**REF Impact Case Study (ICS)**

**Structure and content guidance and template**

This exercise will help ICS authors to check that they have thought about all possible areas of impact to use in their case studies, and help develop a structure for the Details of the Impact (B4 section) of the REF2021 ICS template.

*Look at the example of impacts and indicators here:* [*Panel Criteria, Annex A, Table 1*](https://blogs.shu.ac.uk/researchimpact/files/2019/11/Examples-of-impacts-and-indicators-Annex-A-Panel-Criteria-REF2021.pdf)

*Fill in the template below.*

*(A worked example can be found on p3-4).*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Think of the impact that has definitely happened (or will definitely happen by July 2020).**  **List it here.** | | |
| **Impact 1** |  | |
| **Impact 2** |  | |
| **Impact 3** |  | |
| (etc.) |  | |
| *For each of the above, briefly list:*  *- the area(s) of impact (see list below\*)*  *- the type(s) of impact (see* [*Panel Criteria, Annex A, Table 1*](https://blogs.shu.ac.uk/researchimpact/files/2019/11/Examples-of-impacts-and-indicators-Annex-A-Panel-Criteria-REF2021.pdf)*)*  *- the beneficiaries*  *- reference the research which links to this impact*  *- how the beneficiaries found out about your research (pathway to impact)*  *- what changed? (what was the impact)*  *- what is the reach (spread) and the significance (depth) of the impact?*  *- what evidence do you have / would you need to prove the link between the research and the impact, and/or the reach/significance of the impact?*  \*Impact areas defined by Research England  a. Impacts on the health and wellbeing of people, and animal welfare  b. Impacts on creativity, culture and society  c. Impacts on social welfare  d. Impacts on commerce and the economy  e. Impacts on public policy, law and services  f. Impacts on practitioners and delivery of professional services, enhanced performance or ethical practice  g. Impacts on production  h. Impacts on the environment  i. Impacts on understanding, learning and participation  *Taken from* [*Panel Criteria, Annex A, Table 1*](https://blogs.shu.ac.uk/researchimpact/files/2019/11/Examples-of-impacts-and-indicators-Annex-A-Panel-Criteria-REF2021.pdf) | | |
| **Impact 1** |  | |
| ***Area:*** |  |
| ***Type:*** |  |
| ***Beneficiaries:*** |  |
| ***Research:*** |  |
| ***Pathway:*** |  |
| ***Change:*** |  |
| ***Reach:*** |  |
| ***Significance:*** |  |
| ***Evidence:*** |  |
| **Impact 2** |  | |
|  | ***Area:*** |  |
| ***Type:*** |  |
| ***Beneficiaries:*** |  |
| ***Research:*** |  |
| ***Pathway:*** |  |
| ***Change:*** |  |
| ***Reach:*** |  |
| ***Significance:*** |  |
| ***Evidence:*** |  |
| **Impact 3** |  | |
|  | ***Area:*** |  |
| ***Type:*** |  |
| ***Beneficiaries:*** |  |
| ***Research:*** |  |
| ***Pathway:*** |  |
| ***Change:*** |  |
| ***Reach:*** |  |
| ***Significance:*** |  |
| ***Evidence:*** |  |

