberystwyth), **Maguire** (Cambridge, Cardiff, Newcastle, Swansea), and **Law** (Cardiff). Staff have also co-authored publications with researchers outside of the UK. **Brookman** has published with researchers in Iowa State University and the University of Alabama at Birmingham; **Bennett** has published with researchers in the University of Missouri, St Louis and the University of Cincinnati; and **Wardak** has published with academics at the Australian National University and Tufts University Massachusetts.

Unit staff are also involved in international research grant applications including **Maher** who recently won a part of an FP7 bid involving 10 universities, **Brookman** who is currently working with researchers in the United States in putting together a research proposal on police investigation, and **Bennett and Holloway** who are preparing an ESRC proposal involving one researcher from the University of Manchester and one from the University of Missouri, St Louis.

Contribution to the discipline

a. Professional positions:

Maguire is a member of CREDOS, an international network of researchers engaged in rehabilitative work with offenders. He is also a member of the research advisory board of the Ministry of Justice Offender Engagement Programme. **Williamson** has been a member of several international youth networks, and is in his third term as Secretary of the ISA Research Committee on Youth.

b. Editorial positions:

Several staff members are on the editorial boards of journals including **Bennett**, **Brookman**, **Maguire**, and **Williamson**. **Farrell** and **Thompson** are journal editors.

c. Organisation of conferences and other scholarly events:

In 2009, the Centre for Criminology, with **Brookman** and **Pierpoint** leading, co-hosted with Cardiff University the annual British Criminology Conference attended by academics and others from around the world. In the same year, **Farrell** organised the annual UK Public Administration Committee Conference. During the review period, the Centre has taken the lead in organising the Welsh Branch of the British Society of Criminology (**Pierpoint**).

d. Peer reviewing:

Several staff act as peer reviewers for academic journals including **Bennett**, **Holloway**, **Brookman**, **Maguire**, **Williamson**, **Farrell** and **Law**. Some staff are also reviewers for ESRC grant applications (**Bennett** and **Maguire**).