

<b>Institution: Queen's University Belfast</b>
<b>Unit of Assessment: 18</b>
<b>1. Unit context and structure, research and impact strategy</b>

### a. Synopsis

As a major law school in a unique jurisdiction, the School of Law at Queen's (QUB Law) has an established reputation for combining high-quality research with targeted impact. Our research is underpinned by values of collaboration and collegiality. The local context gives us close links to the legal profession, devolved government and a wide range of NGOs, fostering distinct opportunities to deliver research and impact that is dynamic, responsive and world-leading. Links to other academic institutions and scholars enable us to shape a range of national and international debates, showcasing the breadth and reach of our expertise and interdisciplinary strengths.

### b. Organisational Structure, Size & Content

QUB Law is comprised of 48 staff (45 FTE). In REF2014, staff research interests were aligned across four core research clusters: socio-legal studies; human rights and public law; private law; criminology and criminal justice. Over this period, we have used strategic investments to expand to six thematic areas: (i) human rights and public law; (ii) criminology and criminal justice; (iii) private and commercial law; (iv) European and transnational studies; (v) transitional justice; and (vi) a newly developing area of law, innovation and technology.

Embracing a diverse range of research traditions (doctrinal, theoretical, socio-legal and empirical), these thematic areas represent a mix of established and emerging areas of scholarship that reflect the existing strengths we reported in REF2014, and our evolving staff base over the current reporting period. Our scholarship also supports external-facing research centres: the Human Rights Centre (HRC) (incorporating a Health and Human Rights Unit); the Institute of Criminology and Criminal Justice (ICCJ); and a more recently established Centre for European and Transnational Studies (CETS) that sit alongside and compliment the thematic areas (see Section 3b).

During the assessment period for REF2021, the School invested in a number of strategic posts at both senior and early career level (see Section 2b). A new Law School building with world-leading facilities (representing an institutional investment of £15.7M) was completed in August 2016 creating a vibrant hub for our research ambitions. QUB Law has also played a key role in the establishment and development of the University's flagship interdisciplinary Global Research Institute (GRI), the Senator George J. Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice (the Mitchell Institute). The GRI provides a strategic platform for fostering collaborative research including funding applications across Schools and career levels. These factors were instrumental in QUB Law moving from 118 to 85 in the World University Rankings 2019, a significant element of which relates to research environment and activities.

Our strong research culture sustained us in responding to COVID-19 challenges. In March 2020, the School quickly transitioned to 'home working', adapting culture and practice to ensure continuity in research (and teaching). Colleagues were invited to repurpose their conference travel allowance to complete time-sensitive research, and we continued to support career development via online mentoring meetings. Colleagues responded creatively, including new funded-project proposals addressing the pandemic impact (see below).

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### c. Research & Impact Strategy

Delivering excellence across research and impact is led by a team of experienced staff. Overall research management is led by the Director of Research (DR) (McAlinden). There is also a REF Champion (Morison) who leads the unit's REF preparations; a Core Disciplinary Research Group Lead (Conway) overseeing research environment-related strategy; and an Impact Champion (McEvoy) who leads on impact, both REF-related and more broadly. The School Research Committee fosters collective ownership of the School's broader research culture and strategy, with Early Career Researchers (ECRs), Post-Doctoral Research Fellows (PDRFs) and postgraduate research students (PGRs) represented on the Committee.

Following the announcement of REF2014 results, a comprehensive review of the School's performance was undertaken by the DR and presented at an all-staff seminar in February 2015. This was used to identify ways in which the unit, in line with institutional priorities, could continue to nurture and sustain an ambitious, world-leading research culture that would continue to deliver on high-quality research with 'real-world' impact. Based on these discussions, our research strategy (2015-2020) was drafted. This is a living document in the School's research culture, regularly reviewed and serving as the core framework for our research values and ambitions.

In line with our broader objective to sustain a vibrant research culture that promotes excellence and collegiality, the School identified four key priorities, putting specific measures in place to achieve these:

#### 1. Enhance and maximise the quality of our outputs

In continuing to produce world-leading research with local, national and international dimensions, our emphasis is on high-quality and ambitious outputs across all areas of scholarship. At the outset of the cycle, the School Research Committee held individual meetings with staff to provide tailored support. Organised visits by major publishers (OUP, CUP, Hart and Palgrave) resulted in a marked increase in the number of monographs: 28 have been published in this cycle compared to 12 in REF2014, achieving a core part of our REF2021 strategy.

The DR introduced strong mentoring processes, including peer review of draft outputs and advice on targeting journals. As a result, an increased number of colleagues have published in leading journals with a significant number of sole-authored articles produced by ECRs (e.g. Dowds in the *Modern Law Review (MLR)*; Corda in *British Journal of Criminology*; Hanna in *Journal of Law and Society (JLS)*). As a Law School with a high number of ECRs (approximately 8-10 or 18-22% on average over the cycle), senior staff also regularly co-author with ECRs. Examples include co-authored articles in the *JLS* (McEvoy and Schwartz), *Legal Studies* (Morison and Harkens) and *MLR* (Dickson and McCormick).

As part of our commitment to an affirming and supportive research culture, the School also holds a half-day research workshop each semester. Bringing the whole School together, it facilitates a greater level of engagement and feedback to colleagues on draft papers, book proposals and grant applications. Successful outworkings include high-quality publications by PDRFs and ECRs (Dabrowska-Klosinska, McCormick) and by our more experienced colleagues (McCrudden).

#### 2. Maintain high levels of grant income, broadening scale and ambition

Being responsive to ongoing changes in research infrastructures – including broader University goals, sector developments, challenge-led funder priorities and a growing emphasis on interdisciplinarity – a key aspiration was to increase the intellectual scale and scope of research bids, while preserving the strength of the discipline.

The total research income during REF2021 is £5.83M including UKRI income of £2.77M – representing an average annual research income figure of £0.83M and a very significant increase of 45% on the average annual research income since REF2014 (of £0.57M p.a.). Notable successes

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within this cycle include three major cross-Faculty UKRI awards, two of which were obtained by ECRs with input from senior staff (see Section 3a).

Three further large-scale awards were obtained in conjunction with colleagues across the University or externally where the allocation to the School-based CI was £300-600K: Flear on 'Health Governance after Brexit'; Ní Aoláin on 'Gender, Justice and Security Hub'; and Mac Síthigh and Deazley's 'Future Screens NI' as part of the Creative Industries Hub.

Staff also remain highly responsive to global challenges and opportunities via UKRI and other core funders. For example, several smaller-scale applications were successfully submitted to the GCRF on cultural property, witness testimony and victims and international criminal justice (Hickey, Moffett, Killeen, Brunger). Similarly, a range of applications were submitted in the early weeks of the COVID pandemic on health and human rights (Flear, Murphy – both successful) and the response of local small businesses (Hackett).

Complementing funding success, the School has also enjoyed significant success in Fellowship funding. A range of prestigious Fellowships were awarded to staff including Leverhulme Research Fellowships (Dawson, McNeilly), an Eisenhower Fellowship (Mac Síthigh), a Fulbright Fellowship (Lawther) and a Fellowship of Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin (McCrudden).

