

Imagined REF Testimonial Sample Content: Social Welfare Impact

NB: drawing on sectoral **'good practice'** norms, this document provides imagined REF testimonial sample content in **social welfare impact**...

What is a REF testimonial?

- REF 2021 defined testimonial evidence as **factual statements** (from **external sources**) that **corroborate the specific impact claims** made within a given case study
- However, it was also acknowledged that 'there may be occasions where **opinion-based** testimonials are appropriate', such as where the impact is on public understanding
- Testimonials may be **provided by key users** of the research/**beneficiaries** of the impact

Testimonial (corroborating statement) layout checklist:

- Provided by **external source** on **headed paper** with **signature** (or as email)
- Specifies provider's role and **contact details**
- **Dated**

Testimonial (corroborating statement) content checklist:

- Names the **researcher**
- Describes the **research contribution** (e.g. cites research outputs)
- Explains the **context of engagement** with the research (e.g. expert advice), and how the research was used
- Outlines the **nature/extent** ('significance'/'reach') of the **change effected** by the research, detailing/quantifying **beneficiaries/benefits**
- **Dates** the impact
- References any **evaluation of the impact**

Testimonial (corroborating statement) sample content:

- **Imagined context:** *factual statement from **CEO of Northern Ireland NGO** outlining how **Ulster research informed** civil society **campaigning** to effect regional anti-poverty **regulatory change**...*

*'This statement describes how, between 2022 and 2023, Professor Smith's research (**research outputs** cited) on X **directly informed and shaped** anti-poverty civil society campaigning in Northern Ireland to address regulatory anomalies in X across the region ...*

*In 2022, as CEO of X, I chaired an anti-poverty NGO consortium working group, the terms of reference of which entailed developing and coordinating a regional campaign strategy seeking the aforementioned regulatory change. In formulating the strategy, the group **drew heavily on research evidence** provided by Professor Smith's publications on X (research **outputs cited**) as well as her **expert advice**, particularly her **insights** and recommendations on X. This research contribution **fundamentally influenced** the wider programming of the campaign's core communication platforms, **informing** key messaging, literature and interfacing. **Drawing on** Ulster research ultimately **enabled** the group to develop more nuanced, compelling and effective communications, which was **integral** to the campaign's success...*

*The regulatory **change** to X **effected** by the campaign has **resulted in more inclusive regional** programming and delivery, with the introduction by the Department of X in 2023 of **revised** service protocols to address the identified anomalies. **X number** of previously excluded low-income households **across Northern Ireland** have since **benefited** from*

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*this extended provision, representing an **X per cent increase** in realised targeted delivery and service access'...*