

Panel B criteria:

Impact template

1. The requirement to submit an impact template is described in 'guidance on submissions' (paragraphs 149-155), and the generic template is at Annex B of this document. The sub-panels request the following information in each section a-d of the template. Where possible, relevant illustrative examples with traceable references should be given, rather than broad general statements. The information submitted under headings a and d will be considered as contextual information for the sub-panels in assessing the case studies, and will not be assessed in forming the impact sub-profiles.

a. **Context:**

- Describe the main non-academic user groups, beneficiaries or audiences for the unit's research.
- Describe 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:** Describe the unit's approach to its interaction with non-academic users, beneficiaries or audiences and to achieving impacts from its research, during the period 2008-2013. 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 unit¹.
- Evidence of the nature of those relationships and interactions. This may include, for example, participation in schemes such as Research Council knowledge exchange schemes and industrial doctoral training centres, and interactions through training provided or consultancy undertaken, where these have led to beneficial relationships.
- Evidence of follow-through from these activities to identify resulting impacts.
- Evidence of an agile approach to opportunities.
- How the unit specifically supported and enabled staff to achieve impact from their research, and ways in which they are rewarded or recognised for achieving impact.
- 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.

¹ 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.

c. **Strategy and plans:** Describe how the unit is developing its strategy for achieving impact, including its goals for supporting and enabling impact from its research in the future.

d. **Relationship to the case studies:** The sub-panels do not expect that submitted case studies will necessarily have arisen out of the approaches to achieving impacts, as described in b above, for the period 2008-2013. However, where relevant, they would welcome details of, for example, how particular case studies exemplify aspects of the approach, or how particular case studies informed the development of the unit's approach.

Impact criteria

2. 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** is the extent and breadth of the beneficiaries of the impact.
- **Significance** is the degree to which the impact has enabled, enriched, influenced, informed or changed the products, services, performance, practices, policies or understanding of commerce, industry or other organisations, governments, communities or individuals.

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

HEIs may submit case studies describing impacts at any stage of development or maturity. However, the assessment will be solely on the impact achieved during the assessment period, regardless of its stage of maturity. No account will be taken of anticipated or future potential impact, and therefore early stage or interim impacts might not score as highly as more mature impacts.