

Institution: University of the West of England, Bristol

Unit of assessment: 18 Law

### Section 1. Unit context and structure, research and impact strategy

#### Context and Structure

This unit is located within the Bristol Law School in the Faculty of Business and Law (FBL). Research is structured around two groups: (1) the **Global Crime, Justice and Security Research Group** (GCJSR Group) and (2) the **Environmental Law and Sustainability Research Group** (ELSR Group). All staff with significant responsibility for research are members of one of these groups. The School offers both academic degrees such as LLB, LLM and PhD and professional courses such as the GDL, the LPC and the BPTC/BTC.

#### Unit's Strategic Aims 2014-2020

##### *Research Vision*

UWE's overall strategy for research is to achieve 'world-class performance in selected areas of research that meets the needs of our community, a sustainable economy and society and feeds the scholarship and enquiry that underpins our learning and teaching'. Bristol Law School responds to, and enhances, UWE's strategic vision by promoting innovative and collaborative research activity in law with a high level of commitment to research with practical relevance to the needs of business, state and governmental agencies, the charity sector and the wider community.

##### *Research Strategy*

The strategy for this REF cycle was to leverage excellent applied legal research to engage with the regional economy and wider society, underpin teaching and enhance knowledge exchange. Priority was given to increasing the number of staff engaging in research that asks challenging questions, that raises a mirror to society with a view to critiquing norms and challenging established thought. In doing so, researchers are expected to fulfil the requirements of both academic rigour and societal relevance. Underpinning this, the strategic objectives were to increase research quality, building on REF 2014, and increase funding to support researchers to undertake projects with relevance and practical application.

The research strategy was and continues to be implemented through four strands of action:

- driving excellence with impact: placing emphasis on encouraging and supporting interdisciplinary and collaborative research with world-leading academic partners and other stakeholders, both in the UK and internationally, to drive up research quality (see *Section 4*). Groups have a leadership role to ensure the production of quality research (see *below* and *Section 2*) and a portfolio of impact that demonstrates a range of economic, cultural and societal benefits.
- building on talent and opportunity by supporting staff to become research active; mentoring and research leadership (see *Section 2*); aligning PGR students to research groups and succession planning (see *Section 2*).
- linking learning and research by involving research-active staff in curriculum development and teaching and ensuring that all staff use research and scholarly activity time to update subject knowledge (see *Section 4*).
- capitalising on culture and place by engaging with external stakeholders and students (see *Section 4*); supporting Group leaders as key drivers of the research strategy and maintaining high standards of research governance, ethics, integrity and data management (see *below*).

##### *Research Structure*

During the REF period, opportunity was taken to strengthen the research infrastructure within the school in order to deliver the strategy. In 2014, the Centre for Legal Research (CLR) acted as an

umbrella organisation for five units in: (i) Environmental Law, (ii) Commercial Law, (iii) Criminal Justice, (iv) Family, Gender and Equality and (v) International Law and Human Rights. The aim of the CLR was to support these units to become independent research groups. In 2016, the Centre evolved into the Centre for Applied Legal Research (CALR) to recognise its increasing focus on scholarly research, impact, consultancy, knowledge exchange and public engagement as applied to real world problems. Two independent research groups (Global Crime, Justice and Security Research Group, and Environmental Law and Sustainability Research Group, see *below*) subsequently emerged from this structure in 2019 and now operate as independent, self-sustaining activities spearheading the unit's research.

#### *Internal Investment*

To support this strategy during this REF period investment was focused on support for staff to deliver high-quality research with clear routes to impact, publication in prestigious journals, and to support and develop promising early career researchers. This was supplemented by leveraging the resources of Research, Business and Innovation (RBI), the UWE Graduate School and other professional services to facilitate collaborations, provide skills development and promote impact activities.

The Faculty employed a strategic and targeted allocation of research resources, focusing on research time for those new to academia with developing research profiles, staff delivering high quality research outputs and activities that supported research with potentially significant impact, and those wishing to develop new emergent research themes. Workload allocations were based on performance along with an assessment of planned activities and outputs for the year ahead.

Through this scheme, internal investment targeted:

- (i) strategic research priorities, such as **Quenivet's** work on international law and child soldiers, **Razzaque's** on biodiversity and nature protection, and **Blanco's** on corporate responsibility.
- (ii) specific research projects with clear outcomes, such as Young's work on organized crime in Jamaica, Das/Grant on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, and **Blanco** on protecting the Commons (especially natural resources).

#### *Monitoring the Achievement of Strategic Priorities*

Throughout the REF cycle, implementation of the strategic priorities was assessed and monitored through:

- 1) The quality of publications, assessed on a rolling basis through the internal review of outputs accepted for publication. This ensured that staff were provided with useful developmental feedback on the quality of their outputs and enabled research leaders to monitor the achievement of their research aims. Staff applying for research time are required to provide a record of their outputs with internal review rankings alongside future publication plans.
- 2) Progress in achieving impact, monitored by a designated Impact Champion in the unit whose role, in conjunction with RBI, was to support staff undertaking research with potential impact by promoting ways to deliver and enhance it, including identifying those suitable as REF impact case studies.

Monitoring was supported by a suite of metrics to assess intellectual contributions including citations, roles on journal editorial boards, appointments to leadership positions in relevant professional associations and societies, the number of grants awarded by industry/the professions, amount of external research income and qualitative examples of impact.

