

<b>Institution:</b> University of the West of Scotland		
<b>Unit of Assessment:</b> 20: Social Work and Social Policy		
<b>Title of case study:</b> Policy and parliamentary capacity building through the co-creation of knowledge exchange and planning tools at EU, UK and devolved levels		
<b>Period when the underpinning research was undertaken:</b> 2014 - 2020		
<b>Details of staff conducting the underpinning research from the submitting unit:</b>		
<b>Name(s):</b>	<b>Role(s) (e.g. job title):</b>	<b>Period(s) employed by submitting HEI:</b>
Prof John Connolly	Professor	2013 - 2020
Prof Margaret Arnott	Professor	2013 - 2020
Dr Colin Atkinson	Lecturer	2017 - 2020
Dr Arno van der Zwet	Senior Lecturer	2017 - 2020
Dr Christopher Huggins	Research Fellow	2018 - 2019
Dr Craig McAngus	Lecturer	2018 - 2020
<b>Period when the claimed impact occurred:</b> 2014 - 2020		
<b>Is this case study continued from a case study submitted in 2014?</b> No		
<b>1. Summary of the impact</b> UWS researchers have reshaped governance and parliamentary capacities at multiple levels, across devolved, UK and European policy domains. Governance reform research has influenced processes relating to the European cohesion mechanisms, parliamentary reform, policing reform as well as fisheries, health and education policy reforms. This body of research has changed how international and national policy-makers and public managers sustain reform across policy sectors, as well as impacting on the structural and organisational aspects of how policies can be better delivered.		
<b>2. Underpinning Research</b> The main policy impacts have been seen across the following areas:		
<b>European cohesion policy reform</b> Van der Zwet's research study for the European Commission [3.6, 3.E, 5.7] has shaped urban development policy at local, regional, national and European level. The pioneering research was the first study that has collected on integrated sustainable urban development strategies as part of the European Regional Development Fund regulations (article 7) in over 500 urban areas across all 28 member states [3.E]. The research: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided data for an innovative, interactive online tool developed by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre to support capacity building and lesson learning at the local level [5.7].</li> <li>• Provided a knowledge base for regulatory discussions for the post-2020 period, with its recommendations implemented by the European Commission in the 2021 regulatory proposals.</li> <li>• Found that national level urban development policies provide an important framework for implementation of European funds and, as such, directly shaped the design of urban development policy at the national level [3.4, 5.8].</li> </ul>		
<b>Fisheries policy reform</b> Governance capacities resulting from Brexit has been a significant theme and UWS has made major impacts on demonstrating how post-Brexit Britain can manage fisheries policy based on examining the experiences of non-EU coastal states. The research was funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) [3.D], with the main focus being an innovative analysis of the governance capacities (political, analytical, communicative, and administrative) which need to reform based on the experiences of non-EU coastal states [3.2, 3.D]. The research: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Made a major contribution to the success of the award winning <i>UK in a Changing Europe</i> think tank [5.1].</li> <li>• Led to co-created policy sessions in the UK devolved settings to understand how fisheries policy capacities are to be understood in a post-Brexit context.</li> <li>• Provided policy recommendations on the creation of a fisheries common framework between the UK and devolved governments for fisheries governance post-Brexit.</li> </ul>		

**Parliamentary reform**

Governance capacities focusing on institutional working by legislatures across the UK has been a major research theme. **Arnott's** ground-breaking research has:

- Provided solutions to senior policy makers in the devolved and UK legislatures to address inter-parliamentary relations since the inception of devolution in 1999, and in the context of Brexit [3.1]. This research reshaped future working of the territorial constitution in the devolved UK [5.9, 5.10].
- Improved the capacity for knowledge sharing and democratic scrutiny through cross-working between devolved legislatures [3.F, 5.9].
- Informed the future of Parliamentary Fellowship schemes in the UK legislatures which aim, in part, to enable evidence-based governance [5.10].

