



ESRC Research Performance and Economic Impact Report 2012/13

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INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

This report demonstrates the impact of the ESRC's research, its support for infrastructure and its training programme. The excellence of UK social science provides the foundation for high-quality knowledge exchange activity and a growth in societal and economic impacts.

We maximise impact by embedding knowledge exchange in our schemes and investments. The dividends from this commitment range across impacts on policy, practice, business, publics, in local and international contexts and our success in leveraging funding.

In recognition of the excellence of knowledge exchange activity undertaken by the individuals we support and consequent substantial impacts, in 2013 we awarded our first Celebrating Impact Prizes. This is a new, annual opportunity to recognise and reward the successes of ESRC-funded researchers who have achieved, or are currently achieving, outstanding economic and/or societal impacts. The prize celebrates excellent ESRC research and success in collaborative working, partnerships and engagement activities that have led to significant impact. Several of the prize winners feature in this report.

In line with the template provided by BIS for the reporting year 2012/13, this report includes data on particular aspects of our performance alongside a selection of illustrative examples of impact and impact-generating activities from ESRC-funded investments. All quantitative data are reported on an annual basis for the period 2010/11 to 2012/13 (where available).

Highlights

- The 2012 International Benchmarking Review found that UK human geography ranks first in the world.
- Evidence of significant impact on the energy sector by the ESRC's Centre for Competition Policy.
- Professor Alan Walker, Director of the New Dynamics of Ageing (NDA) Programme, was awarded ESRC Impact Champion of the Year for his exemplary career-long record championing and achieving a broad range of policy impacts in the field of ageing.
- Piloting of ESRC Impact Acceleration Accounts (IAAs) at three top recipients of our research funding.
- £64 million additional capital funding for the ESRC's Big Data Network.

Impact through world-class research

Excellent research is a prerequisite for societal and economic impact. During 2012/13 we have continued to invest in the best research while also facilitating the impact of our funded research on society and the economy. During 2012/13 the ESRC spent approximately £139 million of its gross budget on supporting research. Evidence from the Council's evaluations demonstrates the consistently high quality and impact of our research, with 92 per cent of all projects graded as 'good', 'very good' or 'outstanding'.

The 2012 International Benchmarking Review of human geography, undertaken in partnership with the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG), concluded that human geography as a whole in the UK ranks



Example 1

A study led by Professor Demeritt into improving the communication and use of ensemble flood predictions led to significant impacts at local, national and international levels. At a local level, this supported the development of a decision-support system used to control the operation of the Colne Flood Barrier where costly and potentially contentious decisions are now made on a more consistent, risk-informed way by combining state-of-the-art technology with local knowledge. Nationally, the Met Office responded to recommendations from this study by increasing the number of its Public Weather Service (PSW) advisors across the UK to enhance resilience to major national incidents and respond to real-time emergency incidents. And, internationally, this research has led to the development and integration of ensemble forecasting technologies with existing systems used the Anhui Province in China, an area at extreme risk of flooding.

Example 2

Research on non-discriminatory pricing in energy by the Centre for Competition Policy (CCP) was instrumental in Ofgem dropping their non-discrimination clause. This clause ensured that energy retailers charged the same unit prices across UK regions. It was implemented in an attempt to address disadvantages experienced by customers. The researchers found, however, that rather than creating a fairer market this clause resulted in higher costs for the consumer. The researchers had extensive meetings with Ofgem and this evidence was also used by influential commentators. As a result, the regulator reversed its initial intention of renewing these clauses, and announced that it would allow them to lapse. Commentators have estimated the increased profit to companies over the five years since the clauses were introduced at around £10bn, so removal of the clauses has the potential to save consumers up to £2bn per year.



first in the world. The review included many accounts of research impact on policy and practice and one of its sources of evidence was a survey of users of human geography research. This revealed its influence across a range of topic areas, including market analyses for business organisations and studies relating to economic development and planning for local, regional and national public-sector agencies. Demographics, social change and housing issues also accounted for a substantial proportion of research use, with examples including studies of labour mobility and research to rank local authorities in relation to inequalities. Increasingly, human geography research expertise is being sought in relation to the spatial

dimensions of energy, climate change and related issues (see example 1 opposite).

The reputation and credibility of researchers is core to successful knowledge exchange activity. Our major research investments provided substantial advice to policy- and decision-makers on an average 21 occasions per investment in 2012/13 (see example 2 above).

