

Institution: Aberystwyth University
Unit of Assessment: 18: Law
<p>1. Unit context and structure, research and impact strategy</p> <p>Context</p> <p>The Department of Law and Criminology is the oldest law school in Wales, with a proud tradition of scholarship and research that contributes to the development of the law in Wales, the UK and the international community, and which advances understanding of socio-legal issues in criminology and the wellbeing of vulnerable groups in society. The Department has undergone significant restructuring and changes to its staff profile in the REF 2021 assessment period as part of a university-wide Sustainability Implementation Plan. We have sought to use the process as an opportunity to maintain the fundamental importance of research in the Department, and as a catalyst for us to reconsider our priorities and objectives, guided by the reaffirmation of the centrality of research to Aberystwyth University's (AU) mission in the University's <i>Research and Innovation Strategy</i>, as outlined in REF5a.</p> <p>Policies and procedures in the Department have been adapted to strengthen collective and individual research capacity, and to align with new university initiatives described in REF5a. A new Head of Department was appointed in 2019; he has already made a significant contribution to guiding the Department, through his clear vision for its medium- to long-term development. This has contributed significantly to supporting and enhancing the vitality of a sympathetic and positive research environment, including the particular focus on encouraging and supporting early-career staff and a growing group of postgraduate researchers.</p> <p>The Department is committed to research of international significance which has policy and societal relevance and impact in Wales and beyond. Our research strategy recognises the particular historic and ongoing role of the University and the Department in Welsh society, and, as such, our responsibility to contribute to the work of Legal Wales and its development in the evolving context of devolution. Criminology has become a major area of teaching and research, building on an already substantial field of research activity in relation to Criminal Law, Criminal Justice, Victimology and History of Crime and the Penal System. We also host the Centre for Age, Gender and Social Justice (Dewis Choice), undertaking research that examines the welfarisation of older victim-survivors of abuse from a human rights perspective, including on elder abuse and domestic abuse, that has had significant societal impact.</p> <p>In order to support and sustain its research strategy, the Department's research environment aims to promote and embed a vital, sustainable and strong research culture. We are nurturing an individual and collaborative working environment, including one-to-one research mentoring, and the support and development of individual and collective research output. Mentoring programmes are in place to support early-career researchers, and we strive to ensure equality of opportunity.</p> <p>Throughout this REF cycle that has seen considerable challenges to, and change in, AU, we are proud to have maintained our appreciation of the importance and value of our research – for our professional development, for the education of our students, and the benefit of the wider communities.</p> <p>Research and Impact Strategy</p> <p>The Department's Research and Impact Strategy has been reinvigorated following restructuring, informed by the University's Research and Innovation Strategy described in REF5a, feedback from REF 2014 and priorities indicated in the REF 2014 submission. The Strategy aims to: "support, encourage and promote as much research activity as possible that leads to outputs of the highest possible quality, which:</p>

- advances knowledge and understanding of the issues addressed, for the benefit of the wider community;
- increases the knowledge and expertise of the researcher;
- enables and fosters research-led teaching, for the benefit of our students;
- enhances the reputation of the Department and AU as a place that makes a valuable contribution to the education of its students, as well as the well-being of the wider community. To this end, the wider impact upon society of staff members' research is significant; however, it is recognised that not all research produces readily discernible impact, even though it is of high quality and contributes to knowledge and understanding. The Department supports, and will continue to support, all legal and criminological research undertaken by its staff."

Implementing the Strategy in the assessment period has involved a number of targeted mechanisms designed to enhance the vitality and strengthen the sustainability of our research environment, including:

- Mentoring early-career and established staff on publication planning and internal peer review of draft manuscripts (and, occasionally, external review);
- Reintroducing a sabbatical programme, enabling research-active staff to benefit from dedicated time to work on significant projects and publications;
- Weekly research seminars attended by staff and postgraduate researchers, providing a valuable forum for testing ideas and obtaining feedback;
- Peer support and mentoring within the department for research grant applications, complementing support from the University's Department of Research, Business and Innovation;
- Contributing to expansion of the graduate school, thus strengthening research training and professional development for postgraduate researchers;
- Promoting interdisciplinary research within AU and beyond, including encouragement of staff in interdisciplinary research projects and centres, and participation in interdisciplinary conferences.

Evidence of the success of the research strategy in the assessment period includes the publication of 191 research outputs by staff in the Department, including 60 articles, 16 authored books, 52 chapters, 13 commissioned reports and 26 papers; a 165% increase in annual research grant income on REF 2014, including major awards from the Big Innovation Fund, UK Portfolio Accelerating Ideas Programme, and the Older People's Commissioner for Wales; and a 21% increase in the annualised rate of PhD completions on the REF 2014 period.

Our approach to research emphasises the importance of making a positive contribution to the broader social, economic and political contexts in which the disciplines of Law and Criminology are rooted, including cross-cutting themes such as protecting vulnerable or excluded people both domestically and internationally. As a consequence of this deliberate approach, which includes a focus on working with external organisations, such as international organisations, public bodies and NGOs, the Department's research output has had, and continues to have, significant impact on the law as well as wider society.

