Impact Summary & Pathways to Impact Statement Guidance/Checklist

Research impact is the demonstrable contribution that excellent research makes to society and the economy ie communities beyond academia. Potential impacts must be specific to your research and represent an evidenced, measurable effect, change or benefit to:

- activities, attitudes, awareness, behaviour, capacity, opportunity, performance, policy, practice, process or understanding.
- an audience, beneficiary, community, constituency, organisation or individuals out with the institution.
- in any geographic location whether locally, regionally, nationally or internationally.

Impact grows out of your research, by your engagement with communities of research users, from specialist groups to companies or the general public.

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<th>Summarise the overall aims of your research in the context of potential economic or societal impacts.</th>
<th>Key considerations</th>
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<td>• Generating impact from your research is an organic step-wise process; accordingly understanding the potential of your research in this context is important.</td>
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<td>• Rather than being able to offer the complete solution to a ‘wider problem’ (e.g. ‘curing cancer’; ‘ending poverty’ etc.) your research is more likely to have an impact on certain elements/aspects ie enhancing quality of life/health and well-being; helping to shape policy or practice; new discoveries/inventions for onward development; contributing to economic development; helping to build capacity through skills development etc.</td>
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<th>What is the unmet need/gap to be addressed?</th>
<th>Summarise the unmet need/gap that you think your research findings/activities might help to influence, change or address to support impact development. Fields where your research could help to influence/improve/address challenges or unmet needs such as:</th>
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<td>• improving current and creating new policies/standards/codes of practice for user groups; practitioners; policy makers.</td>
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<td>• novel R&amp;D solutions addressing health/disease (animal/human) challenges eg therapeutics; diagnostics; tools/technologies/processes/products.</td>
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<td>• novel R&amp;D solutions addressing non-health related industry challenges eg new products; tools; technologies; processes for agriculture/fisheries.</td>
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<td>• inform/direct efficiencies/practice in social welfare; public services; quality of life; environmental; national security; cultural enrichment challenges.</td>
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| Beneficiaries, stakeholders and end-users (outwith academia). | List anyone you think will be interested in/affected by/involved in delivering or experiencing the change/s that may happen as a result of your research findings. Consider beneficiaries/stakeholders both national and international. Examples could include:  
- clinicians; healthcare organisations/workers; patients.  
- patient groups; patient/carer groups; social welfare groups; NGOs.  
- government policy-makers/regulatory bodies eg MHRA/EMEA/Veterinary Medicines Directorate.  
- industry sectors eg pharma (human/veterinary); biotech; intermediary organisations/CROs; manufacturers/service providers.  
- investors in economic growth eg IP Group; investment funds; Scottish Enterprise. |

| Why will these beneficiaries, stakeholders and end-users be interested in/affected by your activities? | How will each beneficiary, stakeholder or end-user be influenced or affected by your research. When in the life cycle of the project’s development (ie near, mid- and longer-term) will key beneficiaries/stakeholders/end-users realise/start to realise the impact. Often impacts will occur after the end of the research development programme where enabling parties are necessary to help realise your impacts; your enabling parties may also be your beneficiaries, stakeholders and/or end-users.  
- **Biomedical/life sciences/biotech research developments** (key enablers: clinicians; industry; regulatory bodies)  
  - equip clinicians with more effective/efficient therapeutics and diagnostics. *(mid/longer-term impact)*  
  - enhance patient life expectancy and quality of life. *(longer-term impact)*  
  - generate cost-saving benefits to healthcare providers. *(longer-term impact)*  
  - influence regulatory bodies to approve new therapies/direct new codes of practice/develop existing practices/cost and efficiency savings reviews. *(longer term impact)*  
  - industry manufacturers/service providers gain access to innovative research/products/tools/technologies to improve product portfolio enhancing global competitiveness/economic growth. *(mid/longer-term impact)*  
  - investors the opportunity to invest in novel technologies/new spinout company opportunities supporting inward investment; economic growth and job creation.  
- **Policy/public services research development** (key enablers: policy-makers; NGOs; patient/care groups)  
  - offers a new understanding/evidence/models to improve or develop new policies; practices; systems which address inefficiencies in disease/health management; social welfare; public services; national security etc. *(near/mid/longer-term impact)*  
  - local; national; global reach/impact to other populations/jurisdictions. *(near/mid/longer-term impact)*  
  - build capacity/skills. *(near/mid/longer-term impact)*  
  - generate cost-savings through efficiency gains. *(near/mid/longer-term impact)* |
**Beneficiary; stakeholder and end-user engagement plans.**