**Worked example**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Think of the impact that has definitely happened (or will definitely happen by July 2020).**  **List it here.** | | |
| **Impact 1** | *e.g. The [government department] has changed [the policy] based on SHU research.* | |
| **Impact 2** | *e.g. The [service providers] have [improved their service] as a result of the [policy change].* | |
| **Impact 3** | *e.g. The [service users] have [improved their social welfare] as a result of the [policy change].* | |
| (etc.) |  | |
| *For each of the above, briefly list:*  *- the area(s) of impact (see list below\*)*  *- the type(s) of impact (see* [*Panel Criteria, Annex A, Table 1*](https://blogs.shu.ac.uk/researchimpact/files/2019/11/Examples-of-impacts-and-indicators-Annex-A-Panel-Criteria-REF2021.pdf)*)*  *- the beneficiaries*  *- reference the research which links to this impact*  *- how the beneficiaries found out about your research (pathway to impact)*  *- what changed? (what was the impact)*  *- what is the reach (spread) and the significance (depth) of the impact?*  *- what evidence do you have / would you need to prove the link between the research and the impact, and/or the reach/significance of the impact?*  \*Impact areas defined by Research England  a. Impacts on the health and wellbeing of people, and animal welfare  b. Impacts on creativity, culture and society  c. Impacts on social welfare  d. Impacts on commerce and the economy  e. Impacts on public policy, law and services  f. Impacts on practitioners and delivery of professional services, enhanced performance or ethical practice  g. Impacts on production  h. Impacts on the environment  i. Impacts on understanding, learning and participation  *Taken from* [*Panel Criteria, Annex A, Table 1*](https://blogs.shu.ac.uk/researchimpact/files/2019/11/Examples-of-impacts-and-indicators-Annex-A-Panel-Criteria-REF2021.pdf) | | |
| **Impact 1** | *The [government department] has changed [the policy] based on SHU research.* | |
| ***Area:*** | *Impact on public policy, law and services* |
| ***Type:*** | *Changes to policy have been informed by research* |
| ***Beneficiaries:*** | *Government department* |
| ***Research:*** | *Dunn et al (2009)* |
| ***Pathway:*** | *Working with a lobbying group* |
| ***Change:*** | *(Be specific) The policy has been revised to include…* |
| ***Reach:*** | *e.g. National (policy affecting England and Wales)* |
| ***Significance:*** | *e.g. This is binding on all [service providers] in England and Wales. (Significance will also be demonstrated by significance of impact on downstream beneficiaries, i.e. the service providers and the end users).* |
| ***Evidence:*** | *Policy document referencing SHU research; testimony from the [government department] to corroborate that this change was as a result of SHU research.* |
| **Impact 2** | *The [service providers] have [improved their service] as a result of the [policy change].* | |
|  | ***Area:*** | *Impacts on commerce and the economy* |
| ***Type:*** | *Changes to policy have led to reduction in £££ spent.* |
| ***Beneficiaries:*** | *Service providers* |
| ***Research:*** | *Change in policy (not necessary to include this here because this is 'downstream' impact, i.e. the pathway is demonstrated by impact 1)* |
| ***Pathway:*** | *Dunn et al (2009) - (again, not necessary to include this here because this is 'downstream' impact, i.e. the research has already been linked in impact 1)* |
| ***Change:*** | *(Be specific) Due to the change in policy, money has been saved which can now be spent on additional jobs to increase capacity.* |
| ***Reach:*** | *How many organisations will this affect? All of the approx 200 service providers in England and Wales.* |
| ***Significance:*** | *Estimated £ saving of £1.2K saving per organisation, therefore approx. £24m saving for service providers in England and Wales. This has led to the recruitment of 200 additional advisers.* |
| ***Evidence:*** | *Report from the government department to corroborate £ savings, jobs created and number of service providers this will affect. Testimony from a service provider which has benefited from this change.* |
| **Impact 3** | *The [service users] have [improved their social welfare] as a result of the [improved service].* | |
|  | ***Area:*** | *Impacts on social welfare* |
| ***Type:*** | *Changes to social policy have led to improved social welfare, equality or social inclusion* |
| ***Beneficiaries:*** | *Service users* |
| ***Research:*** | *Dunn et al (2009) - (again, not necessary to include this here because this is 'downstream' impact, i.e. the research has already been linked in impact 1)* |
| ***Pathway:*** | *Change in regulation (not necessary to include this here because this is 'downstream' impact, i.e. the pathway is demonstrated by impacts 1 & 2)* |
| ***Change:*** | *(Be specific) Due to the increased number of advisers, the number of appointments has increased and 5,000 services users have engaged with the service as a result.* |
| ***Reach:*** | *An additional 5,000 service users have been supported in England and Wales, increasing the reach from 50% of the target population to 76%.* |
| ***Significance:*** | *The social welfare of these 5,000 services users has improved from a baseline of X to Y.* |
| ***Evidence:*** | *Measure of improved social welfare (questionnaire-based). Testimony from a service user.* |