Before she became the Faculty Associate Dean for Research, the Department appointed Wydall to the post of Impact Champion to assist colleagues, including postgraduate researchers, in

planning strategies for promoting their research to stakeholders and achieving impact on legislation, policy, society and the economy. Issues relating to impact are now co-ordinated by the Faculty Impact Group under Wydall's leadership. Approaches include collaborations with charities, policy actors and community groups, and work in advisory roles with external institutions, as demonstrated by our selected impact case studies. Wydall's research on the rights, wellbeing and safety of older victim-survivors of domestic violence and abuse (DVA) has been widely recognised, achieving impact through challenging previous responses to DVA which assumed gendered violence only occurs against women under 45 years old. The Dewis Choice initiative (1) improved access to justice and wellbeing for older victim-survivors of DVA across Wales, through delivering a unique, co-produced justice and welfare service, which contributed to safeguarding older victim-survivors; and (2) informed more effective provision and delivery of public services for older victim-survivors of DVA across the UK. Dewis Choice also had a significant impact on the provision of practitioner training and services for older victim-survivors of DVA UK-wide. This work continues, and should help bring about real improvements in how older people live.

Piotrowicz's work on human trafficking has been influential in shaping States' actions to protect trafficked people and people at risk of being trafficked, most notably through the two periods (2013-20) he served as a member of GRETA (Council of Europe's Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings), which monitors States' compliance with their obligations to support human trafficking victims and to prosecute traffickers. In addition to this practical monitoring work, he has had particular impact in three areas: the clarification of when trafficked victims are entitled to refugee status or some other form of international protection; the obligation not to penalise trafficked people for offences they have been compelled to commit in the course, or as a consequence, of being trafficked; and the elucidation of the duty of States to work with civil society organisations in assisting trafficked people, and the scope of that duty.

Research Structure and Management

Developing and implementing the Research and Impact Strategy is the responsibility of the departmental Research Committee. The Committee has been significantly restructured in the assessment period to encompass a more inclusive mix of early-career, mid-career and senior staff, better gender balance and to be more representative of the diversity of Departmental staff. A core function of the Committee is the annual research meeting held between two members of the Committee and each staff member. The composition varies, so as to promote diversity and allow staff members to choose the individuals with whom they discuss their research aims and achievements. These meetings are supportive, being aimed at assisting staff to evaluate their own research, and to make realistic plans for future research activity.

The Committee has particular regard to individual research plans, and measures progress against those plans. Confidence-building and positive encouragement are core aims. Failure to meet agreed plans is discussed with the member of staff, with a view to identifying and addressing any shortcomings.

The Committee works within the framework of the Faculty of Arts and Social Science (FASS), which has responsibility for coordinating policies on research, supporting research development and capacity-building, and encouraging interdisciplinary engagement and collaboration between researchers in its constituent departments. The Faculty's activities to support research and impact are led by Wydall as the Associate Dean, Research, Knowledge Exchange and Innovation. The Department is represented on the Faculty Research Committee by Piotrowicz (Law) and Hampson (Criminology).

Protocols to ensure research integrity and ethical practice in research are maintained and administered by the University as described in REF5a. Bespoke arrangements are put in place for specific projects. For example the Dewis Choice project includes interviewing vulnerable people, some of whom are living with dementia, requiring NHS ethical approval and specific safeguarding protocols.

The Department actively supports and practises open access publishing. In line with University policies detailed in REF5a, staff are required to deposit final author manuscripts of all articles on acceptance in the AU Research Portal, to be made available through the 'green' open access route following publisher embargoes. Funding for article processing charges for 'gold' open access publishing is available for journals covered by JISC agreements to which AU is party.

Priorities for next REF period

In the next REF assessment period, the Department will continue to strengthen the vitality and sustainability of its research activities, and work towards impact on wider society, guided by departmental and University research strategies. Key priorities for the early part of the period include:

- Increasing total research income generated by the Department, using current projects as springboards for further funding bids and fostering a culture of applying for external grants;
- Extending research activity in areas of strength, including humanitarian law and the protection of vulnerable people;
- Developing new areas of research activity in line with the interests and expertise of new members of staff;
- Multidisciplinary research, including involvement in the University *The Lives We Want* programme (of which Wydall is co-lead, mentioned in REF5a) and intensifying the work of existing multidisciplinary projects;
- Continuing to achieve local, national, UK and international impact through our research activity;
- Catalysing and participating in inter-institutional research on the law of, and justice in, Wales in response to the Report of the Commission on Justice in Wales.

2. People

Staffing Strategy and Staff Development

The strategy of the Department is to appoint individuals with excellent research records or potential, who can contribute to and expand our key areas of research, whilst ensuring that we continue to deliver required professional competences for our law degree. This approach means that most of our permanent academic staff are engaged in both research and teaching, enabling research-led teaching, but also research that is cognisant of, and responds to, the demands of relevant professions.

