

Panel C REF2014 guidance on impact evidence

Examples of evidence or indicators for impact

- Citation in a public discussion, consultation document or judgement.
- Citation by journalists, broadcasters or social media.
- Citation by international bodies such as the United Nations, UNESCO, IMF and so on.
- Evidence of citation in policy, regulatory, strategy, practice or other documents.
- Evidence of debate among practitioners, leading to developments in attitudes or behaviours.
- Public debate in the media.
- Parliamentary or other democratic debate.
- Visitor or audience numbers, or number of participants (for example, in the uptake of CPD).
- Media reviews.
- Measures of improved inclusion, welfare or equality.
- Independent documentary evidence of links between research and claimed impact(s).
- Documented evidence of influence on guidelines, legislation, regulation, policy or standards.
- Documented change to professional standards or behaviour.
- Satisfaction measures (for example, with services).
- Use in scrutiny or audit processes, such as Select Committees.
- Incorporation in training or CPD material.
- Outcome measures, including measures of outcomes for beneficiaries.
- Quantitative data relating, for example, to cost effectiveness or organisational performance.

Case studies which include impacts that derive from engaging the public with research must:

- a. At least in part, be based on specific research or a body of research carried out in the submitted unit, and explain clearly which particular aspects of the research underpinned the engagement activity and contributed to the impact claimed.
- b. Include evidence of the reach of the impact. This should extend beyond simply providing the numbers of people engaged and may also, for example, include:
 - information about the types of audience
 - whether there was secondary reach, for example from follow-up activity or media coverage
 - other quantitative indicators such as evidence of sales, downloads of linked resources, and/or access to web content.
- c. Include evidence of the significance of the impact. This should include a description of the social, cultural or other significance of the research insights with which the public have engaged. Examples of the evidence that might be provided for this include:
 - evaluation data
 - critical external reviews of the engagement activity
 - evidence of third party involvement, for example how collaborators have modified their practices
 - user feedback or testimony

- evidence of sustainability through, for example, a sustained or ongoing engagement with a group, a significant increase in participation in events or programmes or use of resources.

HEFCE, Panel Criteria and working methods, 2012, pp. 71-72

http://www.ref.ac.uk/media/ref/content/pub/panelcriteriaandworkingmethods/01_12.pdf