These awards and fellowships have contributed to the production of high-quality research outputs combining theoretical analysis with empirical or doctrinal research, including articles in leading legal periodicals (e.g. Mac Síthigh, *MLR*; McEvoy, *JLS*; McNeilly, *Social & Legal Studies*) or those written from an interdisciplinary perspective (e.g. Ellison, *Sociology*; Mallinder, *International Journal of Transitional Justice*) as well as sole-authored monographs (e.g. McAlinden, *CUP*).

### 3. Increase PGR completion rates, and nurture a supportive research culture

Identified as a key area of strength in REF2014, the School has sustained and grown its PGR cohort, creating a vibrant and diverse research community. Outstanding students from across the world carry out research on a range of topics and are supervised by world-leading scholars, spanning doctrinal, socio-legal, comparative and critical approaches.

Recruitment has been strengthened by the excellent facilities in our new building with dedicated PGR space and opportunities for interacting and exchanging ideas, and by the award of 41 studentships from major funding bodies in the current cycle. With 29 of these studentships secured since 2018, we have a clear upward trajectory (see Section 2d).

In delivering excellence, we have invested significant staff resources in providing dedicated support, mentoring and training for PGRs throughout their studies. Our completion rates demonstrate the success of these measures, with an impressive 89 doctoral completions in this cycle, a significant uplift on our 52 in REF2014, and equipping our graduating students for research careers at QUB and around the world (see Section 2d).

### 4. Embedding internationalisation in all aspects of our research culture

As a UK Law School that is based on the island of Ireland (where there is the overlay of a new relationship with the EU), QUB Law has a particular awareness of wider international dimensions to legal scholarship. Current work builds upon an established tradition of international, comparative research through outputs, external collaborations, research networking and staff exchanges (see Section 4 below).

The School's well-developed internationalisation strategy, reflects both its own ambitions to contribute locally, nationally and internationally, and the University's broader commitment to developing strong interdisciplinary structures enabling researchers to make significant contributions, often based on the unique experience in Northern Ireland (NI). In this way, the cross-disciplinary Mitchell Institute and the Global Innovation Institute (see Institutional Environment Statement (IES)),

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Section 2c) have emerged as a focus for international engagement involving legal scholarship (see e.g. the ESRC-funded comparative project on ‘Lawyers in Conflict and Transition’ (led by McEvoy); AHRC funded project on Reparations, Responsibility and Victimhood in Transitional Justice (led by Moffett)). A number of staff are also involved in externally funded projects with academics in Europe (Schiek), Australia (Farrell; Murphy), the United States (Lupo Pasini) and South America (Hanna; Ní Aoláin).

The Law School’s overall internationalisation initiative is led by a Director of Internationalisation (Brown, now Anthony) building upon existing institutional links with established Universities and Institutes (e.g. Fordham Law School, University of Utrecht, the European Public Law Organisation) and developing new relationships that enrich our research environment. Among the most recent partnerships are a rolling seminar with Bocconi, Milan and a number of US and European Universities on ‘Public Law Without the European Union’ (led by Anthony), research initiatives with Haifa (led by McCrudden), and a project on criminal justice with Kuwait International Law School (led by Morison). We have also hosted scholars from the China University of Political Science and Law (led by Anthony), Jindal in India (Kelly), and the Universidad del Rosario Bogotá in Colombia (Moffett).

Particular efforts have been made to develop new links with US Law Schools. These include Michigan (led by McCrudden) and Minnesota (Ní Aoláin). A range of research events and public lectures have been organised to facilitate exchange and dialogue with US scholars, including Professor Samuel Moyn (Yale) and Professor Steven Ratner (Michigan).

## Impact

Our impact strategy focuses on developing pathways to impact to maximise the broader individual and collective contribution of our research.

The Impact Champion and other experienced colleagues support academic staff, PDRFs and PGRs in planning and delivering impact as an integral part of funded and non-funded research. Key components of the strategy include: (i) dedicated training seminars on impact and public engagement; (ii) input from key users/stakeholders (e.g. local legal profession, NGOs) on their impact requirements; (iii) users/stakeholders involved as named partners on grant writing; (iv) securing impact-related funding where appropriate; (v) guidance on data gathering to evidence impact outcomes; (vi) writing for a range of audiences; and (vii) support for identifying and writing REF impact case studies.

Cumulatively, our impact strategy has inculcated a culture wherein:

- Early impact-focused engagement with local, national and international stakeholders informs project development.
- Ongoing review maximises potential impact throughout the life cycle of a research project.
- Impact-related research is normalised as part of research project delivery, particularly for ECRs and PGRs.
- Research projects produce high-quality academic research and impact with user groups through policy-relevant outputs and seminars.
- Dissemination and communication of our research in a range of formats, via the School’s website, regular news items, blogs, our LawPod series, YouTube videos and engagement with broadcast, print and social media.

For tangible results of this impact strategy – beyond our Impact Case Studies – see Section 4d.

## d. Interdisciplinary Research

While QUB Law recognises the importance of research within traditional disciplinary boundaries, developing interdisciplinary research and addressing real world challenges in a cross-cutting way, is an important aspect of our strategic objectives. Our intent has been to enhance the vitality and

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sustainability of the research environment; push the boundaries of traditional legal discourse; and enrich the pool of subject-expertise within the School.

Specific measures and outcomes include:

- Sustained commitment to appointing highly promising scholars with undergraduate degrees in non-law disciplines (e.g. history, political science, anthropology, and criminology) at Lecturer (Lawther, Dempster, Kramer), Senior Lecturer (Bryson) and Professorial levels (Mallinder). This has brought immediate gains with all of these colleagues involved in successful interdisciplinary UKRI funded projects within this cycle (see Section 3a).
- Two of our centres, ICCJ and CETS, acting as interdisciplinary hubs that bring together researchers from across the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (AHSS) and elsewhere at events (e.g. 'Researching Brexit' Conference 2019, producing outputs in this cycle – Dobbs, Melo Araujo).
- Involvement in University-wide initiatives (see IES, Section 2c):
  - Seventeen staff in the School are Fellows/Associated Fellows of the Mitchell Institute, with two senior colleagues (McEvoy, Mallinder) part-seconded to lead on two of its four interdisciplinary themes. Tangible outcomes include successful cross-Faculty grant applications where the PI/CI is within the School (Anthony, Bryson, Lawther, McAlinden, McEvoy, Moffett, Morison, Schiek), in collaboration with sociology and social policy, political science, history and education.
  - The School has strong links with the University's Pioneer Research Programmes (PRPs), which stimulate novel interdisciplinary collaborations tackling global challenges. Collaborative grant applications have been submitted across the University, working with colleagues in e.g. Pharmacy, Psychology, Nursing and Midwifery, Medicine and Centre of Secure Information Technologies (CSIT) (Brown, McAlinden, Morison). The Leverhulme Interdisciplinary Network on Cyber Security (LINCS) is a successful example of a £1.6M award where Law School members (Dickson, Morison) were CIs with more than a dozen colleagues from five other units.
  - A team led by Law (Morison) with Computer Science, Astronomy and the Mitchell Institute has been awarded a further Leverhulme grant of £1.35M over six years for the Leverhulme Interdisciplinary Network on Algorithmic Solutions (LINAS) Doctoral Training Programme to fund 15 doctoral scholarships (with QUB/DfE 'matched funding' to sponsor a further 15 positions over the next three years).
  - The Future Screens NI initiative, part of the AHRC 'creative industries' programme involving various academic disciplines from two institutions and partners from across industry, is co-directed by a Law colleague (Mac Síthigh).

