



UNIVERSITY OF

LIVERPOOL



Institutional perspectives on the strategic value of the REF and impact case studies

Professor Anthony Hollander

**Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research & Impact,
University of Liverpool**

REF Strategic Imperatives

- Beyond the basic allocation of QR Funding
- Showcasing our work to a wider audience
- Identifying areas of strength and nurturing emerging excellence
- Raising the bar for research and impact



UNIVERSITY OF
LIVERPOOL

Liverpool research ranked in UK top 10



The University of Liverpool's research power has been ranked 20th in the UK's **Research Excellence Framework** (REF), with seven subjects in the top 10.

Catalyst for Change

- Driving the research agenda and ensuring advancement of fairness and openness in research
- Demonstrating the value of our research – could do more
- Broadening individual and team horizons – mutual benefits

REF 2021 UoL Approach

- Focussed support, systems and training
- An Impact Task Force – high level interest at early stage
- 103 Impact Case studies submitted
- Bespoke approaches
- True collaborative working - PS and Academics
 - e.g. Panel reviews – shared voices / shared input / shared responsibility

Engaging with the REF process

- Strategic gains – a focus on our strengths both internally and externally
- Robust internal processes and systems
- Unified approach
- Embracing change

Impact success

- REF process – confirmation and celebration
- Has confirmed known and revealed lesser-known projects with significant impact
- Impact on local and global scale
 - Advances in medicine – rotavirus, Japanese Encephalitis
 - Influencing policy and practice - children's rights, health inequalities, heritage and preservation
 - Developing new processes and materials – products, business leadership, manufacturing



UNIVERSITY OF
LIVERPOOL



Chemistry Impact Case Study: High Throughput Polymer Discovery through the Centre for Materials Discovery

- Increased productivity & sales
- New collaborative strategies being adopted globally
- A result of Liverpool Chemistry–Unilever collaboration
- Collaboration strengthened through Materials Innovation Factory (pictured).

Materials

REF Outcomes

Allow application of strategic weight – Research Themes

REF cycle reflects our focus and strategic intent

Internal and external showcasing

Provides a framework for resource and future activity

The Next Steps

- Beyond REF – wider application of case study approach
- Research communication and engagement
- Finding the right models of support for researchers
- Maintaining momentum – bringing REF efforts to bear
- Enhancing wider research culture - RISE

