

Demonstrating Research Impact: Insights from the UK's Research Excellence Framework

Evaluating impact case studies

Professor Naren Barfield

Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost, Royal College of Art

naren.barfield@rca.ac.uk

Evaluating impact case studies

- Experience in evaluating REF impact case studies as a panel member in REF2014
- Perspective as a Research England Council member during the current cycle
- Impact evaluation introduced in REF2014, replacing esteem
- Initial apprehension about impact
- Relationship of impact to underpinning research

Evaluating impact case studies

- Concerns diminished over time and as opportunities and benefits identified
- Panel members involved in criteria development and ‘practising’ impact evaluation
- Impact assessors from industry and public sector added to panel
- Broad and inclusive impact evaluation criteria inspired confidence in system
- Quality of underpinning research; individual v collaborative case studies
- Impact built into research design
- Acceptance, adoption and use of results

Evaluating impact case studies

- Impact evaluation - has it worked?
- Public benefit?
- University behaviours, planning for impact
- Covid-19 pandemic: impact on evaluation of impact
- Research England support and mitigations
- Purpose, benefit, longer term

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