**Health and education policy reform**

Improving public service planning within health and education sectors through capacity building [3.3, 3.A, 3.B, 3.C]. **Connolly's** work has demonstrated the value of using outcomes frameworks as a tool for shaping public sector reform [3.3, 3.B, 3.C]. This work has:

- Led to a co-created outcomes framework for NHS Health Scotland utilised by policy-makers and health practitioners across the globe. As well as having international reach, the outcomes framework was used to redesign mental health service planning across Scotland [3.3, 3.B].
- Led to national level engagement with Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS), Education Scotland (ES) and NHS Education for Scotland into how outcome frameworks can inform programme and corporate planning [5.2, 5.3, 3.A, 3.B, 3.C]

**Policing reform**

**Atkinson** examined governance reform by focusing on British Transport Police Scotland [3.5]. This work has:

- Enhanced and shaped public and political debate, and provided an evidence-base for public policy options on policing reform.
- Led to the creation of a Scottish Government knowledge exchange forum on railway policing at the request of the Cabinet Secretary for Justice. This event, which was attended by a range of key policy stakeholders, offered a unique opportunity for Atkinson and Murray's research to assist in the co-production of future government policy in this area.

**3. References to the research**

**3.1 Arnott, M.**, (2020) Missing Links: Past, Present and Future Interparliamentary Relations in the devolved UK, Cardiff: Institute of Welsh Affairs. <https://www.iwa.wales/wp-content/media/Missing-Links-Past-present-and-future-inter-parliamentary-relations-in-the-devolved-UK.pdf>

**3.2 Connolly, J., Zwet, A. V. D., Huggins, C., McAngus, C.**, (2020a) The governance capacities of Brexit from a Scottish perspective: The case of fisheries policy. *Public Policy and Administration*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0952076720936328>

**3.3 Connolly, J.**, Reid, G., Knoll, M., Halliday, W., Windsor, S. (2020b). The sustainability of knowledge brokerage of the mental health improvement outcomes framework in Scotland: a follow-up analysis. *Evidence & Policy: A Journal of Research, Debate and Practice*, 16(1), 177-195. <https://doi.org/10.1332/174426418X15193815997735>

**3.4 Medeiros, E., van der Zwet, A.**, (2019) Evaluating Integrated Sustainable Urban Development Strategies: a methodological framework applied in Portugal, *European Planning Studies*, 28(3): 563-582. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09654313.2019.1606898>

**3.5 Murray, K., Atkinson, C.**, (2020) This Service Terminates Here? Politics, Practitioner Perspectives, and the Future of Railway Policing in Scotland. *Policing: A Journal of Policy and Practice*, 14(3): 752-765. <https://doi.org/10.1093/police/pay074>

**3.6 Van der Zwet, A.,** Bachtler, J., Ferry, M., McMaster, I., (2017) Integrated territorial and urban strategies: how are ESIF adding value in 2014-2020, Study conducted for the European Commission (DG Regio). [https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/sources/docgener/studies/pdf/integrated\\_strategies/integrated\\_strategies\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/studies/pdf/integrated_strategies/integrated_strategies_en.pdf)

## Grants

**3.A Connolly, J.,** *Development of the Early Intervention Framework for Children and Young People: Undertaking a research and implementation review and analysis to populate the resource.* NHS Education for Scotland, October 2019 to December 2020, GBP65,629.

**3.B Connolly, J.,** *Memorandum of Understanding- Evaluation of the mental health outcomes framework,* NHS Health Scotland, Dec 2016 to March 2017, GBP18,200.

**3.C Connolly, J.,** *Evaluation of healthcare quality improvement programmes: methodology development and staff capability building,* Healthcare Improvement Scotland, Jan 2014 to September 2014, GBP9,457.

**3.D McAngus, C., van der Zwet, A., Connolly, J.,** *UK Fisheries Policy Post-Brexit: Multi-level Challenges and Opportunities,* ESRC, April 2018 - March 2019, GBP151,908

**3.E van der Zwet, A.,** *Study of the territorial strategies supported by EU territorial tools,* European Commission, Feb 2016 to July 201, GBP10,000

**3.F Arnott, M.,** *Interparliamentary Relations in the Devolved UK,* IWA, October 2019 to February 2020, GBP4,200

## 4. Details of the impact

### **European cohesion policy reform**

An online tool has been developed to facilitate learning in relation to integrated, sustainable urban development among national, **regional and urban actors across Europe**, and informed sustainable urban development practices in urban authorities and managing authorities [3.E, 5.7]. The study also contributed to the development of national urban policy framework in Romania [5.8]. Van der Zwet's study for the European Commission on integrated sustainable urban development strategies made a major impact in terms of capacity building across urban authorities, with dissemination of its findings taking place as part of the **European Commission's Urban Development Network**, a network that is made up of more than 500 cities [3.6]. The results of the study were presented to the European Commission officials and have formed part of the European Commission regulatory discussions. Its findings have supported measures to increase flexibility in governance arrangements and additional commitments of ring-fenced funding. Data from the study was used to populate strat-board, part of an online data tool for strategic lesson learning and contributed to the development of the Joint Research Centre's Handbook for Sustainable Urban Development [5.7]. This aims to facilitate the design and implementation of sustainable urban development strategies in the future.