#### *Achievement of Objectives*

Evidence for the achievement of objectives is illustrated by:

- 1) The quality of publications available for this REF, including monographs (6) and duographs (2), (co-)edited collections (8), published by the likes of Cambridge University Press, Hart, Routledge, Palgrave, and articles published in peer-reviewed journals such as European Journal of International Law, Criminal Law Review, Child and Family Law Quarterly,

Transnational Environmental Law, Netherlands Quarterly of Human Rights, European Business Law Review.

- 2) Impact, and external income won to support research with impact. Besides the two case studies included in this submission (Pre-Trial Detention (Cape/**Smith**) and Financial Crime (**Ryder**)), other research has impacted on the work of organisations such as police forces in the UK and abroad (e.g. **Rumney**, Fenton, Young), the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (**Razzaque**), and NGOs (Elliott). The average income per year increased from £25k in the previous REF cycle to £95k in this REF cycle (See *Section 3*).

## Research Ethics and Governance

### *Research Ethics and Integrity*

Research integrity is safeguarded via i) a Faculty Research Ethics Committee (FREC); ii) a Research Governance Record; and iii) mandatory GDPR training for all staff.

The FREC comprises staff members from the Law School and the Faculty more widely and ensures research is carried out in line with ethical standards. For example, that research is undertaken with due regard to the safety of the researchers; that confidentiality of personal data and the anonymity of subjects is maintained and is GDPR compliant; that the integrity, transparency and independence of the study is maintained throughout the duration of the study; and that clear lines of responsibility and accountability are established. FREC reports to the University Research Ethics Committee whose chair was **Devine**, a former Law staff member contributing to this submission.

All UWE staff conducting research are required to register their projects on a Research Governance Record (RGR) introduced in January 2019. This provides a self-assessment check list to ensure relevant integrity matters are considered and signposts information and guidance relating to key research governance issues, including data protection, research data management, GDPR and research ethics. Induction on the RGR was provided when the scheme was introduced, and is refreshed periodically, most recently at the beginning of 2019/20.

### *Open Access*

UWE is committed to the aims and principles of open research and encourages researchers to explore the benefits of using open practices in their research. In Law, we support open research initiatives set out by the University, including promoting the development and implementation of Open Access Policy and Guidance and ensuring that staff and PGR students engage with the institutional Research Repository by providing training at School, Faculty and University level, as well through regularly reminding colleagues to deposit their work on data repositories.

## Future Strategic Aims

High quality research with impact remains the focus of our future strategy. To reinforce this, additional priorities have been introduced for the next period.

Firstly, a *new research structure* comprised of two research groups (Global Crime, Justice and Security Research Group, GCJSR, and Environmental Law and Sustainability, ELSR) has been established to better reflect the research strengths of the School and to support this new, more focused strategy. In parallel, the School is aligning its research towards the themes (Research Beacons) outlined in the University's 'Transforming Futures Research and Enterprise Strategy 2030', namely (1) digital futures, (2) health and wellbeing, (3) creative industries and technologies, and (4) sustainability and climate change resilience (see Institutional Statement).

The GCJSR focuses on aspects of financial crime; criminal justice and procedure; corporate governance and economic crime; organised crime and financial crime, while the ELSR's strengths

are in biodiversity and nature protection law; climate change and security; environment and human rights; environmental justice and the global south; environmental protection, security and armed conflict; European environmental law; natural resources and investment; and sustainable development. In particular, the work of the ELSR Group aligns to the University's Research Beacon on 'sustainability and climate change resilience', while GCJSG is increasingly aligning its research to 'digital futures' with research on cryptoassets and the use of technology in criminal courts.

Second, more emphasis is placed on *interdisciplinarity* to increase external research funding and impact. Each Group includes staff from other disciplines at UWE such as Criminology, History, Politics & International Relations, Computer Science & Creative Technologies, and Built Environment. Law staff increasingly engage in either formal or informal research activities with such colleagues on internal initiatives, including for example **Brimblecombe** with Allied Health Professions and Engineering, Design and Mathematics on supportive surveillance. **Ryder** is collaborating with staff in Computer Science and Creative Technologies on external funding applications to Innovate UK in digital technology and counter-terrorism financing. The number of joint publications is increasing, including Young with staff in History on organised crime, and **Smith** and Keppel-Palmer with colleagues in Journalism on court reporting. One output on sexual offences submitted here is flagged as interdisciplinary Law-Criminology (**Rumney**).

Third, *external engagement with stakeholders* is promoted, in particular to identify and tackle specific social issues. Groups encourage external membership including practitioners such as barristers (e.g. Moorhouse (ELSR Group)). The ELSR Group is an institutional member of the UK Environmental Law Association, a network that promotes collaboration between practitioners and academics. Members of the GCJSR Group are involved in a variety of networks that promote engagement with stakeholders (see *Section 4*).

Fourth, *internationalisation* has become a key element of strategy. This builds on work such as ELSR's major consultancy for the United Nations Inter-Governmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (**Razzaque**, 2016-19) and a World Bank funded project on forest climate mitigation in Nigeria (**Razzaque**, 2017-18). At the end of July 2020, the GCJSRG was working on an EU application with a range of European partners.

Finally, as part of the new structure, a School Research Committee has been created to coordinate the activities and provide financial support to these groups as well as monitor and implement the new research strategy. The Committee is led by **Ryder** and comprises the Law Professoriate, the Head of Department and an Associate Head of Department.

## Section 2. People

### Staff, Staffing Strategy

Within the REF period, four Professors (Cape, **Devine**, Jones and **Rumney**) and three Associate Professors (Chamber-Jones, Fenton and Turksen) left whilst 19 staff joined the School, including **Brimblecombe**, **Kivotidis** and **Smith** whose work is included in this submission. Recruitment plans for the academic year 2020/2021 include Professor and Associate Professor posts.