Our interdisciplinary strengths also play a key role in sustaining and growing our PGR community. Strategic investments in transitional justice, and our links to the 'creative industries', have resulted in increased numbers of doctoral students including those funded by LINCS, NINE, and the CITI-GENS programmes.

More broadly, we have PGRs doing interdisciplinary research; during this REF cycle, 10 of our students had second supervisors outside QUB Law (e.g. Politics, CSIT). Our staff also supervise PGRs at other Schools within QUB (e.g. Education and Social Work, History, Politics).

**e. Open Research**

A key part of QUB Law's research environment is making our research outputs more widely accessible to maximise public engagement. Staff upload author-accepted manuscripts onto 'Pure' (the University's institutional repository) on acceptance for publication. There are high levels of downloads from users across the world where several staff papers have download figures well in excess of 10,000 (Anthony, Conway, McAlinden). Additionally, other staff have papers with an altmetric score (measuring the online attention an output receives) in the top 5% of outputs across all disciplines (Brown, Flear, McAlinden, McNeilly, Morison).



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The University has invested heavily in other digital fora such as ‘QPOL’ (Queen’s Policy Engagement), to which Law staff regularly contribute (along with other external research blogs and briefing paper series); and TEDx in response to the COVID pandemic (see Section 4c).

Since REF2014, the School has made extensive use of SSRN, tapping into its global audience. Several staff members are in the top 2% of SSRN authors worldwide (McCrudden ranks 1,761 out of about 360,000 authors, Ní Aoláin 4,384, and Mallinder 7,903). Led by our SSRN Co-Ordinator (Hackett, now Corda), QUB Law also has its own SSRN Research Paper Series for working papers and early-stage outputs. We also use SSRN as a mechanism for supporting ECRs, including contract research staff, and final year PGRs in the early dissemination of their research.

Research project websites are used to disseminate major findings (e.g. Lawyers in Transition project (2014-2017) has had 135,000 page views; Brexit Law NI, 50,435). Other colleagues disseminate their research through engagement with non-academic audiences such as *The Conversation* and a range of local, national and international media (see Section 4c).

Law School staff have also made their data sets open access, where the nature of the data and access arrangements permit (e.g. Mallinder’s Amnesty Law Database). Open access is available through Pure, in addition to project and funder-linked websites. Stahn’s *Critical Introduction to International Criminal Law* (CUP, 2019) is one of the first such books to be fully available open access worldwide.

### f. Research Integrity & Ethics

The School and its individual researchers are deeply committed to conducting ethically rigorous research that aims to ‘give something back’ to research participants or local communities.

The School’s Research Ethics Committee (chaired by the Ethics Co-Ordinator (Bryson, now Ellison), and comprising academic staff and one lay member), ensures that all research is conducted in accordance with appropriate ethical, legal and professional standards and University research governance frameworks (see IES, Section 2f). This includes a rigorous ethical approval process, with Faculty and University oversight, and the provision of research ethics training for all staff and research students (e.g. Nexus NI and WAVE Trauma Centre on doing research with victims and vulnerable populations). McAlinden is a longstanding member of the University’s Research Ethics, Integrity and Governance Committee.

### g. Future Research Vision

To build on our research strengths and advance our identity as a world-leading centre for research, our Future Visions Document (2020) identifies five core strategic priorities:

- **Quality** – supporting and producing world-leading research which is recognised through peer evaluation and has ‘real-world’ impact.
- **Challenge-led** – preparing for ongoing changes in research infrastructures, including responsiveness to global challenges and a growing emphasis on interdisciplinarity, while preserving the strengths of the discipline. This focus will help us in an increasingly competitive research funding climate post-Brexit.
- **Sustainability** – building sustainable leadership by nurturing the talent of our existing researchers and supporting a new cohort of outstanding researchers, including sustaining (and growing) our PGR and PDRF communities.
- **Internationalisation** – consolidating our existing research relationships, and building additional links which offer opportunities for collaboration with leaders in the field.
- **Delivering on investment** – supporting further outcomes from recent investment in emerging research areas.

## 2. People

### a. Summary Overview & Approach

Overall staffing levels in the Law School have increased with new strategic investment. The School enjoys a healthy gender balance in its staff profile, including at senior level. A range of bespoke mentoring processes have enhanced staff career development, as recognised through promotions and internal research prizes. Our vibrant postgraduate culture, with its large and diverse international student community is a key feature of our research environment, showcasing our commitment to world-leading PGR provision and support.

### b. Staffing Profile & Recruitment

At the census date there are **45 FTE** Category A eligible staff in the School (overall headcount of 48) comprised as follows:

Staff Category	Male	Female
Professor	10	7
Reader	2	0
Senior Lecturer	6	5
Lecturer	8	8
Researcher	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>21</b>

The recruitment of five female Professors (including one senior Professor at 0.2 FTE) and the further internal promotion of two females to Chair during this cycle have resulted in a good gender balance at professorial level (41% female) which is more than double the national average (approximately 20%) and links to our commitment to Athena SWAN (the School received a Bronze award in October 2018 – see IES, Section 3d; and further below). This links with work undertaken on the School SWAN agenda, which has supported an increase in women at promoted levels over the REF period. Our overall staffing is further complemented by a strong ECR cohort (approximately 20% of staff) to ensure sustainability (see below).

The current cycle has seen a period of consolidation and growth for the School, following the retirement/resignation of six professorial colleagues. Our recruitment strategy has been to increase overall research capacity by converting the posts to a range of early-mid career posts (1 SL; 7 L). Professorial replacements were made only in three instances which were allied to key research priorities (one in transitional justice; two in law & innovation). Provision of research leadership was maintained through internal promotions to Professor (four – 2 females, 2 males; 2 in private law, 2 in criminology/criminal justice) and the appointment of two 0.2FTE leading international academics (Ní Aoláin, transitional justice; Stahn, international criminal law) to facilitate project-development, mentoring, and internationalisation opportunities. The three professors who retired in the cycle (Dawson, Dickson, Scraton) are now Professors Emeriti, retaining offices in the Law School and contributing actively to projects, events, impact and research culture.

All but of one of our research staff are engaged on open-ended contracts, and this reflects the School's commitment to sustainable research (and teaching) delivery in an environment that supports and prioritises opportunities for career development. Permanent posts are complemented by support for high-quality, externally-awarded fellowships (one Category A colleague employed on a 0.5 FTE fixed-term Marie Curie Fellowship at the census date). They are further complemented by 8.4 FTE teaching-only staff, led by the School's Director of Education; and 3.5 FTE colleagues engaged as PDRFs on fixed-term research-only contracts connected to funded projects.

The School has also secured a highly prestigious ESRC Post-Doctoral NINE Fellowship for two successive years (Patton, mentored by Murphy (September 2018); and Agnew, mentored by

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McAlinden (September 2019)) reflecting one of our ongoing commitments to nurturing and supporting the next generation of research leaders. Two Senior Lecturers (Bryson, Moffett) and two Lecturers (Dempster, Kramer) were mentored through from fixed-term grant-funded PDRF positions to permanent academic posts.

### c. Staff Development and Career Progression

QUB Law has a strong and supportive staff development strategy in place for all career stages. All colleagues engage in the University's annual 'personal development review' process, which provides structured and supportive space to plan research objectives with a focus on career development. Beyond this, probationary committees are created for ECRs and newly appointed staff (the Head of School, Director of Education and DR sit on these committees in line with University policies), with individually assigned mentors to assist with the development and achievement of publication and research income plans. ECRs on their first academic post receive bespoke research and career development support through these processes.