The excellent standing of the UK social science community has also enabled us to leverage significant funds from external sources, representing 11 per cent of our total budget in 2012/13, whilst our major research investments have collectively brought in a further £26 million in additional grants from public, private and third

METRIC ¹	UNITS	YEAR			NOTES
		2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	
Common Metrics - Inputs					
Total funds available	£mil	214	213	204	
Budget allocation	£mil	188	186	181	
Leverage	£mil	26	27	23	
<i>of which Private</i>	£mil	2	1	2	
<i>of which from other Research Councils</i>	£mil	16	12	12	
<i>of which from other source</i>	£mil	8	14	9	Government departments - largest component
<i>of which Private</i>	%	1%	0%	1%	
<i>of which other Research Councils</i>	%	7%	6%	7%	
<i>of which other</i>	%	4%	7%	5%	
Total Expenditure	£mil	214	213	204	
<i>of which Responsive Mode Grant</i>	£mil	45	44	48	
<i>of which Postgraduate Awards</i>	£mil	56	61	55	
<i>of which other components</i>	£mil	113	108	101	
<i>of which Responsive Mode Grant</i>	%	21%	21%	24%	
<i>of which Postgraduate Awards</i>	%	26%	29%	27%	
<i>of which other components</i>	%	53%	51%	50%	Strategic Research - Largest component
Value of support for Cross-Council Programmes ²	£mil	36	37	37	

¹ Figures are as presented in the ESRC Annual Report and Accounts www.esrc.ac.uk/publications/annual-report/index.aspx

² Highlighted here is the ESRC's contribution to cross-Council research; evidence of the integral role of social science in these interdisciplinary endeavours

METRIC	UNITS	YEAR		
<i>Knowledge Transfer and Exchange</i>		2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
KE Spend	£mil	4.8	6.5	8.6

sector funders in the same period. We also expect our Doctoral Training Centres (DTCs) to leverage funds in order to increase the amount of PhDs supported and in 2012/13, 153 (25 per cent) additional studentships were supported by external agencies to the 600 we funded.

Impact through knowledge exchange

Creating, supporting and promoting opportunities for knowledge exchange (KE) is embedded across the full range of our activities. We have developed a deep understanding of the qualities of excellent KE through our impact evaluation programme and have used this in delivering improvements to our KE schemes, in the management and commissioning of strategic and responsive awards and in the development of specialised schemes such as those in support of our engagement with business, the public sector, civil society and in promoting our data resources beyond the academy.

Our major investments are required to develop, review and improve their impact strategies with support from our investment managers and committee members. This portfolio of investments has produced a range of policy, practice and business impacts evident through the analysis of investment annual reports and evaluations. Improvements are marked this year in terms of the quantity and diversity of KE activities undertaken within this portfolio of awards, for example the number of events targeted at non-academic stakeholder audiences almost doubled this year. We have recently developed a rapid support mechanism for our large investments to help further

Example 4

Professor Cathy Nutbrown and colleagues from the University of Sheffield developed a unique approach to early literacy work with families where children develop their language skills and their ability to read and write from an early age. Her team worked with 20 early-years practitioners to adapt the family literacy framework ORIM (Opportunities, Recognition, Interaction and Models). Practitioner workshops enabled families to raise children's literacy achievements. The original 20 practitioners shared their work resulting in around 300 practitioners getting involved – between them reaching 6,000 families. Select preschools, primary schools and Childcare Centres have subsequently adopted the framework in light of its efficacy.

boost opportunities for knowledge exchange activities.

In early 2013, we provided funding for pilot Impact Acceleration Accounts (IAAs) at three top recipients of our research funding and a roll-out of this scheme was delivered later in the year. Providing funds in this way will empower institutions and enable non-centralised decision-making and relationship-building. Better support for local and SME-focused activity will be created. This scheme also responds to the often interdisciplinary nature of KE including collaborations with other sciences. We expect to see both growth and diversification of the impact arising from social science research as a consequence of this funding.

