

## Panel A criteria:

### *Impact template*

1. 'Guidance on submissions' (paragraphs 149-155) sets out the requirement to submit a completed impact template. Submitting units are required to describe how they have sought to enable and/or facilitate the achievement of impact arising from their research, and how they are shaping and adapting their plans to ensure that they continue to do so in the future. This is distinct from evidence provided in the environment template, which should describe how a unit supports the production of excellent research.
2. The main panel believes that outstanding impact can be achieved from within a wide variety of research contexts and resulting from a wide diversity of approaches, and it has no pre-formed view of the ideal context or approach.
3. The submitted impact template should include specific examples and traceable references where possible, rather than broad, general statements. The sections of the impact template should include explanation of and evidence for:
  - a. **Context.** Institutions should describe the main non-academic user groups, beneficiaries or audiences for the unit's research, the main types of impact specifically relevant to the unit's research, and how these relate to the range of research activity or research groups in the unit.
  - b. **Approach to impact.** Institutions should describe the unit's approach to interacting with non-academic users, beneficiaries or audiences and to achieving impacts from its research, during the period 2008 to 2013. This could include details of, for example:
    - how staff in the unit interacted with, engaged with or developed relationships with key users, beneficiaries or audiences to develop impact from the research carried out in the unit<sup>1</sup>
    - evidence of the nature of those relationships and interactions
    - evidence of follow-through from these activities to identify resulting impacts
    - how the unit specifically supported and enabled staff to achieve impact from their research
    - how the unit made use of institutional facilities, expertise or resources in undertaking these activities
    - other mechanisms deployed by the unit to support and enable impact.
  - c. **Strategy and plans.** Institutions should describe how the unit is developing a strategy for achieving impact, including goals and plans for supporting and enabling impact from current and future research.
  - d. **Relationship to the case studies.** Institutions should describe how the selected case studies relate to their approach to achieving impact. This could include details of, for example, how particular case studies exemplify aspects of the approach, or how particular case studies

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<sup>1</sup> Note that within the environment template, submissions should explain research collaborations with users, and how their relationships/interactions inform the development of the unit's research activity/strategy.

informed the development of the unit's approach. The main panel recognises that case studies are underpinned by research over a time frame that is longer than the assessment period, and that individual case studies may, therefore, not relate directly to the approach set out in b above.

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4. The sub-panels will assess impact according to the generic criteria and level definitions in 'guidance on submissions', Annex A, Table A3. The criteria will be understood as follows:

- **Reach:** the spread or breadth of influence or effect on the relevant constituencies
- **Significance:** the intensity of the influence or effect.

5. The sub-panels will make an overall judgement about the reach and significance of impacts, rather than assessing each criterion separately.

6. The criteria will be applied in the assessment of the research impact regardless of the domain to which the impact relates. Reach will not be assessed in purely geographic terms, nor in terms of absolute numbers of beneficiaries, but rather based on the spread or breadth to which the potential constituencies have been affected.