As part of a long-term research strategy aimed at growing talent in the School, ten ECRs were appointed during the assessment period (Bourton, **Brimblecombe**, Hall, Hillman, Johnston, **Kivotidis**, Kolaczowski, Man, Querton and **Smith**), one having since left (**Kivotidis**). A range of activities and schemes are in place to support them (see *below*). Indicative of the unit's strategy of promoting research talent, the School was successful in securing two Wallscourt Fellows as part of a University initiative to invest in areas of research strength. **Brimblecombe** was appointed to such a fellowship in September 2019 and a further one will be recruited in 2020/21. The time of Wallscourt Fellows is equally divided between research and teaching

**Staff Development***Performance and Personal Development Plans*

The School uses performance and personal development plans (PDR), mentoring and effective research leadership to ensure staff time for research is planned and prioritised in the context of overall workloads and time management, including scholarship and internally funded research time.

Staff performance against the research strategy is supported and monitored through the annual PDR process which includes a focus on research outputs, bidding, projects secured, PGR supervision, collaboration and, for Associate Professors and Professors, research leadership and contributions to the discipline. Through their PDR, staff are required to plan and make optimal use of their five-week scholarly time, which can include research.

*Support for Staff at Doctoral Level*

To increase the number of staff members qualified at doctorate level and to build research capacity, a scheme to fund PhDs for staff was introduced in 2017/18. Six staff members are currently benefitting from this scheme. Staff are given dedicated research time to complete their PhDs, whether registered at UWE or elsewhere.

*Mentoring Schemes*

Mentoring schemes operate at various levels. First, at School level, the Research Committee mentoring scheme supports and advises research-active colleagues at whatever stage in their careers, though essentially focused on ECRs. For staff undertaking doctoral studies a mentor is allocated who is different from their supervisor. As of July 2020, eight staff are being mentored by four Professors or Associate Professors.

Second, at University level a Women in Research Mentoring Scheme (WRMS) aims to promote and facilitate professional development for women researchers, helping them reach senior research roles. The scheme provides individual mentoring and sustains a supportive University-wide interdisciplinary network, alongside training and development activities. **Quenivet** has been a mentor for the scheme since 2018 and **Devine**, Das and Whewell were mentees during the REF period.

Third, the Vice Chancellor's Accelerator Programme offers mid-career academics the opportunity to be part of a cohort mentored by established researchers. **Razzaque** is a mentor on this programme.

*Support for Early Career Researchers*

ECRs are eligible to bid for the Vice-Chancellor's Early Career Researcher Awards (VCECRs) worth up to £15k to support projects resulting in published outputs and the submission of bids for follow-on funding. The award can be used to cover short-term salary costs, replacement teaching, research assistance, technical support, equipment, consumables or travel and subsistence. During the current REF cycle, three Law staff were awarded VCECRs. Das and Young worked together on 'Tracing the Proceeds of Environmental Crime: Case Study of Lower Mekong Sub-Region' that led to peer-reviewed output. Hillman won a VCECR to carry out research on 'Identifying Money Laundering in the Bitcoin Blockchain'.

**Devine** provides evidence of the long-term success of ECR grants in promoting staff careers. A senior lecturer at the time of her VCECR award (in the previous REF cycle) to carry out work on child protection, **Devine** was promoted to Professor during this REF cycle and secured external funding as PI or Co-PI to the value of some £800k from the ESRC and the Nuffield Foundation (see *Section 3*).

*Financial Support*

Support to attend conferences or engage with relevant stakeholders is provided by the School via the Research Committee, including work undertaken to gather evidence for impact case studies. The University offers financial support (especially seed funding) through schemes such as the VCECRs and the Vice Chancellor's Challenge Fund, aimed at promoting cross-faculty interdisciplinary research. In 2020, **Brimblecombe**, alongside colleagues in Health and Engineering, successfully secured £23,400 from the Challenge Fund for a research project entitled 'Supportive Surveillance? Co-Design of Automated Timely Interventions to Enhance Treatment of Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder'.

*Development and Feedback*

The School offers training, workshops and individual feedback to research active staff. For example, senior staff deliver 'how to' sessions to raise awareness and increase knowledge and understanding across a range of areas, including: research quality, research impact strategies, bidding, using empirical research methods, using social media to promote research and impact, embedding policy into research, how to develop and deliver public engagement and knowledge exchange activity. Since 2015, the School has held 16 'how to' sessions, including seven sessions on writing quality research outputs.

Further schemes support staff in their career development. This includes a review scheme which aims to provide advice to colleagues on improving their research outputs in relation to originality, significance and rigour, prior to submission for publication. Since its introduction in 2016, papers submitted as part of the scheme were accepted in their target journals and judged to be of higher standard after review (this is in addition to the internal review of outputs conducted as part of the monitoring of quality research noted in *Section 1*). Staff can also present and receive general feedback on their work at Staff Research Seminars.

The School also offers a mentoring scheme for colleagues in the early stages of bid writing, when advice on the scope of a research idea and the means of achieving it are essential. This is supplemented by an expedited peer review scheme that offers quick feedback on draft bids and identifies any issues for concern prior to either UWE's peer review scheme and/or bid submission.