The Department's staff profile has changed significantly in the assessment period as a consequence of restructuring. This has presented an opportunity to bolster the sustainability of the research environment by consolidating staff expertise in core areas of research and to target strategic appointments. Lewis was externally recruited as Head of Department in 2019, bringing considerable expertise and experience in Welsh constitutional law and providing leadership for further development of Welsh legal studies in the Department. In the past two years, the Department has appointed five new members of staff who engage in research (including four early career researchers) and is advertising for two more research and teaching posts.

Consequently, the Department has a sizeable cohort of **early career researchers**. We assume a special responsibility towards supporting and empowering these researchers to develop their research potential, in line with the University's adoption of the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers as described in REF5a.

A mentoring system operates during the three-year probationary period of a new research-active lecturer, designed around the specific profile of the individual. A three-year research strategy is agreed between the individual, their mentor and the University. This includes publication plans, attendance at, and participation in, conferences, and preparation of proposals for research funding. Performance is measured against this plan, and the mentor has a responsibility to provide on-going support and advice, and to act as a critical friend.

Mentoring is available for all members of staff. The Department has instituted a research mentoring programme: staff more experienced in research act as mentors on a one-to-one basis with staff who want or need support to develop their research and writing skills. This entails regular contact with the colleague being mentored, with the aim of assisting them to develop their skills and confidence in finding their own voice.

Considerable effort has been made to foster, encourage and support equality of opportunity for all staff in developing **research leadership**. In 2016, Aurora Leadership funding was provided to support the enhancement of research leadership by women. Three staff, all female, won Welsh Crucible Awards aimed at early-mid career researchers, to develop their research leadership potential. These initiatives are complemented by informal mentoring by Wydall.

We have a very active **research seminar series**, which is central to our strategy to build research capacity by bringing colleagues together and facilitating constructive discussion, exchange of ideas and support for developing new projects. Each research-active staff member gives at least one seminar presentation per academic year, supplemented by invited external speakers. All postgraduate research students are required to attend and to present their own papers.

The Department also has been running regular **reading and writing groups** since 2015, some peer-led, others led by senior staff, to encourage and assist staff in developing their writing and analytical skills. In 2018, we ran a writing school, a seven-week programme, aimed at assisting staff wishing to improve their writing skills, with a view to developing their research for submission for publication. The focus of these activities is and has been on identifying realistic targets and objectives and working towards them, while developing our skills as independent researchers and writers.

Staff capacity for research has also been enhanced by reintroducing **sabbatical research leave**, as described in REF5a. Sabbatical leave is granted by a panel of the Faculty Research Committee (FRC Panel). Applicants must make a case, identifying intended outcomes, including any research funding applications. The departmental Research Committee offers support to staff (especially early-career researchers) in drawing up applications. This Committee also scrutinises applications and decides whether to support them. The Head of Department independently decides whether applications go forward to the FRC Panel. Applicants may be required to meet with the FRC Panel. In assessing applications, the FRC Panel may request revision. An application may be rejected if it is considered to lack sufficient merit, is unrealistic, or if the applicant has previously failed to deliver on reasonable projected outcomes. Following sabbatical leave, a written report must be presented to both the departmental and Faculty Research Committees. The staff member must also present to a staff research seminar on the research achievements of their period of leave.

Staff are encouraged to participate in **academic conferences and networks**, and to explore opportunities for collaborative work with researchers elsewhere in the same field. Staff may apply for up to £800 of support annually for conference participation. It is recognised that some staff may benefit from participation in conferences even if they are not making a presentation, in particular early-career staff, and those who may be moving in a new direction.

Postgraduate Research Students

The Department attaches great importance to the development of its PhD community, supported by the activities of the University's active Graduate School, as described in REF5a and below.

Currently, there are around two candidates per staff member (33 PhD students [28 FTE] were registered with the Department in July 2020). During the evaluation period, 22 research doctoral degrees were awarded compared to 13 in REF 2014, a 21% increase in the annualised rate of awards since REF 2014. Our postgraduate activity has been enhanced by the introduction of Criminology (there are now three PhD candidates in Criminology).

Funding for PhD Studentships has come from the University itself and other sources, inter alia, from The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission, Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol, and foreign students funded by their own governments.

The Department continues to recruit research students from around the world. Given the number of research-active staff, the expertise available to provide expert supervision has narrowed, and staff need to be flexible in assuming supervisory responsibility for new students. We take the view that the supervisor should have general competence and expertise to supervise a candidate in the field, but does not have to be an expert in the precise subject; more important is that the supervisor has a sympathetic understanding of the needs and experience of being a doctoral candidate.

Each research student has two supervisors. The second supervisor will often be a less experienced colleague, who is able to develop their supervisory skills under the guidance of the first supervisor. All research students are monitored annually within the Department and by the University Graduate School. A detailed report on progress is prepared by the supervisors. The student has the opportunity to comment on this report before it is submitted to the departmental Research Committee, which reviews progress against agreed objectives, and submits its report to the Graduate School. The Graduate School then decides whether a first-year student can progress to full registration. For second- and third-year students, any concerns are identified, and a plan of action agreed. Progress against this plan of action is monitored by the departmental Research Committee, and a report made to the Graduate School. The Department has a programme of research training, complementing and supplementing the University's programme.