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<th>How will you engage/communicate with these beneficiaries or user communities and at what time point will you do so?</th>
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<td>Consider the most effective ways to reach each user groups/beneficiaries and at what time point will you pursue each intervention. Whatever channel is chosen consider incorporating mechanisms for people to engage ie offer views/opinions/ask questions/provide additional information to help evidence your progress towards impact. Types of knowledge exchange/outreach strategies/interventions could include:</td>
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- **Targeted promotion/marketing of research to industry/end-users:**
  - how will you do this eg 1-1 meetings (inward/outward visits); development of marketing materials/website/social media?
  - how many companies will be targeted and in what sectors? (Note: your research development may be applicable to several types of end-user or market sectors eg both pharma and/or biotech)? How many meetings/visits are planned?
  - at what point in the development process will you pursue this strategy and with each types of stakeholder.
  - why are you adopting this strategy ie to secure funding to further exploit/develop the research programme via a: a) collaboration agreement; b) licence; c) spinout investment; or d) combination of these? Expand on why a collaboration or licence agreement or spinout strategy is the most appropriate for each type of end-user.

- **Project Management:** it is useful to consider having an end-user/beneficiary stakeholder representative on your Project Management/Steering Committee to guide the research development and optimise research translation to application/practice/impact.

- **Networks of contacts (existing and new):**
  - how will you access existing/new networks?
  - state the type of network/group (eg policy makers/civil servants advisory boards/panels; industry-government networks; professional bodies; patient groups etc).
  - why are these groups of importance/value?
  - what is your strategy with each group eg seminars/presentations/workshops/meeting including the frequency of these and expected outcomes?

- **Publications:**
  - what journals will target and why?
  - what is their reach and significance in terms of your end-users/beneficiaries?

- **Events/public engagement:**
  - list conferences/seminars.
  - what audiences are you targeting and why?
Evidencing Impact or progress towards impact

Record all milestones and the strategies/interventions you have pursued which have enabled you to reach each milestone/goal even if the intended impact has not been fully achieved by the end of the grant funding. The journey is important; your outcomes here will also inform/guide your strategies going forward to realise impact. Types of evidence that should be considered from an early-stage include:

- **Economic impact**
  - number and type of collaborative exchanges with industry eg Collaboration Agreement with funding to support further research development; Licence Agreements generating revenue; Spinout attracting investment.
  - value of income/revenue/investment generated.
  - number of patent applications filed.
  - number of products sold and revenue generated.
  - number of new jobs created.

- **Societal**
  - has policy or practice changed? If so to what degree has this changed eg new or advances to existing policy/practice.
  - how has this change been measured eg feedback surveys (informal/formal); update/change to current government/regulatory policy or code of practice.
  - what has been the uptake/impact of this policy change eg has there been a formal government review to evaluate this or has there been a stakeholders/beneficiaries opinion poll/survey (formal/informal)?
  - have there been a formal economic evaluation to establish efficiency or cost savings made; how have these been measured eg government/regulatory body formal review/economic evaluation of cost savings.
  - has there been an impact on health? If so in what way eg has it reduced stroke/smoking by x%?

- **Metrics/analytics**
  To fully evidence the impact of your research is challenging due to the time to secure results. For example government/regulatory bodies, NHS, professional organisations or charities often prepare reports to support the evaluation of new interventions/policies/treatment paradigms eg adoption/uptake and usage of new products, public health initiatives as well as economic reviews. Engaging with these groups at an early stage to raise awareness of your activities, influence or facilitate informal/formal surveys could offer avenues to help evidence your impact nearer and longer-term. Systematic reviews also offer a source of baseline information from which to measure your progress.