*Flexible Support for Research Staff*

To support a specific study or project, staff can seek additional workload for research or study leave; the Head of School has a discretionary workload allocation for research purposes. For example, **Smith** was granted additional time to carry out empirical research, including court observations as a means of gathering additional evidence for a case study, as well as generating a research output.

**PGR Students**

Over this REF period, 29 PGRs were recruited and 11 completed their studies in Law. Three former PGRs have secured academic positions: Khan is now Associate Pro Vice-Chancellor at London Metropolitan University after doing a PhD as a lecturer in the School, Singh works at the University of Toronto and Johnston is a Senior Lecturer in the Law School.

A strategy is in place to increase the Faculty's PGR cohort size whilst ensuring that applicants are of high quality and the focus of their research is aligned to the research groups. Four PGR students are externally sponsored (two by the Niger Delta Basin Development Authority, one by the Vietnamese Government and one by the Bahrain Police Force). A staff support scheme was introduced to enable staff who wish to pursue PGR study to engage in doctoral scholarship whilst teaching (see *above*) and a PGR bursary scheme has enabled the sponsorship for two further PGR candidates.

PGRs undertake research in areas covered by the two Groups: GCJSR in counter-terrorism financing; corporate governance and financial crises; and money-laundering, and ELSR in corporate social responsibility and the protection of the environment; sustainable management of natural resources; climate change; and the polluter pays principle. Five of the six submitted staff were members of PGR supervisory teams during the assessment period.

All PGR students undertake a minimum 60 credit assessed training programme, appropriate to their needs, which includes research, data collection and analysis. A Research Methods module is offered by the School as well as additional law-specific modules. The UWE Graduate School offers a wide variety of courses aimed at PGR development (mapped to the Vitae Researcher Development Framework). Since the introduction of the Research Governance Record in 2019, all doctoral research is monitored and supported to ensure it complies with research ethics and governance requirements. Registration on the RGR is undertaken by the Director of Studies with the doctoral candidate to enable the student to recognise the significance of ethics and governance issues. In the PRES 2020 Law scored 94% satisfaction for Research Skills and 97% for Professional Development.

PGR students form a key part of the research culture and environment. Students are encouraged to take a full part in the activities of Groups by becoming members and attending events organised at School and Faculty level. The Faculty runs a successful annual doctoral symposium, at which PGR students present their work, usually in the form of a poster in their first year and then as a formal presentation in subsequent years. In 2019, PGR students of the Law School and the Built Environment Department organised a research colloquium on 'sustainability' at which they presented their work. Several PGR students have been invited to write chapters in books edited by senior researchers to develop their publishing skills (e.g. Bourton, Hall, Hillman, Johnson). Moreover, the Faculty provides financial support for PGR students presenting papers at conferences.

The Faculty has two purpose-built rooms for doctoral students within the heart of the new Business and Law building (see *Section 3*) which both facilitates contact between PGR students and with staff on a regular basis. Law PGR students are located within the same room which also fosters cohort identity. The PGR community is engaged in all areas of faculty research operations and has representatives on the Faculty Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee and Faculty Research Degrees Committee.

### **Equality and Diversity**

The Law School strongly endorses an equality and staff development agenda via a range of training and supportive processes. For example, staff attend training relating to EDI issues such as Unconscious Bias, Diversity in Practice – Working with LGBT+ Communities Disability Confident, Sexual Harassment in the Workplace and Understanding Bias.

Account is taken of individual circumstances that may impact on research. For example, if a staff member is considered to have a recognized disability (after an occupational health assessment) their line manager makes reasonable adjustments to their workload and working practices. For research-active staff this may include a reduction in teaching commitment to enable the individual to focus on their research. Staff members who return from extended sick or compassionate leave are phased back into their full hours which, if they are researchers, usually means their teaching workload is reduced for a period. Several staff whose work is submitted to REF2021 have benefitted from these EDI supportive processes.

Some staff's research work includes aspects of inclusion such as public consultation in environmental decision-making, gender inequality and biodiversity conservation, and the inclusion

of indigenous people in natural resource decisions (Khan, **Razzaque**). In 2014, Chamber-Jones (Associate Professor), as part of her MA Education in Virtual Worlds, considered the extent to which text-based virtual world learning benefits the learning experience, which focused on disability learning for nonverbal students. In collaboration with the University's Equity programme (a BAME student development programme established by Khan from the Law School), the Centre for Applied Legal Research invited barrister Tunde Okewale MBE (Doughty Street Chambers) to deliver its 2017 Annual Lecture entitled 'Nobody Rises to Low Expectations'.

The School supports and promotes women researchers in response to their under-representation in the University's REF2014 submission. For this REF 66% of the staff submitted in Law are female. The School has a strong record of promoting women into research roles. Between 2015 and 2017 all heads of the five research units were female. One of the two Professors is female (**Razzaque**) and both Associate Professors (**Blanco** and **Quenivet**) are female. Four of the last round of promotions were female colleagues with experience of unit leadership (**Devine**, Fenton, Jones, **Quenivet**), assisting them in developing research management experience, strategic thinking and leadership skills (key attributes in their applications to Associate Professor and Professor). Two out of the three recipients of the School's VCECR awards were female (Das and Young). The School's lead for the University's Athena Swan bronze award was a female Professor (Jones) who had widely published on gender issues and was Chair of the National Assembly of Women, President of the European Women's Lobby and President of the European Women Lawyers Association while at UWE (before becoming an MEP).