Applicants to the Council's funding schemes are required to complete Pathways to Impact, describing the knowledge exchange strategies and activities to be deployed in order to maximise the impact of awards made. We are participating in the RCUK

Example 3

Researchers from the Deafness Cognition and Language (DCAL) Research Centre, based at University College London, with funding from the Alzheimer's Society, have created a new NHS service for deaf adults with cognitive disorders, in particular those related to ageing. This first neuropsychology clinic for patients who use British Sign Language (BSL) is based at the Cognitive Disorders clinic at the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery. The clinic provides diagnosis of dementia and other acquired neurological impairments in deaf people, enabling access to services and better health outcomes. This is a significant step towards reducing wider healthcare inequalities for deaf people in the UK. As part of a joint report with Action on Hearing Loss on Deaf people with Long-Term Conditions, it was calculated that the cost of these healthcare inequalities is around £28m annually. Meeting clinical needs earlier should reduce these costs and allow for more timely, sensitive and efficient management of individual cases.



Example 5

Richard Murphy from the Centre for Economic Performance (CEP) and the Sutton Trust summarised research on teacher quality and the effect on pupils, and methods of measuring teacher effectiveness, influencing policy in this area. In 2011, on the basis of a review of the literature on teachers, his first report recommended 'a more flexible promotion and pay system' that is 'based on improvement in classroom results, reviews by head teachers and external appraisals'. It was presented to the Education Select Committee in 2012 and was quoted in the School Teacher Review Body's 21st report published in December 2012. This report was featured in the 2012 Autumn Budget Statement recommending a change in government policy, to make teacher pay more reflective of ability.



review of Pathways to Impact with the aim of further embedding and facilitating knowledge exchange and impact in research.

We are keen to support the generation of social and economic impact arising from the activities of our investments and, in addition to embedding impact across all areas of our funding, we also support individuals and teams to act as translators and facilitators. For example, our support for business impact outlined below includes ESRC Retail Knowledge Navigators and a Retail Data Navigator. We have taken steps to help those working in local government benefit more from the huge amount of high-quality and important research in this area.

To enable local government access this knowledge, in partnership with the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers (SOLACE) and the Local Government Association (LGA) we fund a knowledge navigator team who provide opportunities for local councils to tap into the existing research base, exert more influence over future research agendas, and develop their own research and development capacities. They will also help the research community to connect better with

the needs of the sector and the communities it serves to generate greater impact.

To optimise social science impact within the work of our Government, we have funded a new social science unit at the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST), which creates a section on equal footing with those for Biological Sciences, Environment and Energy, and Physical Sciences, with two members of staff and five opportunities for ESRC PhD POST Fellows each year over a three-year period.

Impact through Engagement with Practitioners

Increasingly our investments are producing impacts on practice, in the areas such as management, social care, policing, healthcare and teaching. The Research Impact on Practice: Case Study Analysis, featured in the Overview of Impact Evaluation Programme below, draws out key factors in enabling impact on practice, including the importance of institutional context, mutual benefits and human factors that engender trust. Projects such as example 3 opposite include quantitative indicators of impact.

Many of our Celebrating Impact Prize Winners 2013 had considerable impacts on practice across several

Example 6

Research undertaken as part of the Peterborough Adolescent and Young Adult Development Study (PADS), a longitudinal study investigating the effects of social environment on criminal and extremist behaviour, has been cited in two Government initiatives – the anti-terrorism strategy CONTEST and the Prevent Strategy, aimed at preventing violent extremism. Professor Wikström's report on Al Qa'ida-influenced radicalisation is one of three Rapid Evidence Assessments commissioned by the Office for Security Counter-Terrorism to improve understanding of research in this field. This has been influential in furthering understanding of the radicalisation and de-radicalisation process and will inform future interventions.



Example 7

Professor Walker's work with Age-UK has had considerable influence. In the words of Michelle Mitchell, the Age UK Charity Director-General: 'Professor Alan Walker's work and that of the NDA Programme has provided much of the conceptual framework that Age UK has adopted in its corporate strategy, research, policy development and service development. We have taken Professor Walker's concept of active ageing and applied it to all that we do. It has a huge impact and application at the country's largest older people's charity.'



spheres. Professor Cathy Nutbrown's Outstanding Impact in Society prize (example 4 on previous page) is an excellent example.

Impact through Engagement with Policymakers

Policy impacts can take longer to materialise than those on practice because of the time lags associated with policy development and the numerous factors that influence it. An excellent range of policy impacts is evident from this year's investment annual reports, evaluations and our Celebrating Impact Prize submissions and winners (see example 5 on previous page).

As with other forms of impact, relationships are the key to achieving impact on policy (see example 6 on previous page). It is good to see an increase in the numbers of events held by our major research investments, targeted at public, policy, business and third-sector participants, from an average of nine per investment in 2010/11 to 17 per investment in 2012/13.