All new staff receive a generous 'start up' fund (currently £4,000) to be used for research purposes including international travel. The School also provides a generous annual conference allowance open to all staff (up to £1,500 p.p.) to support the presentation of papers at both specialist and generic conferences.

Our staffing strategy emphasises the importance of collegial support and peer review for researcher development and capacity building. Senior staff provide dedicated support for career development, including workshops and one-to-one discussions on promotions (evidenced by eight internal promotions to SL since 2016, four females, four males; and one to Reader since 2016, male). A Workload Allocation Model (fully-revised in 2017) seeks to ensure equity and transparency in the allocation of research time, while optimising production and delivery of research outcomes. All Category A staff receive a default hours' allocation equating to 33% of their time, with options to augment this through (i) a bidding process for additional time for a particular output/impact activity; (ii) additional workload credit for fully-costed time on funded projects; (iii) sabbatical leave. All three operate with regard to the quality of the intended outcomes, as well as equality and diversity principles.

Supportive measures are in place to develop applications for our generous sabbatical leave scheme (now administered by Faculty) – 25 sabbaticals were awarded during the cycle. Previous applications are available on a SharePoint site, and the DR meets with all staff contemplating research leave to review and discuss research plans. Staff are encouraged to use leave to further international links, where it is possible for them to do so.

As noted, research mentoring has been put in place to support the publication of internationally excellent research outputs and applications for research funding (see Section 1c). This has resulted in notable successes for our ECRs (see Section 3a). Specific 'in-house' staff training and development events take place throughout the academic year, including a half-day research workshop each semester, grant writing workshops, and visits by leading academic publishers. These events are also open to PGRs and PDRFs as part of the School's open and inclusive research culture, and its commitment – in line with the principles of the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers – to help develop their academic/professional careers; the DR is a member of the University Concordat Implementation Review Group. As part of the Athena SWAN action plan, the School runs an annual career development workshop for ECRs.

The University has recognised the work of specific staff in carrying out world-leading research and impact. In 2016, Bryson was awarded the Vice-Chancellor's Research Impact Prize (Postdoctoral Research) in recognition of the societal impact of her research on dealing with the past. In 2018, McNeilly was awarded the Vice-Chancellor's Early Career Research Prize, which recognises an ECR whose research demonstrates outstanding significance and excellence in the first 5 years of



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their career. In 2019, Dabrowska-Klosinska, Marie Curie research fellow at QUB Law, was awarded the AHSS Researcher of the Year Award.

### d. PGR Students

Given the international profiles and diverse research interests of its staff, QUB Law continues to attract high numbers of PGRs, even in a challenging economic climate. A significant number of PGRs have been recruited through competitive awards from major funding bodies: 41 in total, with 29 awarded since 2018. As well as UKRI grant applications, there have also been marked successes in AHRC and ESRC DTPs (NBDTP and NINE) as well as LINCOS and DfE studentships, and now LINAS.

High doctoral completion rates are a continuing area of strength, with 89 completions (30 professional doctorates and 59 PhDs) in REF2021 – an increase on 71% from REF2014. A key feature of this success has been sustaining and enhancing the strategy for higher completion rates that was implemented for REF2014: double supervision for all theses, and all PGRs undergoing an annual progress review at the end of each academic year (with registration for the next year dependent on satisfactory progress).

The School also implemented other strategic measures during the REF2021 cycle. In response to the 2017 Postgraduate Research Experience Survey, a dedicated staff team was established to support our PGRs – including an Advisor of Studies and a Training Programme Co-ordinator.

PGRs also have excellent physical facilities in the new Law School building, with shared office space, computer provision, bookable study rooms, and communal areas across two dedicated floors. Our PGR Administrator has daily 'office hours' to support students' needs. A significant proportion of our PGRs are co-located in the Mitchell Institute, which provides a vibrant and collegiate intellectual environment fostering greater interdisciplinary collaboration, including the successful LINCOS programme.

As part of University regulations, full-time PGRs participate in the Research Development Programme: i.e. 30 days training/development over the course of their PhD, including 10 days in their first year. Within the unit, our highly structured training programme has been expanded, ensuring our PGRs develop a range of essential skills for thesis completion and future employability, including:

- Interview and fieldwork training, data analysis (e.g. NVivo), and developing an effective online presence.
- Presentation skills, including a recorded research presentation with peer feedback.
- 'How to get a job both inside and outside academia' and 'how to publish academic outputs'.

Given the focus on impact-driven research, PGRs have also had training with the Knowledge Exchange Manager at the UK Parliament. At central level, PGRs have strong links to the Graduate School (see IES, Section 3c) and its training programmes.

A small number of staff are also involved in collaborative arrangements for PGR training: e.g. Murphy was Pathway Director for 'Law and Society' within the UK ESRC NINE Doctoral Training Partnership, 2017-2019.

Fostering a dynamic and supportive research culture for our students, with an open and inclusive ethos, has been an ongoing priority. PGRs participate in School conferences/seminars and training workshops (e.g. grant applications, research impact). School funding is available each year (£4,000, competitively awarded), to support students presenting their work at external events – both national and international. A Student Researcher Network has been established where PGRs are actively mentored by contract research staff. PGRs are also represented on the School Research and Athena SWAN Committees, and on the HRC and CETS, and participate in strategic decision-making.

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QUB Law actively encourages PGRs to create and sustain their own research culture, and has supported a number of student-led initiatives including an annual PG conference (up to £1,000 p.a.). A QUB Law PhD Student Research Network holds regular coffee mornings and 'brownbag' sessions where students discuss their research. The network has its own Facebook page and Twitter feed; has produced videos of PGRs' research presentations on the School YouTube playlist; and has initiated several events to provide sustainable peer-support. These include its symposium on collaborative research; and virtual 'shut-up and write' sessions to encourage motivation during the COVID-19 lockdown.

As part of our excellent mentoring and development culture, many of our recent PGRs have gone on to PDRF positions and lectureships within QUB Law (e.g. Dempster, Dowds, Kramer, Killean, McCormick) or other Schools in the Faculty (e.g. McNaul), and at law schools elsewhere (e.g. Cambridge (Cobbe), Glasgow (Reilly) and Birmingham (Dickson, Harkens)).

This strong representation within UK academia is one part of our success story; international destinations for our PGR recipients during the reporting period have included lectureships at Australia National University (Gordon), University of Wisconsin (Murchison), and Kuwait International Law School (Alfahad, Andaleeb). Beyond academia, notable careers include Policy and Legislation Advisor, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, London (Nwabughuogu) and International Humanitarian Advisor to the New Zealand Red Cross (Dudley).

PGR prizes and awards also speak to the strength of our research environment and doctoral support. Cowan won the 2019 ESRC National Writing Competition, and Marsh (former PhD student at QUB Law, graduated 2017) was awarded the British Society of Criminology Book Prize 2020. Within QUB, our PhD team was one of three finalists in the 2020 Vice Chancellor's Research Culture Prize (nominated for the excellence of the cultures we have created and sustained).