In accordance with the University's requirements, all full-time research students take the required research training modules offered by the University, as appropriate to their research. Research postgraduates are fully integrated into the research activities and culture of the Department. Full-time candidates are provided with dedicated office space and computers, and participate in the weekly research seminars, each giving one presentation annually on their research topic. Through this forum, the students get the chance to further their research by receiving feedback and constructive advice from all staff members and other research students, not just their supervisors. The experience gained through participation in, and presentation at, the seminars contributes to the career development of the research students.

Further, research students are actively encouraged to gain experience and exposure through participation in conferences; each is eligible to apply for up to £250 per annum to support this activity. A number of our postgraduate research students have been involved in organising conferences (*Jurasz - Women In and At War*, and workshops; Talbot – a training workshop for the National Citizens Service on supporting transgender youth), and may work with established researchers for example, Zerk's work with Wydall, Clarke and J Williams on Access to Justice for Victims of Elder Abuse. This Project is an example of interdisciplinary work, involving law and criminology staff and postgraduates. Further opportunities for postgraduate research students have arisen through externally funded projects; for example, Zerk has presented at the International Academy for Law and Mental Health twice, and at the European Conference for Criminology.

Several research training events have involved doctoral students (Talbot, Holt and Zerk) via the Dewis Choice research project, including travelling to undertake fieldwork and present research. Furthermore, Chirgwin, Zerk and Holt helped to develop and deliver the *Festival of Law and Criminology* event in January 2018, which showcased the research and other achievements of

the Department, integrating that research with film, music, poetry and discussion, and included a PhD question and answer session.

The quality of our postgraduate research supervision is evidenced by the number of our completing PhD students appointed to academic posts during the assessment period, both at Aberystwyth and in other institutions, for example the London School of Economics, Swansea University, University of Stirling, Auckland University of Technology, Open University, Oxford Brookes University, University of Canterbury (New Zealand), Pedagogical University of Krakow, University of the West of England, University of Manchester, University of Sharjah UAE, Philadelphia University Jordan, HELP University Malaysia, and Masaryk University (Brno). Our PhD students are encouraged to publish in appropriate journals. During the REF period our PhD students were responsible for nearly 30 publications, including in the *International Journal of Refugee Law*, *Criminology and Criminal Justice*, *British Journal of Social Work*, and *Journal of Adult Protection*.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

The Department, in accordance with the University's policies and practice as described in REF5a, is committed to building an inclusive research environment with respect to equality and diversity, reflected in recruitment, promotion and staff development policies; opportunities and support for research; research monitoring and REF selection; postgraduate recruitment and supervision; and impact and engagement activities. The staffing profile of the Department is diverse, with members from a wide range of educational backgrounds and cultures, many from outside the United Kingdom. There is an equal gender balance amongst the academic staff in the Department.

All research-active staff have equal access to research support within the Department and University. This includes conference funding, sabbatical leave, access to University research support, specialist advice on drafting funding applications and continuing professional development. The length of service profile of the Department is reasonably balanced between early-, mid-career and senior staff. Succession planning and competence building is central to the sustainability of our staffing strategy. Our Research Committee, which includes a number of mid-career staff, reflects this. It also reflects the gender background and range of cultural backgrounds of our staff.

The commitment of the Department and AU to equality and diversity is recognised by a Disability Confident Employer accreditation and inclusion in the Top 100 of the Stonewall Workplace Equality Index in 2017 and 2018 and current Stonewall Diversity Champion status. All staff are required to have completed Equality and Diversity Training. A number of networks promote equality issues and provide support for researchers, including the Women in Research Network, BAME Network, LGBT Network and Disability and Wellbeing Network. The Department has a very active Equality Champion (Talbot), who has worked closely with the University Communications and Equality Officer on several initiatives, including the *All Our Trans Tomorrows* conference series, which attracted notable trans activists. This project was shortlisted for three awards, and received national media coverage. In addition, Talbot has been appointed to the new post of departmental Equality Officer, focused on taking proactive measures on equality in the department.

The Department currently has staff acting as mentees and mentors on the University's female academic mentoring programme. Staff members also helped to implement the Women in Research Network, which has led to female staff members from across the institution being able to feed into executive level decision-making and strategy planning.

A notable initiative that originated in the Department is the *Women Doing Research* Workshops organised within the Faculty of Arts and Social Science. These are a series of events led by Wydall as a confidence-building tool aimed at supporting female staff in developing their research, and also discussing issues of gender and career development in higher education. These events have been tailored to the needs of staff at all career stages, and have included

sessions on international funding opportunities, research dissemination, the REF, assertiveness and confidence-building.

Principles of equality and inclusion have been incorporated into the REF 2021 selection process, as outlined in the University's Code of Practice, with all members of the REF Reading Committee and supplementary reviewers required to have completed unconscious bias training. The departmental REF Reading Committee included an independent member from a cognate department in FASS to monitor fair practice. Applications for output reductions for Special Circumstances are assessed through an anonymous process, with decisions made outside the Department.