As above, the standing and credibility of researchers is key to achieving impact. This year Professor Alan Walker, Director of the New Dynamics of Ageing (NDA) Programme, won the ESRC prize of Impact Champion for his exemplary career-long record in championing and achieving a broad range of policy impacts in the ageing field (example 7 above).

Impact through Engagement with Business

Achieving research impact in industry and business is core to our delivery plan and reflected in our engagement initiatives with the key sectors in this area. We have created partnerships with a range of organisations in the development of a number of schemes; these increase funding opportunities and the likelihood of sustained impact arising from the activities supported. For example, for the retail sector schemes £2.5m of the total £6.1m invested over the last five years came from project partners. There is strong evidence that activity supported in this area will have impact. See examples 8 and 9 below.

The ESRC is also commissioning the Retail Sector Initiative, including support for a cohort of retail-focused Knowledge Exchange Opportunities awards and Knowledge Transfer Partnerships. There are 37 business partners providing £2.7m funding in addition to £1.2m ESRC, Technology Strategy Board (TSB) and AHRC investment. Our strategic and responsive investments also affect business and industry as shown in examples 10 and 12 opposite.

Example 8

Mr A Newing, RIBEN Doctoral Student, collaborated with a team at Sainsbury's to develop a spatial decision support system (SDSS) to inform site location planning within the grocery retail sector. Stores within many tourist resorts and destinations attract significant additional revenue during the tourist season. Using administrative and open data sources the research helped understand the drivers behind these seasonal sales fluctuations for incorporation within site location plans.

Example 9

Retail Industry Business Engagement Network (RIBEN) Director, Professor Neil Wrigley, has had significant influence on the retail sector. His own research evidence on the impact of large food stores on market towns and district centres has been extensively cited and used in planning applications, appeals, public consultations and informed UK planning practice through resources such as the UK Government's Planning Portal. He was recently asked by Local Growth Minister, Mark Prisk, to join the newly-formed national 'Future High Streets Forum'. This Forum will advise the government on the challenges facing high streets and enable the UK retail sector to use academic research more fully. It will also seek to engage retail industries to develop future visions for UK high streets, explore ways in which town centres can become more resilient by evolving, and how new policies can be developed in this area.



Example 10

As a result of three interlinked projects funded collaboratively by the ESRC and industry, Professor Paula Jarzabkowski has had global business impact on the re-insurance industry. She identified a potential systemic risk and developed a suite of tools to enable firms to adopt changes to address this. The insights into risk evaluation provided by this research have been adopted in insurance firms such as HISCOX, informed industry debates and increased individual awareness.

**Impact through Public Engagement**

Engaging publics is an important part of our portfolio of knowledge exchange activities bringing about public benefits, and reciprocal improvements to research and its impact. The ESRC's tenth annual Festival of Social Science was held from 3-10 November 2012 to engage the public with social science research and to raise awareness of its impact on society and the economy. There were 181 events held across seven regions and in 40 UK towns and cities. Feedback indicates that approximately 20,500 people attended the Festival with 84 per cent of respondents indicating that they would

Example 12

Recommendations from a team led by Professor Rita de la Feria, under the Business, Taxation and Welfare large grant, had a major impact on the Portuguese economy. In April 2011, Portugal became the third European country to apply for financial assistance to help it cope with its budget deficit. A bailout was agreed on the condition that Portugal cut its budget deficit over the following three years. Reforming the country's VAT system offered considerable scope for increasing tax revenues. The reforms focused on not placing higher burdens on low-income households or jeopardising jobs and growth in key economic sectors. Professor De la Feria recommended a number of principles, including eliminating reduced VAT rates for non-essential products consumed by high-income earners; maintaining reduced VAT rates for essential goods and services; preserving lowered rates of VAT for items that could endanger jobs or exports; and removing different VAT rates for goods and services which fall within the same category as such distinctions were seen to encourage fraud and avoidance. The adoption of these recommendations led to reforms implemented in Portugal's 2012 State Budget which boosted the efficiency of tax and generated savings of 1.2 per cent GDP.

