Information on Research Impact Evidence Collection

Thank you for providing impact evidence to support the University of York.

We need to collect and retain evidence of research impact, both for our own internal reporting and in relation to the University’s submission to the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2021 https://www.ref.ac.uk/.

The purpose of REF is to assess the quality of research in UK higher education institutions and it is conducted by Research England (RE), which is part of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI). Impact case studies (ICSs) submitted to REF 2021 require corroborating evidence of the impact(s) being claimed.

Publication of REF impact case studies

Please note that the results of REF 2021, will be published by UKRI on a publicly available website including the impact case studies.

There are however a few exceptions in certain cases (e.g. commercial sensitivity or security) where an impact case study will be marked “not for publication” or some information will be redacted. If the evidence you are providing requires either redaction or withholding from publication, please notify either the case study author or Linda Ko Ferrigno, University Impact Manager, at linda.koferrigno@york.ac.uk.

What will happen with the impact evidence that I provide?

If you are providing, e.g. a letter as impact evidence, the textual information from the letter is likely to be referenced in the body of the REF case study itself as a listing which may include your name, job title and organisation and may also include a short direct quote. Other personal details will be removed. If you would prefer that your name, organisation or job title is not disclosed in the published case study then please let us know and an anonymised attribution may be used (e.g., “a senior manager”). Importantly, this limited textual information in the case study will be published in the public domain with the full results of REF 2021. However, the full text of the letter itself will not be publicly available and will be submitted to Research England through a secure system. The impact evidence itself will only be accessed by those conducting REF 2021 and panel members involved in the assessment of submissions—all of whom are bound by confidentiality arrangements—and only for audit purposes.

If you have agreed to be an individual who can be contacted by assessors and panel members to corroborate the impacts cited in the REF case study, your contact details will be submitted to Research England through a secure system and will not be publicly available.

For further information

For information on how the University of York keeps your data secure, see our privacy notice on impact evidence collection here.

For information on how Research England and UKRI keep your data secure, see here.