### **Fisheries policy reform**

Sustained international engagement led to this research informing parliamentary publications across the UK (**Parliamentary Office for Science and Technology, 2018; National Assembly for Wales, 2018; House of Commons, 2019**). McAngus gave evidence to the Westminster Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee in December 2018 on the Draft Fisheries Bill and later in the year gave evidence to the External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee of the Welsh Assembly. UWS also features in House of Lords inquiries - for example Huggins gave evidence to the House of Lords European Union Committee on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020 in relation to access to UK fisheries post-Brexit. The ESRC study on the governance capacities of Brexit and fisheries has impacted, largely via the *UK in a Changing Europe* think tank, their work to inform society about the impact of Brexit on fisheries [3.2]. Considerable national and international media attention with a combined circulation of hundreds of millions across Europe and beyond (such as *Reuters, The Guardian, The Financial Times, The*

*New European, Sunday Post, The Conversation, The Press and Journal*) has had a direct impact on the wider reach of UWS scholars' work. The team were also interviewed for various BBC radio programmes and published numerous blog articles on the **UK in a Changing Europe** website [5.1]. UWS fisheries publications have been accessed on their website by 12,816 visitors, mainly from those across the European continent. Van der Zwet also presented the research findings at a Scottish Parliament seminar attended by 12 MSPs and approximately 25 parliamentary staff (researchers and clerks) on 16 May 2018. Following this parliamentary engagement, UWS researchers led several workshops with **Marine Scotland** – a key policy body for fisheries – and a research framework agreement with the Scottish Parliament to provide evidence-based advice to parliamentary researchers, civil servants and Government Ministers. The team's research into the impact of Brexit on fisheries led to widespread media coverage in 2018, in outlets such as the Daily Express (print readership: 1,613,000; circulation: 251,736) The Sunday Post (circulation: 476,000) and The Press and Journal (circulation: 41,700), amongst others [5.11].

### **Parliamentary reform**

Arnott's **Academic Fellowship with the UK Parliament (2016 to 2020)** informed the future fellowships schemes in the UK legislatures, in that, a focus on the skills and benefits academics bring to academic fellowships led to a more structured fellowship scheme being introduced in winter 2020 [3.1]. On the parliamentary side, there was a view that the fellowships offer a different perspective and potentially bring about change in behaviour [5.9]. In November 2018, parliamentary fellows on the Political Studies Association/House of Commons Fellowship Scheme (launched in November 2016) hosted a workshop in the House of Commons on 16 November 2018, together with Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST) staff. The workshop findings were used by the legislatures in the devolved UK as part of their respective Academic Fellowship Schemes [5.10]. Arnott's study of inter-parliamentary relations influenced senior policy makers following the publication of her Institute of Wales Affairs report launch event in September 2020. Senior parliamentarians and officials were in attendance, e.g., the Chair of the Commons Liaison Select Committee, the Chair of the Commons Scottish Affairs Committee and the Former Senior Clerk House of Commons [5.9]. Improved governance practices through sustained knowledge exchange, spanning European, UK and devolved levels are the key impacts of this diverse portfolio of ground-breaking research [5.10]. This is yet another example of the signature approach of UWS research, which is to build relationships with policy stakeholders in order to foster meaningful changes in policy and practice.

