

**Institution: University of South Wales**

**Unit of Assessment: C22**

**a. Context**

(a) The main non-academic user groups, beneficiaries or audiences for the unit's research

The main beneficiaries for the work of the Unit are policy makers, practitioners, agencies and their workers. These include international groups such as the Council of Europe and the European Commission; national groups such as the Welsh Government, Home Office, Ministry of Justice, Youth Justice Board, Prison Service, Police Service and other agencies of the criminal justice system; as well as local groups such as treatment and support agencies.

(b) The main types of impact specifically relevant to the unit's research

The main types of impact concern policy impact through policy-relevant research findings. These include the underpinning research relating to our two cases studies: one involving the link between the study of developing countries and changing the law in Afghanistan (**Wardak**), and the other linking research on homicide investigation with changes in the method of conducting homicide investigation (**Brookman**). Some of the impact of our research has arisen from conducting evaluations of new programmes which generate recommendations for change. These recommendations are often acted upon such as the recommendations of the report on the effectiveness of providing injecting drug misusers with take-home naloxone (a drug that reverses the effect of opiate overdose) (**Bennett and Holloway**) and the recommendations of the evaluation of the Prisoner Resettlement Pathfinders Project (**Maguire**).

(c) How the types of impact relate to the range of research activity or groups in the unit

The major part of our impact relates directly to the research activities of research groups and individuals. The Unit has several research strands based on groups of researchers such as: drug misuse (**Bennett and Holloway**), homicide investigation (**Brookman and Allsop**), political theory (**Smith and Calder**), community regeneration (**Adamson and Jones**), and public policy (**Farrell, Law and Thompson**); plus several other strands based on the work of individuals, such as social control in developing countries (**Wardak**), and gender and sexuality (**Oerton**). Our impact also arises indirectly through the role that staff play as experts in their areas. Several of the Unit's staff are advisors, committee members or trainers for government departments, policy-making and practitioner groups (in some cases at international level), through which they are able to disseminate research findings and influence policy. **Williamson** currently holds, or has held during the review period, public and professional appointments including: member of the Advisory Board to the European Commission Partnership in the Youth Field, Council of Europe Expert Group, and, until recently, member of the Youth Justice Board. **Maguire** is a member of the England and Wales Correctional Services Accreditation Panel and a member of the Academic Reference Group of the National Offender Management Service's Offender Engagement Programme.

**b. Approach to impact**

(a) How staff in the unit engaged with, or developed relationships with, key users in order to develop impact from the unit's research. Evidence of the nature of those relationships

As part of its 2009-2013 research strategy, the Unit has run a series of high-profile lectures and seminars for policy makers, practitioners and researchers. These include an annual public lecture (The David Dunkerley Lecture); the University of South Wales Public Affairs Forum, a series of evening debates led by politicians and other distinguished public figures; and an open seminar series. In 2009, the Centre for Criminology, with **Brookman** and **Pierpoint** leading, co-hosted with Cardiff University the annual British Criminology Conference attended by policy makers and practitioners, as well as academics. In the same year, **Farrell** organised (for the first time in Wales) the annual UK Public Administration Committee Conference, held at the University of South Wales, which included a 'Skills for Government' forum, with major practitioner inputs. In 2011, **Farrell** established the Centre for Advanced Studies in Public Policy (CASPP), which is a

leading hub for public policy analysis. CASPP provides policymakers and professionals with new ideas, new evidence and innovative solutions to the challenges they face. In 2010 and 2011 **Williamson** co-organised a national conference on Children and Young People in Wales. The Centre for Criminology in collaboration with other Welsh universities and under the auspices of the Wales Branch of the British Society of Criminology regularly hosts lectures for academics, policy-makers and practitioners, as well as interested members of the public. There is also a strong link between the way in which the policy research is conducted and current and future impact. Approaches that lead to impact in relation to policy-oriented research include: listening and responding to the needs of funding bodies, being adaptable in the approach taken, liaising closely with the organisation during the writing of the report, and generating a good working relationship with the staff commissioning the research. This not only helps in winning awards leading to future impact but also maximising the usefulness and impact of the research conducted.

(b) How the unit has specifically supported staff to enable impact to be achieved from their research

The main financial support for staff has been administered through the Unit's Research Awards Scheme. This scheme allocates funds for research purposes, including: buying out staff from teaching duties to conduct research; funding research symposia which might lead to publications and the development of future research; covering the cost of conference attendance which might result in research outcomes or improved research capacity; funding seminar series for practitioners, policy makers and researchers; providing funds for one-off events linking internal staff and external contacts; and providing financial support to fund research sabbaticals of one or two terms. The department covered by the Unit has also assisted in this process by modifying staff workloads and recruiting replacement staff to cover for the teaching for those bought out for research.