Within the unit, staff were identified as having significant responsibility for research and outputs selected in strict accordance with the University's Code of Practice. This includes selecting outputs based on their quality as determined through a thorough peer review process with no expectation about the number of outputs any one individual contributed to the submission. Although individual circumstances declared by staff in the unit allowed for a reduction in the total number of outputs submitted, it was considered beneficial to submit the full number in order to reflect appropriately the range of research and researchers across the unit.

### Section 3. Income, infrastructure and facilities

#### Income

The Law's strategy to increase funding for research has involved a) pro-active identification of funding sources and opportunities, and b) clearly articulated ambitions and targets for individual researchers and Research Groups.

The approach to bidding for external funding in Law is aligned to the strategy of pursuing research that has a positive, practical impact on fairness, justice and respect for the rule of law, nationally and internationally. A major strategic element is collaboration, nationally and internationally, with universities and relevant stakeholders in securing funding from, amongst others:

- international bodies such as the EU (£40k) e.g. for 'Pre-trial Detention and Alternatives - Monitoring Practice' (the basis of the pre-trial detention impact case study)
- UK-based charities such as the Nuffield Foundation (£192k) (see *below*).
- UK central government bodies (£116k) such as Public Health England (see *below*).
- Research Councils (£450k) such as the ESRC (see *below*)

Chiefly, this funding has enabled three different types of research outcome:

- 1) empirically-based academic outputs such as those included in this submission (e.g. **Rumney** and Fenton investigating the response of a specialist policing unit to allegations of rape, funded by the British Academy);
- 2) organization of events leading to networking opportunities (e.g. **Blanco's** work on human development, the environment and economic policies, and Johnston's work on disclosure), as



- well as gathering information through formal and informal channels (e.g. **Quenivet's** work on military investigations supported by the British Academy);
- 3) research leading directly to impact (e.g. the pre-trial detention case study).

Two major projects exemplify these approaches and outcomes:

- 1) The work undertaken by **Devine** (and later Parker as PI) investigating child protection in the UK and recommending practical solutions wherever appropriate. Originally funded by the ESRC ('Rethinking Child Protection Strategy: Evaluating Research Findings and Numeric Data to Challenge whether Current Intervention Strategy Is Justified' – £160k), the project subsequently won further funding from the Nuffield Foundation ('Investigating the Reasons for the Rise in Care Order Applications in the Family Courts' – £192k) and from the ESRC ('The "Risk of Risk": Remodelling Artificial Intelligence Algorithms for Predicting Child Abuse' – £201k). Among the outputs of this research were the production of reports submitted to Parliament and the Government (for example, 'Report of the Submission to the Law Commission's Thirteenth Programme of Law Reform Consultation: Children's Social Care' to the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Children, 2016; submission to the Open Consultation by HM Government: Reporting and Acting on Child Abuse and Neglect, 2017).
- 2) The Intervention Initiative under the leadership of Fenton (sometimes in collaboration with **Rumney**) was funded initially by Public Health England through 'Domestic Violence University Bystander Intervention Resources Specification' (£10k) and then a further £27k for 'Valuation of the Intervention Initiative (A Bystander Intervention Programme for Universities)'. Later, Bristol City Council supported the research at local level ('The Intervention Initiative for the community', £10k, and 'Neighbourhood Partnership: Implementing the Intervention Initiative', £5k). Not only was the Intervention Initiative the first evidence-based bystander programme for England but it has had significant impact on the HE sector in the UK. The Government's 'Ending Violence against Women and Girls Strategy 2016-2020' (page 38) states that it 'will promote the learning from this programme to support development of wider bystander programmes to help tackle VAWG.' This work was undertaken by Fenton at UWE prior to her move to the University of Exeter.

Additionally, some 8-10 bids a year were made by members of the unit for relatively small amounts of income (up to £50k per bid). As a consequence of our priority to promote bidding, the number of successful bids and research income have increased substantially in the current REF period, quadrupling from £150,311 in the last REF cycle (£25k per year) to £667,424 (£95k per year) over this REF period. This improvement can largely be attributed to the work of the CALR in providing support for bidding in the form of 'how to' sessions, pre-submission reviews and peer-reviews, and support though allocating time for research and related activities.

In contrast to the previous REF submission, Law secured funding through Knowledge Transfer Partnerships, reflecting the strategy of promoting research with clear routes to impact. Through the KTP scheme, Turksen (now at University of Coventry) was awarded funding of £200k to create and apply legal compliance methodology used for large multinational companies to develop an environmental and health and safety legal compliance software tool for smaller businesses operating in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). As part of the KTP, Turksen undertook corporate mentoring, consultancy, and developed short courses tailored to industry needs, as well as research.

Law has also secured funding for research and consultancy from sources such as:

- 1) the Open Society Justice Initiative, supporting Cape's research on fair trials in Europe.
- 2) law firms, providing staff with opportunities to share expertise on financial crime with relevant stakeholders (see case study). More specifically, Wilmington Plc sought and paid for advice on counter-terrorist financing in 2015-2016 from **Ryder** and Turksen, and LexisNexis Risk Solutions sought and paid for advice from **Ryder** in 2018-2019 on anti-money laundering.
- 3) police bodies, such as the Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner, to access the knowledge

and expertise of **Rumney** on sexual crimes.

### Infrastructure and Facilities

Law staff are based in a new £55m building that opened in 2018 and houses both the Law School and the Bristol Business School. The building offers learning spaces for individual and group study, interactive learning environments and conference rooms. For PGR students, state-of-the-art facilities are provided in the new building with dedicated office space, IT support, etc. A 17,200m<sup>2</sup> space serves 5,500 students, and contains 148 offices over 7 floors. The new building also includes: two showcase law courts; a 300-seat lecture theatre and two Harvard lecture theatres (which host Distinguished Professorial Addresses and Annual Lectures organized by the School – see *Section 4*); an external business engagement space; a Pro Bono business and law clinic (see *Section 4*); and spaces for hire by business and partners for events, conferences, training and meetings.