Impact through Collaborative Activities

We directly collaborate with a range of user organisations to support research. For example, the Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) programme led by the TSB offers opportunities for companies, organisations, UK universities or college partners and recently qualified graduates (associates) to work collaboratively to develop a business opportunity, idea or innovation. A KTP award can help businesses to introduce and integrate new and existing technology and skills, gain knowledge and expertise and address challenges – generating business transformation. In 2012/13 the ESRC co-funded 15 new KTP projects and 47 ongoing projects, all involving academic social scientists (example 11). Awards are made by the TSB each year for outstanding KTPs and in 2012 three KTP projects with ESRC funding were amongst the finalists.

Example 11

An ESRC co-funded KTP partnership with InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG) and Oxford Brookes University's School of Hospitality Management (OSHM) won the Partnership of the Year Award in the Institute of Risk Management's (IRM) Global Risk Awards 2013. The IHG-Oxford Brookes relationship started in 2006 with IHG's John Ludlow's participation in a study conducted by OSHM's Dr Alexandros Paraskevas on crisis management and business continuity. This partnership has evolved over time, from student access to IHG's risk executives and resources for their dissertations to active involvement of IHG's risk team in the design and delivery of a risk-management-related curriculum at OSHM. The next level of partnership included OSHM's involvement in IHG's risk function with four 'knowledge exchange' projects (two of which were KTPs co-funded by the TSB and ESRC) in the areas of business continuity, risk management performance monitoring, operational risk management and risk training. The outcomes of these projects set new standards in IHG's risk management practice and were also shared with the wider industry.



Example 13

DCAL's Deaf Children's Development Conference is an excellent example of public engagement that aimed to explain its research findings in relevant and accessible ways. Approximately 400 people attended, including members of the British deaf community, audiologists, speech and language therapists, teachers of the deaf and parents of deaf children. This event led to a BBC programme on the importance of sign language learning resources being made available for hearing parents of deaf children (See Hear 29/1/13).



Example 14

The BBC's Great British Class Survey (GBCS), the largest ever survey of social class in the UK, drew predominantly on research from our Centre for Research on Socio-Cultural Change (CRESC). With 161,400 people completing the online GBCS, this study is unique both in terms of scale and, more substantively, in excavating class positions and attitudes across economic, social and cultural spheres. The programme of publicity to enhance dissemination of the survey and its results by the BBC's scientific division, Lab UK, included coverage on the Today programme and BBC News, and ensured widespread public engagement with the GBCS.



METRIC	UNITS	YEAR			NOTES
		2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	
Human Capital					
Principal Investigators ³	#	215	301	433	ESRC does not fund institutes
Research leaders in sponsored institutes	#	NA	NA	NA	
Research fellowships ⁴	#	91	75	42	
Human Capital					
Number of PhD students supported	#	730	645	753	
Number of other students supported ⁵	#	6	6	6	
Finishing rates ⁶	%	83%	73%	74%	
Human Capital					
Destinations of leavers					
Of which university	%	73%	66%	60%	
Of which wider public sector	%	8%	9%	11%	
Of which third sector	%	3%	3%	4%	
Of which private sector	%	8%	6%	10%	
Of which unknown or other	%	4%	6%	7%	
Of which unemployed	%	4%	10%	8%	
Optional Metrics					
Number of users placed in HEIs/ESRC research investments ⁷	#	64	49	63	
Number of researchers trained in media/PE skills	#	114	171	154	

³ Data includes all PIs on all grants commencing activity in the period 1 April 2012-31 March 2013, using unique names.

⁴ Data includes all Fellowship grants commencing activity in the period 1 April 2012-31 March 2013. Data excludes Placement Fellowships (reported separately) and Research Fellows funded as part of other Research Grants. Note that the Post-Doctoral Fellowships scheme closed to new entrants in February 2011, which has resulted in a decline in the total number of Fellows supported. The new Future Research Leaders scheme is now the primary mode of dedicated support for early-career researchers.

⁵ This figure relates to a strategic initiative to build research capacity in Demography.

⁶ The figures reported for 2011/12 and beyond are based on the four-year submission rate. Figures reported in previous years were based on the five-year submission rate. The method of data collection for the submission rate survey changed in 2011/12, moving to a multi-Council platform.

⁷ Reported are placements organised by the Council's major investments.

Example 15

Evidence from the 1958 and 1970 Millennium Cohort Studies has been cited extensively by the Welsh Government in its first Early Years and Childcare Plan published in 2013. The ten-year plan outlines the actions the Welsh Government will take to improve children's health and wellbeing, support parents, and ensure provision of high-quality early education and childcare. This highlights findings from the cohort studies that show factors such as mother's health during pregnancy, child's birth weight, parents' education and employment, and family's housing and socio-economic circumstances can have a lasting effect on children's cognitive, social and behavioural development.



use the information from the event in their own work/studies. The cost of the festival to the ESRC was £160K in 2012 and at least this amount again was leveraged in terms of in-kind contributions.

