



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

REF-2021

Steve Renals

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REF

The Research Excellence Framework

- Assesses the quality of our work in relation to
 - outputs (publications and other outputs)
 - REF-2014 - 4 outputs per submitted academic
 - societal and economic impact of our research
 - REF-2014 - 1 impact case study per 10 academics
 - research environment
- Scored as a profile over
 - 4* - world leading
 - 3* - internationally excellent
 - 2* - recognised internationally
 - 1* - recognised nationally
- Maximise F(score-distribution, number-people-submitted)



REF-2021

What do we know?

- **Open access policy**
 - to be eligible as REF outputs, publications must be deposited in an institutional or subject repository (= PURE)
- **Likely assessment period**
 - 1-Jan-2014 – 31-Dec-2020
- **Likely staff census date**
 - 30-Nov-2020
- **Outputs, impact, environment**



Stern Review, July 2016

Recommendations

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/research-excellence-framework-review>

1. **Keep peer review:** Panels should continue to assess on the basis of peer review, with some “judicious use of metrics”
2. **Return everyone:** “all academic staff who have any significant responsibility to undertake research” returned ~ “independent researchers”
3. **Outputs not linked to individuals:** Set an average number of outputs per person, with minimum and maximum number per person
4. **No portability:** Outputs should not be portable between institutions
5. **Institutional-level impact cases:** Showcase interdisciplinary, collaboration, university-wide impacts
6. **Fewer constraints on impact cases:** less prescriptive rules on how impact cases link to research
7. **Broader interpretation of impact:** including policy, public engagement and understanding, cultural life, academic impacts outside the field, teaching.
8. **Condensed environment statements**



REF Impact

- What is REF impact?
 - “An effect on, change or benefit to the economy, society, culture, public policy or services, health, the environment or quality of life, beyond academia.”
 - Assessed in the form of impact case studies – REF-2014 impact case studies at <http://impact.ref.ac.uk/CaseStudies/>
- REF-2014 impact case studies contained:
 - (1) summary of the impact, (2) underpinning research, (3) references to the research, (3) impact details, (4) corroborating sources.
- Informatics’ 2014 impact case studies:
 - (1) Actual Analytics, (2) Contemplate, (3) Text-to-speech synthesis applications, (4) Milepost GCC, (5) XML, (6) Speech Graphics, (7) EnCore and ArcSim, (8) Moses MT, (9) NLTK, (10) Tegola wireless broadband



Informatics Impact Plan

- Currently collecting data through interviews
- Identify an “impact champion” per institute
 - works closely with Ref Coordinator, School impact champion, DoR
 - identify possible impact cases, gaps in our current list, and will help to nudge potentially impactful research
 - from (sequences of) projects to impact
- Collect potential impact case studies
 - Single page max
 - single sentence that succinctly states the impact
 - paragraph that outlines the impact, including evidence
 - links to papers/people/projects



Summary

- Continue putting all outputs into PURE
- REF-2021 may
 - submit more staff than REF-2014
 - be more flexible about number of outputs / person
 - be less flexible about which inputs are acceptable
- Need to develop potential impact case studies
- Details should become clearer over the next year...