The Covid-19 pandemic towards the end of the assessment period has highlighted further challenges and inequalities, but has also provided opportunities for initiating new practices that can be adopted on a more permanent basis to increase inclusivity. These include moving the weekly seminar series to an online platform that had the additional benefit of enabling part-time research students living away from Aberystwyth to take part (all PGT and undergraduate students were also invited to join, enabling us to extend our inclusive research culture). We will continue with simultaneous online participation when in-person seminars resume.

The Department supports a bilingual research environment, in which English and Welsh have equal status. Huws, Cunnington-Wynn and Lewis have all published in Welsh. Huws and Lewis both conduct research centred on the law relating to regional and minority languages, including the multidisciplinary Court Translation project led by Huws. Research through the medium of Welsh is further supported by Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol, which is currently funding a PhD and to which seven Departmental staff are affiliated. The Head of Department, who has considerable expertise in law and policy relating to minority languages (having served 12 years on the Council of Europe monitoring body for the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages), is very supportive of extending the Department's Welsh-medium research activity, including supporting two applications for Coleg Cymraeg funding for PhDs.

3. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Income

The Department has substantially increased its external grant income, enabling it to expand research, as well as engagement with the wider community. Total income of £1,389,000 was received during the assessment period, compared with £374,954 in the REF 2014 period, an increase in annualised income of 165%. Annualised income per FTE increased by 246% compared to REF 2014, from £4,545 per FTE p.a. to £15,748 per FTE p.a. In addition, new grant awards obtained by researchers in the Department during the assessment period totalled £1,742,948. Grants and contracts have been secured from a range of sources, with notable awards including:

- 2020-2021 'Creating safer spaces and building social connectivity during CV19' (Award £39,544: Comic Relief Emergency Covid-19 Fund)
- 2020-2021 'Developing legal protection and social embeddedness when domestic abuse and dementia co-exist' (Award £76,678: Comic Relief)
- 2020-2021 Covid-19 Dewis Choice New Spaces and Networks in building the response to abuse (Award: £99,998: National Community Fund)
- 2020-2021 'Investigating the safeguarding-related abuse of older people in Care Homes (Award: £20,779 Older People's Commissioner Wales)
- 2019-2022 Transforming the response to domestic abuse in later life (Award £341,437 Accelerating Ideas fund UK Portfolio)

- 2019-2021 Transforming the response to violence and abuse in Malaysian Indian Neighbourhoods' (Award CIDRA)
- 2019-2020 Dementia, Domestic Violence and Abuse (DVA) (Award: £69,937 Comic Relief Tampon Tax)
- 2020 Veterans Legal Link (VLL) project (£498,392 People and Places programme, The National Lottery Community Fund),
- 2019 VLL (£45,831.01 Royal British Legion's External Grants programme)
- 2016 VLL (£19,999 (Ministry of Defence, Armed Forces Covenant Fund)

Smaller grants below this level have been won from both University and external funds to support focused research projects, to undertake scoping and pilot studies, and to support networking activities that might lead to future collaborations, contributing to the sustainability of the Department's research environment.

Additionally, Piotrowicz has undertaken directly funded human rights-related work for the Council of Europe and the European Commission that is not included in the HESA data for research income.

Capacity-building for research grant capture is supported by the Department, the Faculty and the University's Department of Research, Business and Innovation. The Department has developed, in addition to and supporting the wider institutional process, its own internal peer-review procedure to support individuals and groups in drafting research grant applications. These are supported by the regular meetings between individual researchers and the Research Committee (annually) to discuss research plans and to provide advice and support in relation to available resources. The Faculty has adopted initiatives to support research development, including designating Senior Research Development Leads with a remit to stimulate collaborative interdisciplinary research and provide mentoring for grant applications. At university level, RBI maintains a Funding Opportunities database, and regularly holds workshops and information sessions on specific calls, and also capacity-building sessions such as research cafes, sandpits and a 'Grants Factory' workshop. Support for developing individual grant applications is provided by a Research Development Officer assigned to the Department, including assistance with costings. Targeted measures address equality and inclusion in access to research grant income, including Faculty *Women Doing Research* workshops, and for early career researchers an annual sandpit event to develop projects, and access to funding for small-scale and pilot research from ringfenced pump-priming funds.

Infrastructure and Facilities

The infrastructure for research in Law and Criminology includes research centres established as focal points for work in particular specialist areas, enhancing vitality by creating clusters of researchers and projects and promoting sustainability by accessing small amounts of core funding, engaging with stakeholders and facilitating interdisciplinary collaboration. Most notably, the Centre for Age, Gender and Social Justice (previously the Centre for Ageing, Abuse and Neglect) is located in the Department, and externally funded through the Dewis Choice project and other grants. Directed by Wydall, it has a team of ten research and support staff currently working across five funded projects, and also academic associates, including from the Department's Emeritus staff. Researchers in the Department also participate in other interdisciplinary research centres within the University, including the Centre for the Movement of People (CMOP), established in 2019, the Centre for Welsh Politics and Society (CWPS), formed in 2016, and the Centre for International Development Research at Aberystwyth, created in 2018.

