

The impact agenda in the UK

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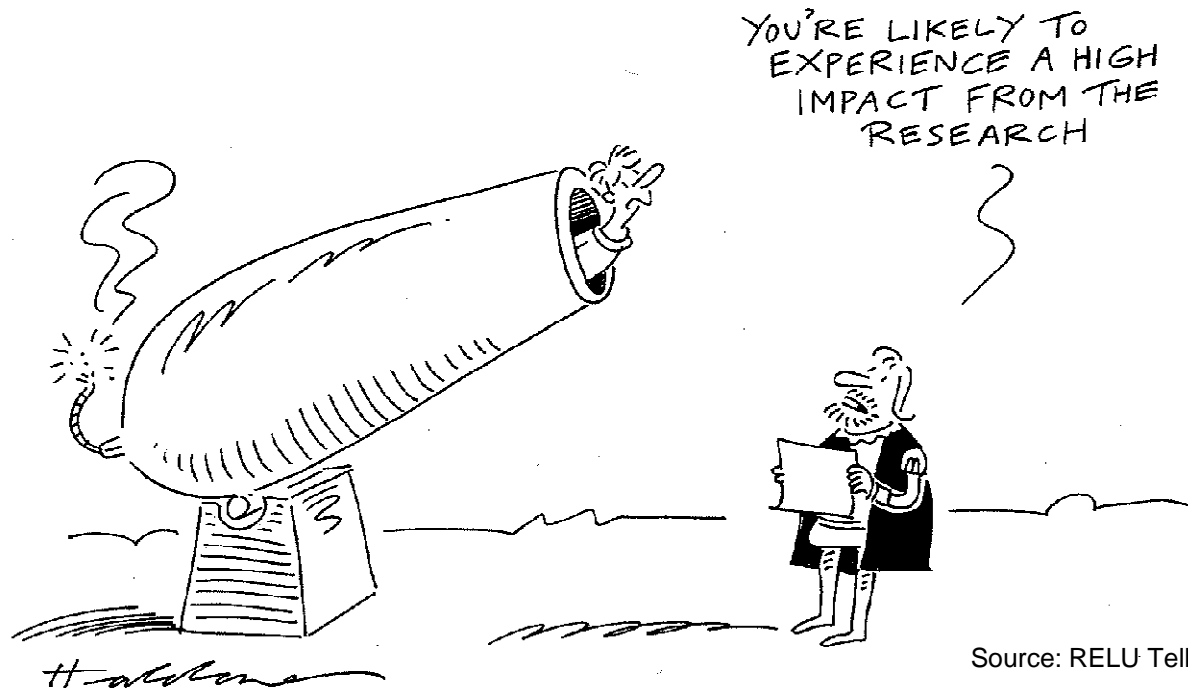
UKCDS

- Membership – 7 UK Government Departments, 5 research councils and the Wellcome Trust
- Aims – coordination and collaboration
- Structure - Board, officials, secretariat



Research funding

- Usually focussed on scientific excellence
- 'Impact' (social & economic) rising up the agenda in importance



Source: RELU Telling stories

What this could mean for you

- **UK research institutions**
 - Greater focus on research into use
 - Identifying and promoting impacts
- **International research institutions**
 - Applying for UK research funding
 - Collaborating with UK institutions
 - Could be a wider trend

Example (1): Research Excellence Framework

Impact likely to be a component of revised system for assessing university research and distributing core funding

- Impact pilot process in some subjects:
 - impact statement
 - case studies
- Ongoing discussion over weighting – up to 25% (alongside outputs and research environments)

Example 2: Research Councils

- Impact statements in all applications
- Diversified and increased funding for 'knowledge exchange'
- Developing an improved system for capturing impacts
- Attempts to quantify impacts: 'Medical research, what's it worth?'

Example 3: Department for International Development

- Committed to evaluate research in most recent research strategy
- Developed a set of high level indicators that have become part of the formal reporting requirement
- 30% of the research budget allocated to getting research communicated & into use

Debate

- Backlash from many academics; debate on purpose of academia
- Difficulty in definition, measurement and attribution of impact
- Questions over the role of funding agencies and researchers in achieving and demonstrating 'impact'

More than just buzz words?

- Impact
 - User engagement
 - Relevance
- Balance to be struck



Source: RELU: Telling stories



www.ukcds.org.uk

- Info on funding for development sciences
- News; events; publications; consultations
- Book: Science & innovation for development
- Work of secretariat & members

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