Our large research investments report significant public engagement activity through tools such as events and social media. Evidence of the benefits of involving publics in research is exemplified by the very different engagement strategies and their results as set out in examples 13 and 14 opposite.

Impact through investment in infrastructure

Excellent social science needs high-quality data sources and associated infrastructure. In 2012-13 our investment in world-leading data and infrastructure increased significantly with the allocation of £64 million additional capital funding following the Chancellor's autumn statement. These funds will be invested in the ESRC's Big Data Network which will support the development of a network of innovative investments to strengthen the UK's competitive advantage in Big Data. The core aim of this network is to facilitate access to different types of data, thereby stimulating innovative research and the development of new methods to undertake that research. This network has been divided into three phases. In Phase 1 the Administrative Data Research Network (ADRN) will provide access to de-identified administrative data collected by government departments for research use. Phase 2 will focus primarily on business data and local government data. Phase 3 will focus on Third Sector data and social media data.

Another significant infrastructure investment was launched in October 2012. The Cohorts and Longitudinal Studies Enhancement Resource (CLOSER) will play a vital role in maximising the use, value and impact of nine of the country's leading studies, with participants born as early as 1911 and as recently as 2007, both within the UK and abroad.

Example 17

Tackling child poverty and promoting social justice requires effort to be targeted at people in persistent poverty and most in need. The Department of Work and Pensions is using Understanding Society (and previously, the British Household Panel Study), to produce the Households Below Average Income Report. This identifies the nature of families and individuals spending three or more years out of any four-year period in a household with below 60 per cent of median income. The evidence is particularly critical for the new welfare reforms designed to provide greater incentives for work.

Example 18

Researchers from the Centre for Climate Change Economics and Policy (CCCEP) provided policy advice in both Malawi and Botswana that has fed into their [climate change] Adaptation Plans. The activities of CCCEP researchers have also led to a formal MoU with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification Secretariat. At a local level, the research has provided a new process-based approach that is being disseminated by agricultural extension workers and that has fed back into the integration of scientific and local knowledge in monitoring and assessment processes in Botswana.

Example 16

One study supported through the ESRC-DFID fund identified barriers to Tuberculosis (TB) treatment uptake and strengthened the evidence that accelerated diagnostic schemes lead to increased access to treatment in high incidence countries. The study took place in Ethiopia, Yemen and Nigeria – high TB-incidence locations where patients often abandon the diagnostic process and fail to initiate treatment. In Ethiopia, evidence from this research has contributed to the training of village-based Health Extension Workers in facilitating access to specialist services. This approach doubled TB diagnoses with significant increases amongst women.



The sheer scale and richness of the data available is incomparable and cross-cohort analysis will help us understand more about societal change and how changes in the policy environment affect outcomes for individuals. Many of the CLOSER studies have already had significant impacts (see example 15 on previous page).

Understanding Society is another recent investment that captures important information every year about the social and economic circumstances and attitudes of people living in 40,000 UK households. To generate more impact from the infrastructural resources we fund, we have appointed an Impact Fellow to work alongside the Understanding Society team to improve the uptake of findings and lessons from the study into policy and practice. They have produced a number of case studies in key policy areas, including the impact of the recession on young people and social mobility, the impact of immigration on communities, the wider social consequences of the changing nature of the family and the dynamics of low incomes and poverty. The work of the Impact Fellow will enhance Understanding Society's impact record, as demonstrated in example 17 on previous page.

Example 19

Helen Mullen, a Doctoral student from Strathclyde, recently completed an ESRC-funded internship with Creative England in Manchester. She spent three months working on 'Cluster2020', a European-funded project that provided practical guidance to organisations about cluster and business development in the creative industries. She was involved in a range of research, report writing and networking activities. Joanna Bolhoven, Cluster Manager at Creative England, said: "Helen demonstrated professionalism throughout her time at Creative England. She helped develop a coherent research strategy for the project which resulted in a robust, measurable and systematic approach to all associated work programme activity. Helen consistently went above and beyond her remit and whenever possible used her resourcefulness to find new way to tackle issues that we came across. She learned quickly how to integrate these ideas with our larger organisational objectives and this made it easy for us to completely trust her with such a high-profile project." Helen said of the experience: "The Internship was productive, interesting, enjoyable and it exceeded my expectations. It provided an opportunity to develop my research and social skills in a non-academic environment, as well as enhancing my understanding about my research area. I believe that the variety of activities that I was involved in, and the range of contacts that I made, will prove useful during the PhD process and beyond."