### e. Equality & Diversity

QUB Law has a track-record of promoting equality and diversity within NI, and particularly within the legal profession; prominent recent examples include our work on diversity in the judiciary (see Impact Case Study), and a collaboration with the Bar Library to mark International Women's Day in March 2020. These external contributions are rooted in a deeper commitment to equality and diversity which permeates all activity in the School.

A bronze Athena SWAN Award (the first on the island of Ireland) recognises our commitment to equality and diversity among staff and students. The School's application was noted by Advance HE as one of the strongest submissions that year, and both the award and the Law School's 'Gender Principles' are prominently displayed in the foyer of the Law School building. In 2019, the then SWAN Champion (McNeilly) commissioned a 'Women in Law' artwork project to mark the centenary of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act 1919. Celebrating female role models in NI, the project brought together the first two women High Court judges in NI (both QUB Law alumni) and leading female lawyers, academics, and policy-makers, to reflect on their achievements; it also featured a group of current female law students. The artwork is displayed in the School and a companion text distributed to incoming law students.

At institutional level, Brunger is founder and co-director of the QUB Gender Network, an interdisciplinary research network of staff and PG students that strategically shapes discourse and policy around gender issues in law and society. Brunger has been involved in a number of initiatives related to BAME and international staff within the University (e.g. iRise), and Mallinder is a member of the University's Equality Working Group. McNeilly and Brunger are also current members of the Queen's Gender Initiative Executive (see IES, Section 3d). Beyond our institution, McCormick is co-founder and co-director of Lawyers with Pride – a group of solicitors, barristers, trainees/pupils, legal academics and law students showing their support for the LGBTQ+ community in NI, and Morison is a member of the Royal Irish Academy's very active Diversity Committee.

**Unit-level environment template (REF5b)**

The School provides an inclusive and supportive environment for research, with a commitment to equality of opportunity for all. Reduced teaching loads are given to probationary staff and those returning from maternity leave (recently adapted to include returning from adoption and parental leave) and periods of absence (e.g. illness). 'Core business hours' and 'email etiquette' policies have been implemented to ensure that, as far as possible, School meetings are limited to 10am-4pm to facilitate those with caring responsibilities and email is discouraged outside the hours of 8am-6pm. Arrangements exist for remote and/or flexible working, and there are clear and structured career pathways within the School (and wider institution) for both part-time and fixed-term staff.

Issues of diversity and gender are considered when inviting speakers for our various seminar series, the MacDermott and Livingstone annual public lectures, international events and visiting scholar applications. The School Management Board conducts an annual equality monitoring of the Work Allocation Model to ensure balance in workloads across a three-year frame. The Athena SWAN agenda is a standing item on both the School Research Committee and School Management Board, and there is direct representation on both bodies.

The standard language of recruitment advertisements was reviewed and amended by the SWAN Champion in March 2018. In tandem with the University's REF Code of Practice, regular analysis is undertaken of anonymised REF data, looking at both gender and grade level, to acknowledge successes and identify any barriers to progression.

Colleagues were supported to work remotely during the COVID pandemic, via individual meetings with the HoS to discuss balancing work and caring responsibilities; and in weekly online 'check-in meetings'.

<b>3. Income, infrastructure and facilities</b>
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**a. Research Funding & Strategies for Generating Income**

Extensive and tailored mentoring was introduced to support researchers in maintaining high levels of grant income, and in increasing the scale and ambition of applications. The School introduced a system of internal peer review of draft applications, led by the DR and supported by senior staff, with subject expertise and experience in peer reviewing grants and/or securing external funding. These School models have been replicated at Faculty level.

Annual in-house grant writing workshops are led by the DR and Impact Champion (aimed primarily at ECRs, but open to all staff and PGRs); and staff have participated in action-learning workshops to draft and review their research applications in small group settings, led by the Faculty Research Development Officer. Our REF Champion was instrumental in setting up a Faculty-level Pilot ESRC Grant Application Process. Designed to assist applicants to ESRC funding schemes, it offers a fast-track, open peer review and assessment process of advanced-stage applications prior to submission.

Other mechanisms include senior staff with strong track records of securing external funding acting in a mentoring capacity as CIs on applications developed and led by ECRs; and the setting up of a School grant repository, containing the full documentation of previous successful and unsuccessful applications across a range of funders to which all staff have access. As a result of this mentoring culture and supportive infrastructure, a number of large-scale funding applications (c. £500K) were submitted by ECRs to UKRI in this cycle (Moffett, Killean, Dempster, Panepinto, Lawther and Dobbs).

As noted above, the total research income figures in this cycle significantly exceed those for REF2014, with a clear uplift in the value and ambition of awards. The average income figure per

**Unit-level environment template (REF5b)**

FTE staff member (£129,637) compares favourably with Russell Group Law Schools (£68,258) - placing us 4<sup>th</sup> amongst this group (internal figures supplied by QUB for 2013-2019).

	REF2014	REF2021	Change in research income
Total Research Income per cycle	£3,445,884	£5,833,685	+ 69%
Average income per year within the cycle	£574,314	£833,383	+45%
Average Income figure per FTE staff member	£86,147	£129,637	+50%

**b. Organisational Infrastructure**

As noted above, research in the School is aligned to six thematic areas: (i) human rights and public law; (ii) criminology and criminal justice; (iii) private and commercial law; (iv) European and transnational studies; (v) transitional justice; and (vi) law, innovation and technology. Bringing together staff and PGRs, the thematic areas have fluid boundaries (individuals can be associated with more than one), and operate as small research communities in which ideas and ongoing projects can be discussed in a supportive, informal setting. As well as fostering internal collaborations and exchanges among staff and PGRs, the six areas help create a group research identity for those who are not aligned with the School's research centres, and/or the institutional GRIs/PRPs.

The School has three dedicated research centres: HRC, ICCJ and CETS. Each is led by a senior academic who acts as centre director (HRC – Moffett, now Lawther; ICCJ – Ellison; CETS – Schiek). Established in 1990 and 1995 respectively, both HRC and ICCJ have played key roles in NI's post-conflict environment, while representing issues of national and international concern. In 2019, they were joined by CETS. Taking advantage of NI's geo-political position as part of the UK within the island of Ireland, and reflecting new appointments in the field (Melo Araujo, Rieder, Schiek), CETS involves researchers across the AHSS Faculty engaging in the interdisciplinary study of transnational law, policy and society within and beyond the EU.

All three centres provide a focal point for harnessing discrete areas of research strengths, attracting PGRs and engaging a variety of academic and non-academic audiences via, for example, public seminars/conferences with high-profile external speakers and responding to public consultations.

**c. Operational & Scholarly Infrastructure**

As noted above, our operational and scholarly infrastructure has been significantly enhanced during REF2021 by the completion of a new £15.7M Law School building. Located at the heart of the campus, and designed to foster a greater sense of collegiality and collaboration, this state-of-the-art building has a combination of dedicated offices, teaching rooms, shared flexible space and bookable meeting rooms (at least one on each floor, with screen and AV equipment to support grant writing and project development). Spread across 9 floors, there is an interactive Moot Court and a purpose-built Digital Studio that supports production of LawPod (see below); two PGR floors; and individual offices for academic and research staff on floors 5-9, including office space for visiting scholars and honorary staff.