### **Public health and education reform**

The pioneering contribution of analysis methodology promoted by Connolly [3.A-3.C] underpinned Healthcare Improvement Scotland's (HIS) 2017 to 2020 Corporate Strategy through the inclusion of logic modelling as a corporate planning approach [3.C]. As a result, Connolly's work enabled HIS - an internationally leading health improvement agency - to demonstrate their organisational impacts on the improvement of care. Connolly's engagement with HIS also led to evaluation framework for the Death Certification Review Service. The major impact of this was that HIS improved accuracy of death certificates to provide better recording and public health information on the causes of death [5.2]. This has allowed the service to make robust statements about the impact of the service in each of its annual reports. Further examples relate to the work undertaken by the Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network who have used contribution analysis methods to determine the publication guidelines for the treatment of glaucoma and to raise awareness of evidence-based practice within optometry [5.2] and the creation of Intervention Framework for Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing with NHS Education for Scotland [3.A]. For Education Scotland, who in partnership with the Scottish Government, global partners and the British Council promote international learning, Connolly worked with the Improvement and Evaluation Team (10 highly-qualified team members) and the organisation's 12 Board of Directors to build capacity (via training in November 2015) on the theory and practice of outcomes-based approaches to evaluation [5.3]. The contribution analysis approach radically shifted the evaluation work and corporate approach for the Scottish Attainment Challenge (a major priority policy issue for the Scottish Government) [5.3]. Connolly's research with public services in the public health and education fields have led to him being appointed as expert advisor to the Scottish Parliament's Covid-19 Committee to scrutinise the pandemic response.

### **Policing reform**



Police reform and the **integration of the BTP into Police Scotland** was influenced by Atkinson's research, which reframed the policy debate [5.4-5.6]. This ground-breaking research study both directly informed and further contextualised media coverage of this issue. The research was cited in political debates in both the Scottish and UK parliaments on numerous occasions, as well as being referenced in a Commons debate pack, and raised in parliamentary questions. These debates had a direct bearing on policy change by the Scottish Government (the integration process has been paused and alternative arrangements put in place). A letter from the Scottish Conservative MSP for North East Scotland (2016 to 2020) to the Co-Convenor of the Scottish Green Party and MSP for Glasgow (2003 to 2020) directly quoted Atkinson's research [5.6], and parliamentary evidence by Atkinson's research collaborator (Murray) drew directly on the evidence base and data generated by the study. Other stakeholders, including the BTP Federation (BTPF) and Transport Salaried Staffs' Association (TSSA) responded to national and local media coverage – including in *The Times* (print readership: 4,041,000; circulation: 417,298), *The Daily Mail* (print readership: 2,200,000; circulation: 1,134,184), *The Herald* (circulation: 28,900), *The Scotsman* (print readership: 78,000; circulation: 14,417). Atkinson's research served to frame stakeholder policy positions. Atkinson was also interviewed by BBC Radio Scotland on the research findings and the policy impact of the project. This research was shortlisted for the Herald Higher Education Awards for Outstanding Research Project of the Year.

## 5. Sources to corroborate the impact

5.1 Testimonial from the Director of UK in a Changing Europe

5.2 Testimonial from the Deputy Director of Evidence, NHS Health Scotland

5.3 Testimonial from the Improvement and Evaluation Manager, Education Scotland

5.4 Testimonial from the British Transport Police Federation, December 2018

5.5 Testimonial from the British Transport Police Superintendents Association, January 2019

5.6 Testimonial from the Party leader of the Scottish Conservative Party (2020) and Conservative MP for Moray

5.7 Testimonial from the European Commission, Joint Research Centre, Territorial Development Unit

5.8 Testimonial from Senior Urban Development Specialist, World Bank

5.9 Testimonial from Chair of the Institute of Welsh Affairs

5.10 Testimonial from the Clerk of the House of Commons

5.11 Media Coverage:

- a) <https://www.express.co.uk/news/politics/967300/brexit-news-fishing-uk-fishing-communities-benefits-common-fisheries-policy-cfp>
- b) <https://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/news/fishing-communities-must-feel-the-economic-benefits-of-leaving-the-eu-1-9186459>
- c) <http://www.fis.com/fis/worldnews/worldnews.asp?monthyear=&day=31&id=97537&l=e&special=&ndb=1%20target=>
- d) <http://www.theneweuropean.co.uk/top-stories/fishing-communities-post-brexit-1-5539681>
- e) <https://www.sundaypost.com/fp/fishing-communities-must-receive-economic-benefits-post-brexit-says-report/>
- f) <https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/politics/1487690/icelandic-ambassador-no-quick-fisheries-fixes-and-threat-of-collapse/>
- g) <https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/highlands/1487688/quotas-still-needed-for-uk-fisheries-post-brexit-says-think-tank/>