



## REF 2021 Impact Data Privacy Notice

**Data Controller:** Ulster University

**Data Protection Officer:** Mr Eamon Mullan, University Secretary, Room J312, Coleraine BT52 1SA, email: [e.mullan@ulster.ac.uk](mailto:e.mullan@ulster.ac.uk).

This Privacy Notice explains how Ulster University will handle information provided by any third party as part of the University's submission to REF 2021. This applies to all information relating to Impact Case Studies.

The University will use information that you provide to develop Impact Case Studies in preparation for REF 2021. As part of these preparations the information may be made available to external parties who will undertake peer-review in advance of final submission to REF 2021. Once submitted to REF 2021, your personal data provided will be subject to the Privacy Notice and associated GDPR policies issued by UKRI; see page 2 of this document.

Where an Impact Case Study includes data of a commercially sensitive nature or requires security clearance we may mark it as 'not for publication' or provide a redacted version to Research England. Parts of submissions that contain factual data and textual information about research activity will be published by UKRI on public webpages. Published information is likely to include textual information in which you may be referenced. Your name and job title may be included in this textual information. Other personal details will normally be removed. Corroborating sources such as testimonials, contact details and other pieces of evidence you may have provided will on occasion be made available to a panel of assessors for the purpose of audit to corroborate claims of impact made in the case studies; corroborating sources will not be published in the public domain. However, we may include quotes from corroborating sources in the Impact Case Studies that will be published in the public domain.

Your data will be handled in accordance with the University's general data protection policies available here: <https://www.ulster.ac.uk/about/governance/compliance/gdpr>.

More information about REF2021 can be found here: [www.ref.ac.uk](http://www.ref.ac.uk).

Ulster is registered as a 'data controller' with the UK Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). The ICO is the independent supervisory authority set up to promote and oversee compliance with GDPR legislation. If you are not satisfied with how Ulster is processing your personal data, you can make a complaint to the ICO. Further information about your rights under the GDPR legislation are available on the ICO's website at: [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk).

If you have any queries about this Privacy Notice please contact the University's Data Protection Co-ordinator, Mr Eamon Mullan, c/o Ulster University, Room J313, Coleraine, BT52 1SA, on tel no. 028 7012 4533 and by email at: [gdpr@ulster.ac.uk](mailto:gdpr@ulster.ac.uk).

## **REF Data Collection Statement from UKRI**

### **About the REF**

The purpose of the Research Excellence Framework 2021 (REF2021) is to assess the quality of UK research and to inform the selective distribution of public funds for research by the four UK higher education funding bodies. The REF outcomes are used to calculate about £2 billion per year of public funding for universities' research, and affect their international reputations. The results also inform strategic decisions about national research priorities. The next REF will be undertaken in 2021.

The REF was first carried out in 2014, replacing the previous Research Assessment Exercise. It included for the first time an assessment of the broader impact of universities' research beyond academia: on the economy, society, culture, public policy and services, health, the environment and quality of life – within the UK and internationally.

Impact is assessed through the submission of case studies, which describe the changes or benefits brought about by research undertaken by researchers at the institution. Impressive impacts were found across all disciplines, with 44 per cent of submissions judged to be outstanding. A database of case studies submitted in 2014 can be found here: <https://impact.ref.ac.uk/casestudies/>.

### **Data collection**

The REF is managed by the REF team, based at Research England (RE), on behalf of the four UK higher education funding bodies. RE is part of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), and under this arrangement UKRI has the role of 'data controller' for personal data submitted by us to the REF.

You may have provided information for one or more impact case studies or environment statements as part of our submission to the REF 2021. In 2020 we will send information about impact case studies and environment statements to UKRI for the purpose of the REF2021. The information will not be in coded form and your name - and details such as your job title and organisational affiliation - may be provided in these narrative statements. We refer to this information about you as 'your data'.

You can find further information about what data are being collected on the REF website, at [www.ref.ac.uk](http://www.ref.ac.uk) in particular publication 2019/01, 'Guidance on submissions'. Annex G of that document sets out the data that we will be required to share with UKRI.

### **Sharing information about you**

UKRI may pass your data, or parts of it, to any of the following organisations that need it to inform the selective distribution of public funds for research and to carry out their statutory functions connected with funding higher education:

- Department for the Economy, Northern Ireland (DfE)
- Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW)
- Scottish Funding Council (SFC).

UKRI and the organisations listed above will use the information to analyse and monitor the REF2021. This may result in information being released to other users including academic researchers or consultants (commissioned by the funding bodies), to carry out research or analysis, in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (Regulation (EU) 2016/679). Where information not previously published is released to third parties, this will be anonymised where practicable.

UKRI will require that anyone who has access to your data, held in UKRI's records, paper or electronic, will respect its confidentiality and will only process it in accordance with instructions issued for the purposes specified by UKRI.

Parts of your data will be passed to the REF expert panels and the Equality and Diversity Advisory Panel (whose members are independent of UKRI) for the purpose of conducting a systematic evaluation of submissions, in accordance with predetermined criteria and methods. All panel members are bound by confidentiality arrangements.

### **Publishing information about your part in our submission**

The results of the assessment exercise will be published by UKRI, on behalf of the four UK higher education funding bodies, in December 2021.

Those parts of submissions that contain factual data and textual information about research activity will also be published by UKRI, on behalf of the four UK higher education funding bodies, and will be made available online. Published information is likely to include **textual information including impact case studies in which you may be referenced**. Your name and job title may be included in this textual information. Other personal details will normally be removed.

### **Accessing your personal data**

Under the Data Protection Act 2018 and the GDPR, you have the right to see and receive a copy of any personal information that UKRI holds about you. Further information about the Act and GRPR, and guidance on making a subject access request, can be found on the RE web-site at <https://re.ukri.org/about-us/policies-standards/foi-data-protection/>.

If you have any concerns about your information being used for these purposes, please contact: Data Protection Officer, UK Research and Innovation, Polaris House, Swindon, SN2 1FL.

Email: [dataprotection@ukri.org](mailto:dataprotection@ukri.org)