The Department has significant library resources and excellent access to a wide range of online materials, benefiting from the physical and digital facilities and infrastructure to support research,

as described in REF5a. All of the electronic resources for law and criminology can be found through Primo, which includes key resources such as citation databases, e-journals and e-books, selected websites, subject gateways, data and media resources, news, reference materials and library catalogues (for example, Lexis-Nexis; HeinOnline; SwetsWise). The Aberystwyth Research Portal is an open access repository to access AU higher degree theses and research. The National Library of Wales, with its extensive deposit collection and archival holdings, is an invaluable resource for our research community. It is also a place where research can be undertaken undisturbed by emails and telephones.

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

Collaboration

Staff members have been actively involved in internal and external collaboration, leading to important contributions to knowledge and practical benefits to society (described in greater detail below). They include submissions to governmental commissions, media interviews, organising conferences with collaborators from other universities, cooperation with non-governmental organisations and international organisations, and also participation in advisory bodies. Internal collaborations include involvement in interdisciplinary research centres including the Centre for the Movement of People (CMOP) and the Centre for International Development Research at Aberystwyth (CIDRA) (for which Marais is a Steering Group member). The university-wide interdisciplinary gender studies research group (Aber Gender) is co-convened by Talbot, with several members of the Department playing an active role. It runs an annual series of events aimed at sharing research from a variety of disciplines and strengthening interdisciplinary networks for those interested in gender. One recent event addressed law and gender, with a number of speakers from the Department discussing aspects of law and gender related to their research. Staff in the Department have also contributed to developing a new university-supported interdisciplinary research programme *The Lives We Want*, as flagged in REF5a.

Externally, staff members have worked with colleagues at other institutions in the UK and internationally. For example, Harding has been co-leader (since 2015) of an international research network investigating quasi-criminal enforcement mechanisms, which will result in a multi-authored book to be published by Hart Publishing early in 2021. He has also been a joint co-ordinator of two other European research networks in the field of EU Criminal Law, resulting in special issues of *The New Journal of European Criminal Law* early in 2020 and *The Maastricht Journal of European and Comparative Law* early in 2021. Marais and Piotrowicz participated as co-applicants in a multinational consortium for Horizon 2020 funding (2018 and 2019). Olusanya served as a member of the Veterans and Families Institute Governance Board (VFIB) at Anglia Ruskin University, and of the Governance and Steering Panel of the UK Veterans Research Hub (2014-17 in both cases). Wydall is a lead for the Violence Network within the Welsh Centre for Crime and Social Justice. The Department is heavily involved in the Welsh Government's *Hwb Doeth* youth justice collaboration across academia, practice and policy. Hampson chairs the Dyfed Powys *Hwb Doeth*. She is participating in a collaborative project on prevention of youth offending with the Department of Psychology and Ceredigion Young Offending Team, and is involved with the Welsh Centre for Crime and Social Justice, having spoken at their annual conference several times.

A number of staff have held visiting positions at other institutions, including Odello (Visiting Fellow, University of Cagliari (2015)) and Marais (Visiting Lecturer, Viadrina University, Frankfurt (Oder), and the Open University). Piotrowicz is an Adjunct Professor at the University of South Australia (since 2016) and a visiting lecturer at Viadrina University in Frankfurt (Oder) (since 2001), a regular lecturer for the German Red Cross on international humanitarian law (since 2007), and for the Humboldt University in Berlin, on human trafficking (since 2007). Piotrowicz is a Senior Research Associate at the Refugee Law Initiative at the School of Advanced Study, University of London.

The Department welcomes visiting scholars from abroad, including during the REF period from the United States and France, making available working space, library access and technical support.

Contribution to the Research Base

Staff in the Department contribute significantly to the disciplines and research base of Law and Criminology, both individually and collectively. This includes supplying subject expertise and work which feeds into the development of academic and professional infrastructure, networking and significant impact activities (e.g., Piotrowicz and Wydall). Other contributions at local, national, UK and international level include providing expertise through refereeing and reviewing, guest lectures, external examining, development of collaborative projects, advising on research policy, as well as participation in and organising conferences and research meetings.

The Department has continued to publish its own journal, the *Cambrian Law Review*. Articles are accepted for publication only after external anonymous review. The most recent editions contained articles based upon presentations made at the third *Women In and At War* conference in 2016, co-organised by Marais and Piotrowicz (vol 46), and articles derived from a conference on elimination of violence against women (vol 47).

Externally, Olusanya is a member of the editorial board for *Race and Justice: An International Journal*, and for the Nigerian Yearbook of International Law (Springer); G Williams is a member of the editorial board for *The Medical Law Review*. Piotrowicz is a member of the Editorial Boards of the University of Wales Press International Law and the *Journal of Human Trafficking, Enslavement and Conflict-Related Violence*. He was also editor of *International Focus*, the international law section of the *Australian Law Journal* (1996-2018) and Book Reviews Editor of the *International Journal of Refugee Law* (2005-19) for which he is also a regular reviewer, and has in the last month been appointed to the editorial board. Odello is a reviewer for Cogent Social Sciences editorial board.