(c) How the unit has made use of institutional support, expertise, or resources to provide support to its staff

The research activities of the unit are aided by an array of resources providing institutional support and helpful expertise for the furtherance of its work. The Research Office helps administer grant applications, including large European bids. **Maguire** and **Maher** have recently benefited from this help in their recent successful European grant applications. The University has provided financial resources through QR allocation and through central funding of PhD scholarships and staff posts. As a result of these funds the university granted **Wardak** paid leave to work in Afghanistan as well as shorter-term buyouts for **Brookman** and **Evans**. The recent developments of the Research Institutes has also assisted our Unit in consolidating a firm research culture at university level as well as the infrastructure provided for research development by the Research Institute Directors (**Bennett** is the Director of the Humanities and Social Sciences Research Institute covering the work of our UoA). The University also has an up-to-date computing system which allows for high level security and data storage at a level required of many government agencies and funding bodies.

**c. Strategy and plans**

(a) Goals and plans for maximising the potential for impact from current and future research

In 2009, the UoA designed a research strategy for the next five years which would enhance the quality and quantity of research as well as the reach and significance of its impact. This included several methods for enhancing impact. We planned to implement several seminar programmes for bringing together practitioners, policy makers, and researchers (PPRs) including informal sessions for staff to discuss their research in progress (mainly for staff but sometimes attended by outsiders), triologue workshops specifically for PPRs with the aim of fairly equal proportions of each, open seminars with invited outside speakers to discuss the overlaps of policy, practice and research, and annual lectures involving high status speakers who would discuss policy and strategy. We also developed our own website with featured news items that would be of interest to an outside audience with links to our published reports. We also developed or became attached to larger networked websites, such as the website sponsored by the Welsh Centre for

## Impact template (REF3a)

Crime and Social Justice which is viewed by its membership list of academics, practitioners and government staff.

In the last year, the overall structure of research has changed at the University in several ways as a result of the establishment of four new Research Institutes headed by Research Directors. The main aim of Research Institutes is to create sustainable research centres by focusing on external research grant acquisition, establishing a research appraisal system, and introducing a mentoring scheme. These changes led us to review the UoA research strategy accordingly. Our existing mentoring scheme will be replaced by the generic Research Institute scheme and our strategy for funding research activities will comprise a balanced combination of QR funding and external grant acquisition. This will be enabled through an enhanced Research Office, dedicated research assistants, and linked lectureships with an additional research workload. The best of the old system will remain including: the *Research Symposium Scheme*, the *Research Conference Scheme* and the *Seminar Series Scheme*, all of which have been successful in forging links with policy makers and practitioners and in making our research known to them. The best of the new system includes the consolidation and growth of a research culture based on high-quality and high-impact research as well an outward facing website and events that will provide a platform for the research conducted by the research centres attached to the Institute.

**d. Relationship to case studies**(a) The relationship between the support for impact described and the case studies

The two case studies submitted relate to the work of **Brookman**, and **Wardak**. The underpinning research for these was conducted before the current strategy was implemented, but much of its impact has taken place during the more recent period, with support and assistance from the Unit. In particular, the impact of **Wardak's** research on Afghanistan conflict resolution policy and law was helped considerably by the University granting him unpaid leave to work in Afghanistan during 2007-2008. **Brookman's** impact on police investigation in the UK has been directly enhanced by the Unit's current research strategy, especially in relation to the reputation she has gained following the funded symposium on 'Investigating Homicide'. In the last 12 months, Brookman has been granted sabbatical leave, using QR funds, administered through the Research Awards Scheme to enable her to conduct fieldwork in the United States in police departments in Washington DC and Maryland.

(b) How case studies exemplify aspects of the approach adopted

The approach to impact is based on staff support through buying out time, providing a research culture through seminars, conferences for practitioners, and enabling research activity through teaching buyouts and institutional administrative support through the Research Office and the School. **Wardak's** impact success was in large part a result of his obtaining a year's leave to work in Afghanistan and subsequent teaching buyouts to enable him to write up his research. **Brookman's** impact success also benefited from funded short periods of sabbatical leave and teaching buyout time. The Research Award Scheme also provided the funds for the symposium which stimulated her involvement in homicide investigation in the US.

(c) How particular case studies informed the development of the unit's approach

**Brookman's** case study has resulted in a much closer relationship with UK and US police through the network operated through (CIRN) (Criminal Investigation Research Network) established by Brookman and linked to the Centre for Criminology web site. It has also led to research collaborations among staff at the Centre and members who attended the original symposium. The CIRN website which is based at the Centre for Criminology is now the official site of the online version of the *Journal of Homicide and Major Incident Investigation*.