In terms of administrative support, the School has a PGR and REF Administrator, who supports the REF Reading Group; a secretary who supports the Research Committee; and its own IT Officer who plays an important role in showcasing the full extent of our research and impact activities to a wide range of external audiences as an ongoing priority and major strategic aim. The IT Officer oversees the School's website, Twitter feed and Facebook page, as well as recording and uploading podcasts and videos (on both the website and YouTube). These are used to promote research and impact

**Unit-level environment template (REF5b)**

activities; staff successes through e.g. major publications, grant awards and prizes; public events including conferences, visiting speakers and scholars; and PGR achievements.

Other digital communications-based initiatives include the development of LawPod. A regular podcast that provides a reflective commentary on current legal events or insights into our current research projects, it acts as a forum for staff and students to exchange ideas on a topic. This is led by an academic member of staff (Killean, now Dempster) with support from UG and PG students. Since launching in February 2018, LawPod has attracted over 77,000 unique visitors to the Law School website; 30 staff have featured in podcast episodes, discussing their research and making it accessible to non-academic audiences. Killean was short-listed for a Vice-Chancellor's Staff Excellence Award in 2019 for developing LawPod.

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

##### **a. Summary of Collaboration & Wider Contribution**

QUB Law has a culture of sustained engagement and collaboration with both the academic community and an array of non-academic audiences, including the legal profession, government, NGOs and the public sector. Driven and maintained by our staff as world-leading experts in their fields – and across all career stages – these external connections showcase the importance of our research and impact at the local, national and international levels, substantially enriching our research environment.

##### **b. Academic Collaborations & Contribution to Wider Academic Community**

Our staff are involved in an extensive range of academic contributions and collaborations, showcasing the breadth and depth of our scholarship, the international and interdisciplinary reach of our work, and QUB Law's high esteem within the scholarly community.

Several staff have edited a major book series, shaping the relevant field, working with leading international scholars and nurturing new talents. During the reporting period, Harvey was Series Editor for *Human Rights Law in Perspective* (Hart-Bloomsbury); McCrudden for the *Law in Context Series* (CUP); McEvoy for *Transitional Justice Series* (Routledge); and Murphy for *Law and Health* (Bloomsbury-Hart). Journal editorships are another key esteem indicator; notable examples during the reporting period include the *European Human Rights Law Review* (McCormick – deputy editor) and the *Leiden Journal of International Law* (Stahn – editor).

As well as acting as expert peer reviewers for leading journals and academic publishers, QUB Law staff sit on the editorial boards of a number of leading socio-legal and legal journals, forging new contacts within the discipline and enhancing our global networks. Notable examples include *Public Law* (Anthony); *Conveyancer and Property Lawyer* (Hickey); *European Journal of Law and Technology* (Mac Sithigh); *Oxford Journal of Legal Studies* (McCrudden); *Criminology and Criminal Justice*, *International Journal of Transitional Justice*, *Social and Legal Studies* (McEvoy); *Feminist Legal Studies* (McNeilly); *Journal of International Criminal Justice* (Moffett); *International Journal of Public Law* and *Journal of Law and Society* (Morison); *Human Rights Law Review* (Murphy).

As part of our wider interdisciplinary reach, a number of staff also sit on editorial boards of non-law journals including *Mortality* (Conway); *Interdisciplinary Journal of Human Rights Law* (Mallinder); *Journal of Sexual Aggression* (McAlinden).

Expertise and international outreach are also indicated by the range of keynotes and plenaries delivered by QUB Law staff at major national and international conferences (academic and practitioner). These include the Australia National University and Judicial College of Australia



## Unit-level environment template (REF5b)

Conference on Judging and Emotion (Conway); Australasian Association of Bioethics and Health Law Annual Conference (Farrell); National Organisation for the Treatment of Abusers International Conference (McAlinden 2015 & 2019); Association of Law, Property and Society Conference (Hickey); Cambridge International Law Journal-Lauterpacht Centre for International Law Annual Lecture 2019 (Mallinder); Annual Meeting of the UN Conference on Trade and Development (Martyniszyn); British Society of Criminology Annual Conference (McEvoy); 39th Session of UN Human Rights Council (Murphy); Council on Foreign Relations (Ní Aoláin); the Frankfurter Institute for European Law (Schiek); Asian Society of International Law (Stahn).

High-profile, invited named lectures include the Trinity College Dublin Annual Trinity Monday Memorial Lecture (Bryson); the Alberico Gentili Lectures, University of Macerata, Italy (McCrudden); Annual Nash Memorial Lecture, University of Regina Canada (McEvoy); 2018 Komendy Lecture at Ohio State University (Ní Aoláin).

Collaborative research projects, and partnerships with other Law Schools and institutions, are key parts of our internationalisation strategy. Beyond our unit-level links (Section 1c), visiting scholar positions have forged a range of global connections. Notable examples include Vanderbilt University (Conway); Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam (Flear); University of British Columbia (Hickey); Human Rights Centre, Berkeley Law School (Lawther); East China University of Political Science and Law (Hanna, Martyniszyn); NYU Law School (McCrudden); Institute for Feminist Legal Studies, Osgoode Hall Law School (McNeilly); Castan Centre for Human Rights (Murphy); Geneva Academy (Ní Aoláin); New Zealand Centre for the Study of Europe, Christchurch University (Schiek); Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva (Stahn).

QUB Law staff have also edited/co-edited books and journals involving contributions from leading international scholars. These include special issues of *Law, Innovation and Technology* (Farrell) and *Medical Law International* (Flear), *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology* (McAlinden), as well as a number of prestigious edited collections: *The Emotional Dynamics of Law and Legal Discourse* (Conway and Stannard); *Modern Studies in Property Law Series* (Conway and Hickey); *Research Handbook on Transitional Justice* (Lawther and Moffett); *Reasoning Rights* (McCrudden); and *Criminal Justice in Transition* (McAlinden and Dwyer).

Research networks highlight our ties with scholars across a range of disciplines. These include membership of: the European Group of Public Law (Anthony and Morison); the Working Group on Collateral Consequences of Criminal Records within the European Society of Criminology (Corda); the European Network on Soft Law Research – SoLaR (Dobbs); the Academic Society for Competition Law (Martyniszyn); the Legitimate Trade Governance International Network (Melo Araujo). Flear co-chairs the European Association of Health Law on BioLaw, while Anthony and Murphy sit on the respective Executive Committees of the UK Constitutional Law Association and the European Masters on Human Rights & Democratisation.

QUB Law sustains and strengthens the discipline in key ways. The School hosts and edits the *Northern Ireland Legal Quarterly*, a leading legal journal since its foundation in 1936. A new editorial team (with Flear as Chief Editor and including staff at all career stages) was appointed in 2018, embedding *NILQ* within global scholarly networks (including an International Editorial Board). New initiatives – including advanced open access, Contributors' Blog, and Twitter account – have raised the profile of the journal with monthly abstract views of over 6,000.

Numerous seminars and lectures are hosted each year, including our School of Law seminar series (targeting external speakers in areas reflective of our diverse research interests) and bespoke series organised by our research centres. Two major annual public lectures – the MacDermott Lecture and the Stephen Livingstone Lecture – are delivered by high-profile academic and legal practitioners; notable speakers in this REF cycle include Professor Andrew Burrows, Oxford University (now Lord Burrows) (MacDermott) and Kate O'Regan, Bonavero Institute of Human Rights and former Justice of the Constitutional Court of South Africa (Livingstone). The School hosted the prestigious Hamlyn Lecture in 2014, 2018 and 2020. Speakers included Eleanor Sharpson QC, former Advocate General of the European Court of Justice.