Research activity is directly supported by the University's central professional services, including Research Business & Innovation (e.g. to support bidding, establishing business partnerships, research governance and ethics), the Graduate School (support for PGR students throughout their doctoral journey), Library Services (e.g. supports the Research Repository, advice on data management, open access publishing) and the Academic Practice Directorate (which offers a range of Advance HE accredited programmes for achieving fellowship recognition), (see *Institutional Environment Statement – Section 4*).

## Section 4. Collaboration and contribution to the research base, economy and society

### Research Collaborations, Networks and Partnerships

Law School staff were engaged in a significant number of collaborative projects during the assessment period with a view to conducting interdisciplinary research and research with impact. They include;

#### 1) *Global Crime, Justice and Security Research Group*

- a) The Centre for Research and Evidence on Security Threats (CREST) funded by the ESRC, of which **Ryder** is a co-investigator. The Centre, led by Lancaster University, also includes experts from the Universities of Birmingham, Portsmouth, Bath and Cranfield. It acts as a national hub for maximising behavioural and social science research into understanding, countering and mitigating security threat. The Centre was funded for five years from 2015 with £7.23 million from the UK security and intelligence agencies and a further £2.9 million by the founding institutions. The overall value of the ESRC grant is £4,130,400 of which UWE was awarded £40,000.
- b) **Rumney** and Fenton were co-investigators in a £780k ESRC-funded project led by the University of Bristol and involving a collaboration with researchers from Cardiff University. The aim was to address how 'justice' – in its wider sense – is understood, sought and experienced by victims/survivors of gender-based violence (which includes sexual and domestic violence, forced marriage and 'honour-based' violence) as well as by key practitioners.

#### 2) *Environmental Law and Sustainability Research Group*

- a) **Razzaque** was the coordinating lead author of the Global Assessment on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services of the United Nations Inter-Governmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (2016-2019). Funded by the United Nations and approved by the UN member states in May 2019, this landmark report provided a comprehensive picture of the relationship between economic development pathways and their impacts on nature,

presenting an array of policy responses to promote transformative change, and contributing to the post-2030 Agenda of the United Nations for biodiversity governance. **Razzaque** examined the challenges and opportunities for decision makers at all levels including relevant UN Agencies and national governments. During May-June 2019, global media coverage metrics show that the report was translated into 49 languages, reached 165 countries and was cited over 8,300 on online news sites. **Razzaque** was the lead author of 'Chapter 6: Options for Decision-makers', contributed to the 'Summary for Policy Makers' and the publication of an article in the prestigious journal *Science*.

- b) UWE was instrumental in helping the city of Bristol's successful bid to be the UK's first European Green Capital in 2015. Consequently, Law staff were involved in a variety of activities. For example, **Razzaque** contributed to reports published in 2016 celebrating Bristol Green Capital partnership, including reference to her highly-acclaimed book on *International Environmental Law and the Global South* (Cambridge 2015). As well as **Razzaque's** Inaugural Lecture on 'The Green Economy and Forest Ecosystem Services: Assessing the global North – South Divide', she was also the Session Convenor for the SLSA Conference entitled 'Renewable Energy and Sustainable Development' (Warwick, 2015), a plenary speaker on 'Forest ecosystem services and the north-south divide' in the IUCN Colloquium on Environmental law (Indonesia, 2015) and on 'Agricultural investment, the South and the North' in the Asian Society of International Law Colloquium (Thailand, 2015).

### Interdisciplinary Networks

Three interdisciplinary networks are hosted by the Law School:

- 1) The Financial Crime Research Network (**Ryder**) launched in July 2016 was rebranded in 2020 as the Financial Crime and Cyber Crime Research Network to reflect the research interests of the financial crime staff in Law and cybersecurity researchers in the Faculty of Environment and Technology, as well as to align itself with the research beacon 'Digital Futures'. The network brings together approximately 30 experts in financial crime and cyber security investigating the link between the two.
- 2) Launched in 2018, the Independent Organized Crime Research Network for Law Enforcement and Academics aims to develop better cooperation between academics and practitioners by bringing together academics from across the South West with senior officers of the Metropolitan Police Service and staff of the South West Regional Organised Crime Unit, the Institute of Statecraft and the Tax Justice Network. Young heads the network and organizes regular meetings and conferences.
- 3) The Global Network for the Study of Human Rights and the Environment, established in 2010 by its current Director Grear (then UWE, now Cardiff University), comprises 180 academics from around the world, including eminent thinkers in the field. It hosts the largest online research repository in the world dedicated to human rights and the environment and facilitates a range of high-quality events and publications. Grant and Das represent UWE Law in the network's core team.

### Visiting Scholars

Over the assessment period the School has hosted five Visiting Scholars who have enriched the research culture and facilitated collaborative opportunities: (1) Karpe, a senior legal researcher and international expert working for CIRAD, a French agricultural research and international cooperation state organization working for the sustainable development of tropical and Mediterranean regions, currently based in Kenya; (2) Basile, Academic Fellow at the Department of Law of Bocconi University in Italy, a co-author with **Ryder** on investigating the different approaches towards tackling economic crime in the UK and Italy; (3) Nortje, Lecturer at the Faculty of Law of the University of Western Cape in South Africa, who co-wrote a book with **Quenivet** on child soldiers; (4) Atack, a member of the Independent Organized Crime Research Network for Law

Enforcement and Academics and former Detective Sergeant in the Metropolitan Police Service, working with Young; (5) Blanco, Professor in the Civil Law Department at the Faculty of Social Work, Complutense University of Madrid in Spain who is co-writing a book chapter with **Blanco** on alternative dispute resolution.