Peer review activity, as a significant critical contribution to the standard of scholarship, is a well-established feature of departmental culture. This is done by a number of staff through refereeing journal submissions and book proposals for publishers, internal and external output reviews for REF, and reviews of applications for research funding. For example, Harding has acted as reviewer for the AHRC Peer Review College; Clarke as reviewer for the ESRC and the Ministry of Justice Research Consultation Group; Odello as peer review panel member of the Italian Ministry of Research, the National Science Centre, Poland and British Council Researcher Links Social Sciences Selection Panel, and as peer reviewer for the Leverhulme Trust, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, and Agencia Nacional de Evaluación y Prospectiva, Spain; and Piotrowicz as peer reviewer for the Polish National Science Centre, the Austrian Research Council, the Fund for Scientific Research (Belgium) and the Australian Research Council).

Most research active staff who are not early-career researchers have examined PhDs during the census period in other UK universities and in the USA, Sweden, Belgium, Spain, South Africa, Ireland, Luxembourg, Finland and Australia.

Sharing research through academic and professional conferences and meetings is an established part of the Department's activity and contribution to the research base. Marais, Piotrowicz and Jurasz organized the *Women In and At War* conferences in 2014 and 2016. A number of staff members have been invited to present keynote addresses at conferences, symposia and workshops, including Wydall (keynote speaker at The Older People's Commissioner Seminar series in Wales 2015 and 2017); Piotrowicz (keynote speaker at the Council of Baltic Sea States in 2016 and LaStrada International in 2019); and Odello (keynote speaker at the International Law Association UK conference, Lancaster (2016); invited expert in a workshop on *UN military and civilian peacekeeping personnel and sexual violence* at McGill University, Montreal (2014); and guest lecturer for the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), Turin (2016)).

The contributions of senior members of the Department to the research base in Wales and beyond were recognised in the election of Lewis and Piotrowicz as Fellows of the Learned Society of Wales in 2020; and by the award of the Audrey Jones Memorial Award for Feminist Scholarship to Wydall in 2016.

Piotrowicz is engaged in mentoring early career researchers in other institutions. As a Senior Research Associate at the Refugee Law Initiative, University of London, he acts as mentor to an early career researcher working on refugee law. He is also a member of the Committee on Early Career Researchers of the Learned Society of Wales, which aims to foster and encourage research amongst early career researchers in all fields.

Contribution to Law, Policy, Economy and Society

The Department's collaborations and the professional activities of its staff members further support its extensive and impactful contributions to the law, policy and society, in Wales, the UK and internationally.

Wales

The Department has engaged consistently with aspects of devolution in Wales, contributing oral expert evidence to the Silk Commission on Devolution in Wales (Huws, Sherlock, Lewis), the Justice Commission for Wales (Huws, Lewis), the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee of the National Assembly for Wales (Huws, Lewis) and its Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee's inquiry *Supporting and promoting the Welsh language: An inquiry into the legislative, policy and wider context* (Lewis); and evidence to the Joint Meeting of the Constitutional and Legal Affairs Committee of the National Assembly for Wales and the Welsh Affairs Committee of the House of Commons' inquiry into the Draft Wales Bill (Lewis). Huws and J Williams were also on panels of academic experts on the provisions of the Wales Act 2017, convened by the Welsh Government and the Office of the Secretary of State for Wales. Huws has delivered training sessions for judges of the Welsh Language Tribunal. Lewis is a member of the Law Commission's Welsh Advisory Committee and of the board of Legal Wales, is a consultant to the Wales Governance Centre's *Justice and Jurisdiction in Wales* project, and was a member of the Justice Stakeholder Group assembled by the Counsel General for Wales to report on *Law and Justice in Wales: Some Issues for the Next Assembly*.

Olusanya is a member of the National Advice Network Wales, which advises Welsh Ministers on strategically developing the provision of social welfare information and advice services throughout Wales; he is an elected Board Member of the Ceredigion Armed Forces Community Covenant Strategic Board (CAFCCB) which works to support members of the Armed Forces Community working and residing in Ceredigion and to recognise and remember the sacrifices made. As Principal Investigator for the Veterans' Legal Link project, he is involved with the West Wales Armed Forces and Veterans Mental Health Network which is a collaboration aimed at providing psychosocial support for and veterans and their families.

Huws's courtroom interpretation project involved collaborating with a number of interpreters in Wales who are qualified to undertake legal interpretation, in order to learn from their insights into the court process.

Lewis participated in the joint project between the Wales Governance Centre at Cardiff University and the Constitution Unit at UCL, which produced two papers influential in establishing a reserved powers model of legislative devolution for Wales (*Delivering a Reserved Powers Model of Devolution for Wales* (2015) and *Challenge and Opportunity: the Draft Wales Bill 2015* (2016)). Hampson has worked with The Youth Justice Board, Swansea Youth Offending Service, and Gwynedd and Monmouth Youth Justice Service; Talbot has worked with the National Citizens Service Trust; Cunnington Wynn collaborated with People and Work on the programme Invest Local by Building Communities Trust.