QUB Law has also hosted a number of major conferences during the reporting period, and these have been key to its internationalisation strategy. Notable examples include: Lawyers, Conflict and Transition 2016 (Bryson, Mallinder, McEvoy); Modern Studies in Property Law Biennial Conference 2016 (Conway, Hickey); Innovative Approaches to Ecological Sustainability in the EU (Dobbs); Association of Law, Property and Society Annual Conference 2016 (Hickey); Victimhood and Dealing with the Past in Northern Ireland (Lawther, McEvoy); Sex Offender Desistance 2015 (McAlinden); various conferences on Brexit, 2018-19 (Bryson, Harvey, Kramer, McCrudden); British and Irish Law, Education and Technology Association (BILETA) Annual Conference 2019 (Mac Síthigh).

The School enjoys strong links with learned societies, including the Royal Irish Academy (RIA). Morison is a former member of the RIA's Council, is active on its Policy Oversight Group and led a RIA initiative looking at support for ECRs across all disciplines in Ireland. Mallinder and McCrudden are current members of the RIA's Ethical, Political, Legal and Philosophical Studies Committee (which Morison convened from 2014-2018) and which is active in organising a range of interdisciplinary activities including seminars and lectures, policy briefings and publications. Dobbs works with the RIA's Future Earth. Brown is a former member of the Executive of SLSA, and Dawson a current member of the Stair Society. Internationally, Hickey holds the role of President, Association of Law Property and Society from 2020-21.

Membership of funding committees allows us to shape current and future research agendas, both across the discipline and within key areas of expertise. Morison is a member of the ESRC Grant Awards Panel (Panel B, reappointed in 2020) while Bryson, Mallinder and McEvoy have all served as AHRC or ESRC funding panel members on particular initiatives. Murphy is a member of the Peer Review College of the UK Research & Innovation Future Leaders Fellowships, and an International Assessor for the Australian Research Council. Schiek is a member of the Belgian National Research Council and the Netherlands National Research Council

Our staff are very active on the RCUK peer review colleges. Of the 23 members of the AHRC Peer Review College from our Faculty at QUB, seven are from QUB Law (Bryson, Deazley, Mallinder, McEvoy, Mac Síthigh, Moffett, Schiek). Another eight members of QUB Law – from all career stages – currently sit on the ESRC Peer Review College (Anthony, Brown, Lawther, Mallinder, McAlinden, McEvoy, Pesendorfer, Schiek), and two on the ERC (Deazley, Schiek).

Fellowships and prizes also demonstrate how our staff, and QUB Law, are held in high regard by the scholarly community. McCrudden and McEvoy are Fellows of the British Academy. McCrudden, McEvoy, Morison and Ní Aoláin (and previously Wheeler) have all been elected to membership of the RIA. Mallinder and McEvoy are Fellows of the Academy of Social Sciences.

A number of staff have been short-listed for/awarded major article or book prizes. Martyniszyn (2015, 2016 and 2018) was nominated for the international Antitrust Writing Award. Murphy (2014), Brunger (2016) and Lawther (2018) were shortlisted for the SLSA Article Prize; monographs by McNeilly (2018) and Dempster (2019) were shortlisted for the Hart-SLSA Early Career Prize. Suttle was awarded the SLS Peter Birks Book Prize in 2019; McAlinden was awarded the Irish Association of Law Teachers Kevin Boyle Book Prize in 2019.

More broadly, Wheeler was awarded the SLSA prize for Contributions to the Socio-Legal Community in 2014; McCrudden was awarded DCL (Doctor of Civil Law) by Oxford University in 2018.

### **c. Engagement with Non-Academic Communities**

Staff have developed an extensive range of relationships and personal networks with research users and non-academic audiences, generating significant outreach and engagement opportunities.

In maintaining strong links with the legal profession in NI, the School hosts an annual Bench-Faculty Forum where staff and senior judges in NI discuss current legal issues under Chatham House Rules. Law School staff are academic members of the Judicial Studies Board for NI (McCrudden, formerly

## Unit-level environment template (REF5b)

Dawson), and have delivered the prestigious Judicial Studies Board Lecture (McQuigg). Dawson was made an Honorary Bencher by the Inn of Court NI in 2016. Beyond NI, colleagues are academic members of the Chancery Bar and Property Bar Associations in London (Capper, Hickey respectively), and of the Planning and Environmental Bar Association (Kelly). Anthony is an Academic Tenant at Francis Taylor Building, London.

The School has also hosted a number of senior judges as visiting professors including Judge Anthony Hart (former judge of the High Court (NI)) and Justice Teresa Doherty (former judge of the Special Court for Sierra Leone). The late Lord Kerr had also accepted a visiting professor position in November 2020.

Our research impacts on the judiciary, at local, national and international levels. Academic works by QUB Law staff have been cited in the NI High Court (Anthony; Conway) and Court of Appeal (Anthony); the UK Supreme Court (Dickson); the Irish Supreme Court (Conway); the International Criminal Court (Mallinder, Moffett); the South African Constitutional Court and the Supreme Court of India (McCrudden). The Human Rights Centre contributes regularly to international legal practice, and has been accepted as Amicus Curiae in reparations proceedings before the International Criminal Court and the International Court of Justice.

Our strong connections to the legal profession and other legal agencies – in NI and beyond – creates wider public engagement and agenda-setting opportunities. Conway and Hickey sit on the Council of Legal Education (NI), and McCormick is a member of the NI Committee of the Franco-British Lawyers Society. High-profile talks have been delivered to lawyers and legal services agencies (e.g. Government Legal Service of NI (Dickson and McCormick); Criminal Courts of Justice, Dublin 9<sup>th</sup> Martin Tansey Memorial Lecture (McAlinden); 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Lecture on the Legal Profession at Georgetown University (Ní Aoláin)). Specialist advice to law reforms bodies through responses to reports and invited lectures (e.g. Law Commission of Ontario Conference (Mac Sithigh); Irish Law Reform Commission Conference (McCrudden)) are further examples of QUB Law influencing change in legal systems.

QUB Law staff have provided specialist advice to government, and government appointed commissions, within the UK, Ireland and further afield. Notable examples, involving staff at all career stages, include oral and written evidence to the:

- House of Commons and House of Lords Constitutional Committees on the implications of Brexit (Anthony)
- Irish Dáil Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement (Bryson, McEvoy)
- Independent Hate Crime Review for NI (Brown)
- Gillen Review into Serious Sexual Offences in NI (Dowds)
- NI Justice Committee on Human Trafficking (Ellison)
- UK Government Infected Blood Inquiry (Farrell)
- Scottish Parliament on clinical trials, pharmaceutical law and Brexit (Flear)
- Dáil Committee on Equality and Justice on the human rights and constitutional implications of Brexit (Harvey)
- EU Security and Justice Sub-Committee, House of Lords (Kramer)
- Australian Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (McAlinden)
- US Congress and UK Defence Select Committee (McEvoy), and NI Affairs Committee on dealing with the past (Mallinder, McEvoy)
- Northern Ireland Office, NI Assembly and House of Lords on victims' pensions (Moffett)
- International Criminal Court on revising complementarity (Stahn)

QUB Law staff also make a significant contribution to the membership of advisory boards, public bodies and NGOs at local, national, and international levels. Brown sits on the Lord Chief Justice's Sentencing Group in NI. Bryson is chair of the Committee on the Administration of Justice (NI) (Mallinder, McEvoy and Ní Aoláin also sit on its Executive Committee). Flear is a member of the Northern Ireland DNA Governance Board and of the Ethics Advisory Board for the REspiratory Syncytial virus Consortium in EUrope (RESCEU) project. Hackett is a member of the NI Human

## Unit-level environment template (REF5b)

Rights Commission Business and Human Rights Group. McEvoy is a member of the London-based human rights NGO, Rights and Security International. Martyniszyn is member of the International Advisory Board of the Institute for Consumer Antitrust Studies at Loyola University Chicago. McCrudden is a member of the Human Rights Advisory Committee of the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Conway (formerly Dawson) is the NI representative on the Institute for Advanced Legal Studies Advisory Council, London. McCrudden sits on the Advisory Committee of the Institute for Advanced Studies, Berlin and Morison was an Independent Board Member of the Legal Services Commission/Agency.