### **Wider Activities and Contributions to Research Base, Economy and Society**

Bristol Law School staff have engaged in a wide variety of activities contributing to the research base.

#### *Editorial Positions*

Staff hold editorial positions in journals including: Journal of Environmental Law (**Razzaque**), Journal of Human Rights and the Environment (Grant), Journal of Trafficking, Organized Crime and Security (Jones), Manchester Journal of International Economic Law (**Blanco**), Financial Regulation International (**Ryder**), British Journal of White Collar Crime (**Ryder**), Goode: Consumer Credit Law and Practice (**Ryder**), Business and Management Research (**Ryder**), Criminal Law Review (Cape) and International Journal of the Jurisprudence of the Family (Dadomo). Grant is editor of the 'Critical Reflections on Human Rights and the Environment' series for Edward Elgar. **Ryder** is editor of the 'The Law Relating to Financial Crime' series for Routledge Cavendish and was co-editor of the 'Risky Groups and Control' series for Palgrave MacMillan.

#### *Contribution to Learned Societies and Professional Associations*

Such contributions include membership of the Informal Legal Working Group and member of the Toxic Remnants of War Project (Das); International Public Health Research Group and invited member of the British Association of Social Workers National Adoption Inquiry policy and ethics steering group (**Devine**); EverywomanEverywhere initiative of Harvard University (Jones); European Woman Lawyers Association (Jones); the Wales Assembly of Women (Jones); Centre for Law Environment and Development (**Razzaque**); IUCN Academy of Environmental Law (**Razzaque**); IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law (**Razzaque**); Environmental Law Professors Network (**Razzaque**); Inter-governmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (**Razzaque**); Advisory Group for Somerset & Avon Rape & Sexual Abuse specialist support service for people with learning disabilities (**Rumney**); Fraud Advisory Panel (**Ryder**); European Society for Banking and Financial Law (**Ryder**); European Working Group on Organisational Crime (**Ryder**); Wales Fraud Forum (**Ryder**); Credit Union Research Forum (**Ryder**); Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime (Young); Tax Justice Network (Young).

Other evidence of esteem includes; Research Fellowship at the Lauterpacht Centre for International Law in Cambridge University (Das and Young); Keynote Speaker at the Research Institute for Environmental Law, Wuhan China, 2014 (**Razzaque**); Keynote Speaker 'Evidence-Based Policy and Practice: Challenges and Prospects' at a Modern Law Review-sponsored seminar at the University of Northumbria School of Law, 2014 (**Rumney**); Keynote Speaker for NATO in 2018, EUROPOL in 2019 and Taxlinked in 2019 (**Ryder**).

#### *Linking Research and Teaching*

In line with UWE priorities, linking research and teaching is an important aspect of the wider collaborative activities carried out by the School. **Quenivet** is a regular guest lecturer on the protection of children and women at the International Criminal Court Summer School of the University of Galway, Ireland. The ELSR Group organises an annual student conference in collaboration with the Universities of Bristol, Swansea and Cardiff, thereby giving students the opportunity to present their research to a group of academics and external stakeholders. **Rumney** and Johnston worked with students as part of a research project for a local organisation that supports victims and survivors of sexual violence. The project enables students on the 'Sexual Offences and Offending' module to research the answers to questions put to them by the organisation, which is then formulated into a report and presented to its CEO.

*Consultancy and Evaluation Projects*

Demand for the expertise of staff members is evident in activities such as consultancy and evaluation projects, and through providing legal advice as well as training.

In 2017, **Razzaque**, as a consultant of the World Bank funded project on 'REDD+ Grievance and Redress Mechanism', assisted the Nigerian government in preparing national policy on reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. **Razzaque**'s report examined various ways to strengthen policy, legal and institutional frameworks for managing forest-related grievances and conflicts that address stakeholders' concerns. **Smith** is often consulted on pre-trial detention issues (e.g. by the Victorian Royal Commission in Australia in 2019, Chinese criminal judges in 2019, and JUSTICE in 2020).

Evaluation projects include an evaluation of the training given to immigration officers as part of their role in identifying trafficked persons (Elliott), criminal justice agency response to crime (**Rumney**), the use and impact of new protocols in the family courts (Whewell), the efficacy of a university-based crime reduction strategy (Fenton) and the review of KPI measurements of the dedicated Cheque and Plastic Crime Unit of the City of London Police (**Ryder**).

*Legal Advice and Training*

Staff have run CPD events (including those attracting points for law practitioners) in criminal justice (e.g. 'Victims and Perpetrators of Sexual Violence' seminars – **Rumney**), gender discrimination (UN CEDAW training in the UK – Jones), banking and finance (for members of the Financial Services Authority – Young), and counter-terrorist financing (for Wilmington Plc NATO, EUROPOL, Wales Fraud Forum, Nationwide and the West Midlands Fraud Forum – **Ryder**).

Staff have assisted in writing training manuals. For example, training and research undertaken by **Ryder** resulted in the publication of a 150-page training manual for Wilmington's employees and trainers, which is used to instruct financial crime compliance officers in many jurisdictions.