Impact through International Collaboration

We promote UK social science internationally and, through specialised initiatives and schemes, enable UK social scientists to work with peers across the globe. Many of our major investments and our long-standing partnership with the Department for International Development (DfID) have made impacts on societies beyond the UK.

The ESRC-DFID Joint Fund for Poverty Alleviation Research has funded over 100 projects since 2005. It aims to provide a more robust conceptual and empirical basis for development and enhances the quality and impact of social science research on poverty reduction. Both funders are committed to commissioning world-class research and ensuring the results are available for policymakers, and development and humanitarian practitioners worldwide (example 16 on previous page).

Through both our targeted and more standard schemes, we enable UK social scientists to collaborate with the best researchers across the globe. The impacts of these collaborations are shown in example 18 on previous page.

Impact through skilled People

We provide funding for over 600 new postgraduate students each year through our 21 Doctoral Training Centres (DTCs). The DTCs are located across the country and include 46 institutions. The first studentships established under our national DTC network were in their second year in 2012/13. We provide current ESRC-funded PhD students with the opportunity to spend up to six months in a non-academic organisation within the public, civil society (voluntary) or private sectors where they can work as part of a team involved with policy and practice development. The internship scheme provides host organisations with a clear set of benefits and contributes to the skills and professional development of PhD students. During the year 60 internship awards were made. The benefits to the host institution and the student are shown in example 19 left.

Overview of Impact Evaluation Programme

Our impact evaluation work continues to generate evidence of impact across the ESRC's portfolio, and to enhance our understanding of how impact arises. Our programme methodology and approach are also influencing this field of research more widely, with the methods being deployed in external impact studies. For example, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) 2012 report 'Capturing

Example 20

The impact of business schools that have received significant amounts of ESRC funding in recent years (Cardiff Business School, Lancaster University Management School and Warwick Business School) was focus of a study. The study tracked forward from research at these organisations to assess the extent and nature of its impact on business and also looked at the career paths of doctoral graduates. It identified examples of a wide range of business impacts including:

- tangible improvements in the performance of small enterprises engaged in learning and networking programmes;
- significant developments in sustainable production of motor vehicles as a result of long-term collaboration, supply chain improvements and productive business engagement.

Business School graduates working in the private sector or who were self-employed reported a wide range of impacts from the skills and knowledge developed through their PhD, including:

- Using the skills developed to offer new and innovative ideas to a company; strong sense of credibility, expertise and employability – employing an individual with a PhD acts as a ‘selling point’ for both the individual and their organisation to potential clients;
- Translating between the world of industry and academia – keeping up to date with latest research findings and the ability to translate and use these findings to grow the organisation; using subject specific knowledge to grow the business – using the findings from their own PhD or the knowledge they developed to enhance the work done within their role;
- High-quality work skills – some graduates felt the work skills they had developed through their PhD such as project management, report writing, communication and time management were very beneficial to their employers;
- Thinking ‘outside the box’ – using their highly developed analytical skills to unravel the real issues behind the challenges they face and to provide solutions.

Example 21

The Workplace Employment Relations Survey (WERS) and European Social Survey (ESS) Impact Study further explored impact from our resources investments, building on the earlier work on the Millennium Cohort Study. It studied the routes to impact arising from two differently focused research resources. WERS is essential for identifying changes in employment relations over time, a ‘benchmark survey’ providing the basis for a host of other analyses using more specific data. The study found evidence of WERS directly affecting policy development: For example, WERS contributed to the updating of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS) code of practice and ACAS developed a diagnostic tool for organisations to measure employee engagement. Based on WERS data, the tool has been used by some 3,400 companies. Impact of research based on ESS data included changes to the operational strategies of the Metropolitan Police, with ‘legitimacy’ targets being added to senior officers’ objectives.