Piotrowicz is a member of the Wales Anti-Slavery Leadership Group, which coordinates responses to human trafficking in Wales. Marais has worked as an Appropriate Adult in the criminal justice system, in collaboration with police forces in mid- and north Wales.

UK

Members of the Centre for Age, Gender and Social Justice, led by Wydall and including Clarke and J Williams, have made significant contributions to law, policy and practice, especially concerning the abuse of vulnerable adults, including older people and care home residents. The Centre coordinates and hosts biannual Bystander Initiatives for all AU students, which teach students about domestic abuse, sexual violence and how to safeguard themselves and their peers whilst at university.

In September 2018, Wydall hosted and led a four-day symposium, *Older survivors of domestic abuse: A forgotten population*, involving academics from a range of disciplines who focus on participatory action research methods in the field of domestic abuse and older people. Wydall is a member of the International Network addressing Filial Violence. She is on the board of the Consortium for Innovative Sexuality Studies; she is the Vice Chair on the board of Hafan Cymru, the national housing organisation that supports victims of domestic violence across Wales. She is an active member of professional bodies, providing input on her area of expertise – the Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence National Strategy Working Group and the Abuse Action Group for the Older People's Commissioner. She was invited to speak at the Senedd with the Minister for Women, in 2018 and to Parliament to share her research at an event hosted by the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Ageing and Elderly people. Findings from the longitudinal research done by the Dewis Choice project highlighted discriminatory practices which led to the publication and dissemination of 2000 copies of practitioner guidance. Face-to-face training, including an LGB short film, was also delivered to 8,046 individuals, including safeguarding practitioners, across the UK. To respond to Covid-19 the team developed bite-size online training, completed by 383 practitioners between April and December 2020.

Wydall, Freeman and Zerk, as part of the Dewis Choice project, delivered training to specialist domestic abuse workers on behalf of Safe Lives.

Olusanya is a Member of the Forces in Mind Trust Research Centre Advisory Group within The Veterans & Families Institute for Military Social Research at Anglia Ruskin University. He contributes towards its primary activities which include curating the Veterans & Families Research Hub, providing advice and guidance to research-involved stakeholders and producing targeted research and related outputs.

Piotrowicz has made submissions to UK parliamentary committees on issues related to human trafficking.

International

Piotrowicz has been engaged as a consultant, advisor and trainer on the law relating to human trafficking for international and other organisations, for multi-national and national audiences of legal and other professionals, throughout Europe and central Asia. The organisations involved include the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (on the duty for States to cooperate with civil society organisations); the European Parliament (on gender perspectives of the law relating to human trafficking); the International Organization for Migration (providing training on human trafficking for public servants in Turkmenistan and Italy - the latter annually for participants from around the world); UNHCR (training European border guards); the Council of Europe (training for prosecutors and judges on the non-prosecution of trafficked persons, Strasbourg and Pristina); the European Law Academy (training on human trafficking for public servants, in Lisbon, Trier, Riga and Thessaloniki); the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (training for Turkish judges and prosecutors) and the Human Rights Development Foundation (training for Turkish NGO workers). He has also advised law firms on legal issues relating to human trafficking.

Piotrowicz was appointed for two terms to the European Commission's Group of Experts on Trafficking in Human Beings (2008-15), which advised the European Commission on law and policy developments with regard to human trafficking. He was also twice elected (2012, 2016) to the Council of Europe's Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA). He was elected Second Vice-President by his colleagues in 2017, and First Vice-President in 2019. As a member of GRETA, he made monitoring visits to investigate States' measures and laws to protect trafficked persons, as well as law enforcement against human traffickers, to ten countries throughout Europe. In this capacity, he has also been the co-rapporteur for the GRETA reports on human trafficking in these countries, which are published in English and French on the Council of Europe website. Moreover, all of the country monitoring reports by the Council of Europe on States' anti-human trafficking activities, policies and laws, to which Piotrowicz contributed substantially from 2013-20, play an influential role in affecting how States conduct these activities.

Olusanya acts as lead on 'Sentencing' for the American Bar Association's International Standards Task Force, chairing a sub-team of international experts working to create the sentencing section of the ABA's resource for practitioners of international criminal law.

Other public engagement

In addition to these activities, the Department strongly encourages contributing to public discourse about and the public understanding of law and criminology. In October 2018, the Department hosted the annual Legal Wales conference. During the assessment period, public talks and events have taken place, the most recent given by the Supreme Court Judge, Lord David Lloyd-Jones.

Members of the Department have used both traditional and new media outlets in order to inform the wider public about their research. This includes online pieces for *The Conversation*, and the blogs of other institutions, (e.g., LSE, Cardiff University's Wales Governance Centre, Edinburgh University's Centre on Constitutional Change, *Research in Practice*). We have also contributed our expertise to television and radio news and current affairs programmes, in both Welsh and English. Huws has given a TEDx talk on *Why not follow the program? What lawyers can teach us about AI*. Publications in traditional media include UK, Welsh and local press and magazines.