During the assessment period staff provided training for judges and lawyers at the European Law Academy (Jones and Cape), the Women's Human Rights Institute, Bulgaria (Jones), military lawyers in the UK and in Italy (**Quenivet**), humanitarian workers in Kenya and Senegal (organised by the association Professionals in Humanitarian Assistance and Protection) (**Quenivet**) and in Belgium (organised by the International Committee of the Red Cross) (**Quenivet**), as well as diplomats, international civil servants and government officials (organised by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research in Costa Rica) (Grant) and by the UN as part of the UN Environment Course on Multilateral Environmental Agreements in Finland (**Razzaque**).

*Engagement with Relevant Stakeholders*

Members of the School regularly submit written and/or oral evidence to policy-making bodies that is closely linked to their research. In this regard, they have responded to regional, national and international priorities and initiatives on the following issues:

- 1) protection of women and non-discrimination on the basis of sex/gender under international law: Welsh Government: 'Increasing the representation of Women and other Under-represented groups on Public Sector Boards', 2015 (Jones); National Assembly for Wales hearings on the Violence against Women Bill, 2014 (Jones); UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women concerning the need for an international treaty to eliminate violence against women, 2016 (Jones and **Quenivet**); UN CEDAW Committee concerning the need to make General Recommendation 19 into a Treaty, 2016 (Jones); UN Special Rapporteur on Torture: Gender and Torture, 2016 (Jones); Home Affairs Select Committee: Domestic Abuse, 2018 (Jones); Home Affairs Committee: Prostitution, 2016 (Jones)
- 2) conduct of members of the armed forces in situation of armed conflict: Sexual Violence and

Conflict Committee of the House of Lords, 2015 (**Quenivet**); Joint Committee on Human Rights: UK Government's Policy on Use of Drones for Targeted Killings, 2015 (**Quenivet** and **Sari**); Ministry of Defence Consultation on Legal Protections for Armed Forces Personnel and Veterans Serving in Operations Outside the United Kingdom, 2019 (**Quenivet**, **Stubbins-Bates** and **Wallace**);

- 3) fight against financial and economic crimes: Joint Committee on the Bribery Act 2010, 2019 (**Ryder**); Treasury Select Committee on Economic Crime, 2018 (**Ryder**); the Law Commission's Review of Suspicious Activity Reports, 2018 (**Ryder**).

Staff pen reports and policy briefs with a view to influencing policy. For example, 'A Human Rights Assessment of Hydraulic Fracturing and other Unconventional Gas Development in the United Kingdom', a report commissioned by the Bianca Jagger Human Rights Foundation (co-written by Grant); 'Policy Brief for Law Enforcement and Policy Making Agencies in Jamaica May 2018: Organized Crime Control in Jamaica: A Small Island Country's Dilemma' (Young and Woodiwiss); IPBES Global Assessment Summary for Policy Makers, 2019 (**Razzaque**); policy paper on 'REDD+ Grievance Redress Mechanism' (**Razzaque**); The Practice of Pre-trial Detention in England and Wales: Research Report, 2016 (**Smith** and **Cape**).

#### *Public Engagement*

Staff participated in a wide range of public engagement events to disseminate their research. Such events align with the strategic priority of Law to explore new avenues to impact and respond to contemporary issues. For example, before and after the referendum on the EU, staff members participated in high profile public events organised by universities in the South West as well as the City of Bristol (Dadomo and **Quenivet**).

Two free public engagement series were organised to enable Law staff to showcase research and expertise in an accessible way for members of the public and professionals:

- 1) The 'Understanding Sexual Violence and Abuse' public engagement series (**Rumney** and **McCartan** in Criminology) aimed to educate and engage the public in the prevention of sexual assault, abuse and exploitation in a non-theoretical and accessible manner. It featured a range of subjects and brought together members of the public, professionals, practitioners, scholars and students. The five 'Understanding Sexual Violence and Abuse' events had over 500 registered attendees.
- 2) A series of free 'Family Law Sessions' was established in 2015 (Whewell). These sessions are open to the public and are the first of their kind to be offered in England and Wales. The idea was inspired by His Honour Judge Wildblood QC, the Designated Family Judge for the Bristol area, with the intention of making the work and operation of the Family Court as transparent as possible to all. The first two sessions attracted nearly 200 attendees.

#### *External Speakers*

The Faculty supports a series of Distinguished Professorial Addresses that enables the School to invite eminent specialists to share their thoughts and knowledge on topical issues with staff and students as well as the wider public. Among the speakers during the REF period were Schmitt (then US Naval War College, now University of Reading) on cyber conflict, Dougan (University of Liverpool) on Brexit, Abate (then Florida A&M University College of Law in Orlando, US and now Monmouth University, US) on climate litigation, Kotzé (North West University, South Africa) on the Anthropocene, Pech (University of Middlesex) on the rule of law in Europe, Arnall (University of Birmingham) on trust and the European Union, and Akande (University of Oxford) on drones and armed conflict.

To further enrich the research culture of the School, we also invited prominent speakers to deliver the CALR Annual Lecture, including Rashida Manjoo, then UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, barrister Tunde Okewale and environmentalist George Monbiot.

Other public events organised by the School have included (i) a panel on the disclosure crisis in the criminal justice system that brought together the victim (Liam Allan), the defence lawyer and the prosecutor and ii) an evening with David Rudolf, the defence lawyer in the infamous Michael Peterson case which garnered worldwide attention as the focal point of the hit Netflix documentary series 'The Staircase'.