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| **BENEFICIARIES**  Who or what has benefited / been affected / impacted on? | **IMPACT**  What has been the effect / change / benefit? | **REACH**  The spread / breadth of effect / change / benefit on the relevant constituencies | **SIGNIFICANCE**  The depth of the effect / change / benefit | **MEASURE / EVIDENCE THE BENEFIT**  How can you measure / evidence the effect / change / benefit? | **LINK TO UNDERPINNING RESEARCH / EVIDENCE**  How does the effect / change / benefit relate to your research? How can you prove this? What evidence do you have / can you collect? |

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**FROM REF2021** [**DRAFT GUIDANCE**](https://www.ref.ac.uk/media/1016/draft-guidance-on-submissions-ref-2018_1.pdf) **(DG)/** [**DRAFT PANEL CRITERIA AND WORKING METHODS**](https://www.ref.ac.uk/media/1013/consultation-on-the-draft-panel-criteria-and-working-methods-ref-2018_02.pdf) **(DPC)**

**IMPACT**

(DG, p83) For the purposes of the REF, impact is defined as an effect on, change or benefit to the economy, society, culture, public policy or services, health, the environment or quality of life, beyond academia.

Impact includes, but is not limited to, an effect on, change or benefit to:

• the activity, attitude, awareness, behaviour, capacity, opportunity, performance, policy, practice, process or understanding

• of an audience, beneficiary, community, constituency, organisation or individuals

• in any geographic location whether locally, regionally, nationally or internationally.

Impact **includes** the reduction or prevention of harm, risk, cost or other negative effects.

Range of impacts (DPC, p63-65), examples of impacts and indicators (DPC, p94-110)

**BENEFICIARIES**

(DG, p115) Community, constituency, or organisation

**REACH / SIGNIFICANCE**

(DPC, p62) The sub-panels will assess the ‘reach and significance’ of impacts on the economy, society and/or culture that were underpinned by excellent research conducted in the submitted unit […]

**Reach** will be understood as the extent and/or diversity of the beneficiaries of the impact, as relevant to the nature of the impact.

**Significance** will be understood as the degree to which the impact has enabled, enriched, influenced, informed or changed the performance, policies, practices, products, services, understanding, awareness or well-being of the beneficiaries.

The sub-panels will make an overall judgement about the reach and significance of impacts, rather than assessing each criterion separately. While case studies need to demonstrate both reach and significance, the balance between them may vary at all quality levels. The sub-panels will exercise their judgement without privileging or disadvantaging either reach or significance. Reach will be assessed in terms of the extent to which the potential constituencies, number or groups of beneficiaries have been affected; it will not be assessed in geographic terms, nor in terms of absolute numbers of beneficiaries. The criteria will be applied wherever the impact has been felt, regardless of geography or location, and whether in the UK or abroad.

[…] No account will be taken of anticipated or future potential impact, nor of impact that occurred outside the assessment period.

**EVIDENCE of impact / link to underpinning research**

Description of underpinning research (DG, p88-91, DPC, pp67-69)

List of output types (and indicators) (DG, p121-131)

Corroborating evidence (DG, pp115-116, DPC, pp65-67)