Wider reach and influence are also demonstrated by membership of important national and international committees, engaging with and influencing other professional bodies. Notable examples include:

- Insolvency Licensing Committee (Capper, until 2018)
- Environmental Justice Network Ireland (Doran)
- National Executive Committee of the Australasian Association of Bioethics and Health Law (Farrell)
- Northern/Ireland Health Law and Ethics Network (Flear)
- Non-Governmental Advisor to the International Competition Network (Martyniszyn)
- Scientific Committee of the European Commission's European Network of Legal Experts in Gender Equality and Non-Discrimination (McCrudden)

QUB Law also engages with external research users through consultancy work – at both national and international levels – and the production of associated policy reports and briefings. Specific examples include work for the UK Intellectual Property Office (Deazley), the UK Department of Health (Farrell), the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (Mallinder), and the production of a UN Consultancy Report on Apologies for the Special Rapporteur on Promotion of Truth, Justice, Reparations and Guarantees of Non-Recurrence (Bryson and McEvoy).

The HRC responds to government consultations on a wide range of human rights related issues including submissions to the NI Department of Justice's Consultation on Tackling Modern Slavery and the Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry. Involving staff, LLM and PhD students, these responses give students a first-hand opportunity to engage in human rights campaigning.

More generally, Law School staff make sustained and significant contributions to the economy and society by showcasing the value of their research beyond the academy. Key activities include Knowledge Exchange Seminars, and writing for QPOL; a number of individuals have been very proactive (e.g. Dowds, McAlinden, McQuigg), with other colleagues contributing to national and international blogspots including the UK Constitutional Law Association (McCormick) and JusticeInConflict (Moffett). QUB Law staff write regularly for *The Conversation* (e.g. Dowds, Lawther, McQuigg) and with significant results: Conway's 'Five Laws About the Dead' has 813,587 reads; Dobbs, 'Can You Really be GM Free' has 69,785. With other QUB academics, Conway was part of the University's first digital TEDx event, reflecting on the COVID-19 pandemic.

As well as local media, QUB Law academics frequently provide expert commentaries for a range of national and international media. Notable examples include China Global Television Network (Conway); *The Economist* (Ellison); *The Telegraph* (Flear); *The Irish Times* (Harvey, Kramer, Martyniszyn); *The Guardian* (Kramer, McEvoy); BBC Radio 4 Evening News (Scraton); *Pacific Daily News/USA Today*, *Sydney Morning Herald* (McAlinden); *The Independent* (McNeilly); Deutschlandfunk (German National Radio) (Schiek, Stahn); Channel 4 News (Scraton);

QUB Law views community and social outreach work as an important example of good citizenship and 'giving back'. Bryson is an Executive Board Member (now Treasurer) of Diversity Challenges, a cross-community cultural outreach organisation funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs, Arts Council NI and National Lottery. Working with Co-Operation Ireland, Kramer has led several events



## Unit-level environment template (REF5b)

on Brexit and youth views in NI; Moffett has delivered workshops and pro bono talks to WAVE Trauma NI, a local organisation representing victims-survivors.

Participation in the governance structures of charitable organisations is another important example; Anthony (replacing Morison) is currently a trustee of the Hamlyn Trust which, through its lectures, makes law accessible to the public. Conway is a Council Member and charitable trustee of the Cremation Society of Great Britain, and gave expert advice to the UK Deceased Management Advisory Group during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### d. Wider Impact on Non-Academic World & Communities

Our impact strategy has resulted in a sustained and profound range of impacts in diverse local, national and international communities. Staff across all career levels are engaged in impact work, building on already strong links with a range of non-academic stakeholders.

Funded research projects have generated numerous policy-facing outputs, translated into local languages. Produced in conjunction with local stakeholders, these reports have been utilised to effect change. Notable examples include:

- ‘Lawyers in Conflict and Transition’ (ESRC, McEvoy PI) – produced 12 reports for local users in 6 countries. One report has been used by Cambodian human rights NGOs to press for greater independence of the local bar.
- ‘Dark Tourism in Cambodia’ (NI GCRF, Lawther, Killean, Dempster) – in partnership with a local NGO in Cambodia, co-produced a report on a more ‘victim-centred’ approach to Cambodia’s sites of ‘dark tourism’.
- ‘Brexit Law NI’ (ESRC, Harvey PI) – co-produced 7 policy reports with the project partner (local human rights NGO, CAJ) on topics including Brexit and the Peace Process. Widely used by anti-Brexit political parties and NI civil society groups, these have featured heavily in parliamentary debates in Westminster and Dublin.
- ‘Victims and Dealing with the Past’ (AHRC, Lawther PI) – produced guidelines for journalists on dealing with conflict survivors in NI. These guidelines were endorsed by the National Union of Journalists, the DART Centre for Journalism and Trauma (Columbia Journalism School) and the Commission for Victims and Survivors Northern Ireland and are now being utilised by BBC NI.

Staff have also engaged in high level impact work, working with or on behalf of the UN, governments and government commissions.

- Brown authored a report for the NI Commission for Older People, on improving the experiences of older victims of crime. This is currently being implemented, following endorsement by the NI Assembly.
- Dowd’s submission to the Gillen Review into Serious Sexual Offences in NI is singled out in the final report, which adopts her recommendation on the definition of ‘consent’.
- Moffett has worked closely with the NIO and Stormont government as well as local victim NGOs in developing pensions’ legislation for seriously injured victims of the NI conflict.
- In 2017 Ní Aoláin was appointed UN Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms while Countering Terrorism and has produced reports on Belgium, France and Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Kazakhstan and Sri Lanka – each of which have become key sources of activism by local stakeholders.
- O’Neill’s co-edited book on *Global Patient Safety: Law, Policy and Practice* (2018) was informed by patient safety symposia involving senior officials from the Ministry of Health in Uganda and Kenya. As a result of the book, the Latvian Ministry of Health introduced improvements to its patient safety regulatory frameworks.

HRC submissions to public consultations (as noted above) also involve staff and PG students in a range of legal impact activities.



**Unit-level environment template (REF5b)**

In sum, our research environment is one that speaks to a clear commitment to promoting world-leading research and impact through: maximising collaborative networks and opportunities for cutting-edge research; and nurturing and supporting our research talent to foster individual and collective success. Our mission is based on maintaining quality, enhancing internationalisation, strengthening interdisciplinarity and delivering on strategic investments as part of an engaged and outward-looking research environment.