**Example 22**

Four case studies were developed across different areas (mediation practice, health care, risk management in diverse sectors, and fire and rescue service/ communities) to develop understanding about research impact on practice in a range of practice settings. This evidence, together with that from existing evaluations including the Teaching and Learning Research Programme Impact Evaluation, was analysed for common enabling determinants and barriers for research impacts on practice. Several determinants of impact emerged, including: the ‘human factor’ – the personal style of the researcher, including skills at engaging; institutional context – if it places value on impact generation with practitioners; mutual benefit impacts are more likely to arise if practitioners see benefit and pro-active approaches to engagement – before, during and following up on research. One of the case studies focused on the work of Professor Denyer, awarded HR Most Influential Thinker 2012 by HR Magazine. His work exploring the factors or conditions that enable or constrain the diffusion, implementation and institutionalisation of new management practices in the aftermath of extreme adverse events such as accidents, disasters or crises led to several impacts. These included a patient safety strategy review at a large hospital trust and a ‘high reliability and safe working cultures’ programme at an offshore gas storage and distribution organisation. The researcher also co-developed with a nuclear reprocessing facility a very successful short course on Safety Leadership for 400+ managers.



METRIC	UNITS	YEAR			NOTES
Knowledge generation and evaluation data		2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	
Number of grants assessed for reporting	#	1952	4853	1776	
Refereed publications ⁸	#	2144	2947	6163	
Non-refereed publications	#	3452	3462	4141	
Co-authorship of refereed publications - International ⁹	#	NR	61	1051	
Co-authorship of refereed publications - Industry ¹⁰	#	NR	NA	284	
Optional Metrics		2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	
Research quality (evaluation grade projects rated Outstanding, Good or Very Good) ¹¹		96%	94%	92%	
Level of usage of ESRC Research Resources ¹² :					
Active registered users	#	23099	20635	24771	
Datasets delivered	#	56777	61081	58568	No. active users - snapshot as at 31/3
Additional funding leveraged by major ESRC investments	£mil	NR	32	26	

⁸ The ESRC's Research Catalogue records all publications produced during the award period, and captures post-award publications on a voluntary submission basis through the cross-Council Research Outcomes System (ROS).

⁹ This is the second year in which we have been able to report against this metric, based on data collected through ROS. Growth in these numbers reflects ROS uptake by our award holders.

¹⁰ This is the first year in which we have been able to report against this metric, based on data collected through ROS.

¹¹ Due to the introduction of ESRC's new final reporting system in 2009/10, which delays project evaluation until 12 months after grant completion, the number of grants assessed in 2011/12 was approximately one third of average numbers. Expert analysis has shown that current bibliometric data are not a sufficiently robust measure of the impact of most social science disciplines. For this reason the Council is reporting evaluation grades for the work it funds. These grades reflect the results of independent peer review of end of award impact reports.

¹² We report here on the number of users registering to access the datasets available from the ESRC's principal data facility, the Economic and Social Data Service (ESDS), and the number of unique datasets delivered to users. Note also that the figure is based on a single day's 'snapshot' (31 March 2013) rather than an annual average.

the Impacts of Research' cites ESRC work heavily. The methodological approach used for our recent economic impact evaluation of the Economic and Social Data Service (ESDS) has also been adapted for use in economic impacts of the British Atmospheric Data Centre (BADC) and of the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). The BIS report on 'Big Science and Innovation' cites our work on economic impact as example of good practice, and recommends that other funders adopt this approach to impact evaluation. An expert seminar was held in early 2013, bringing together participants with an interest and expertise in this area to discuss ESRC work and potential future developments in the field. Following the seminar, we published the latest in our series of impact evaluation syntheses 'Cultivating Connections'. This year's Evaluation Committee impact studies, summarised in examples 20, 21, and 22 on previous page, cover the impact of business schools, case studies of practice impact and the impact of two data resources.

Next year's impact evaluations will include studies of the New Dynamics of Ageing Research Programme, three economics research centres (the Centre for Competitive Advantage in the Global Economy, Spatial Economics Research Centre and the Centre

for the Microeconomic Analysis of Public Policy), the business impact of KTPs and the relationship between interdisciplinarity and research impact.

RCUK

Research Councils UK (RCUK) is a strategic partnership of the UK Research Councils which enables the Research Councils to work together more effectively to enhance the overall impact and effectiveness of their research, training and innovation activities. The RCUK Impact Report reports on activities that Councils are doing together; how cross-council working is being delivered and the added value and impact that is being achieved as a result. The RCUK Impact Report is at www.rcuk.ac.uk

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