The Research Excellence Framework

- Assesses the quality of our work in relation to
  - outputs (publications and other outputs)
    - REF-2014 - 4 outputs per submitted academic
  - societal and economic impact of our research
    - REF-2014 - 1 impact case study per 10 academics
  - research environment

- Scored as a profile over
  - 4* - world leading
  - 3* - internationally excellent
  - 2* - recognised internationally
  - 1* - recognised nationally

- Maximise F(score-distribution, number-people-submitted)
REF-2021

What do we know?

- Open access policy
  - to be eligible as REF outputs, publications must be deposited in an institutional or subject repository (= PURE)

- Likely assessment period
  - 1-Jan-2014 – 31-Dec-2020

- Likely staff census date
  - 30-Nov-2020

- Outputs, impact, environment
1. **Keep peer review**: Panels should continue to assess on the basis of peer review, with some “judicious use of metrics”

2. **Return everyone**: “all academic staff who have any significant responsibility to undertake research” returned ~ “independent researchers”

3. **Outputs not linked to individuals**: Set an average number of outputs per person, with minimum and maximum number per person

4. **No portability**: Outputs should not be portable between institutions

5. **Institutional-level impact cases**: Showcase interdisciplinary, collaboration, university-wide impacts

6. **Fewer constraints on impact cases**: less prescriptive rules on how impact cases link to research

7. **Broader interpretation of impact**: including policy, public engagement and understanding, cultural life, academic impacts outside the field, teaching.

8. **Condensed environment statements**
• What is REF impact?
  
  “An effect on, change or benefit to the economy, society, culture, public policy or services, health, the environment or quality of life, beyond academia.”

  Assessed in the form of impact case studies – REF-2014 impact case studies at http://impact.ref.ac.uk/CaseStudies/

• REF-2014 impact case studies contained:
  (1) summary of the impact, (2) underpinning research, (3) references to the research, (3) impact details, (4) corroborating sources.

• Informatics’ 2014 impact case studies:
Informatics Impact Plan

• Currently collecting data through interviews

• Identify an “impact champion” per institute
  • works closely with Ref Coordinator, School impact champion, DoR
  • identify possible impact cases, gaps in our current list, and will help to nudge potentially impactful research
  • from (sequences of) projects to impact

• Collect potential impact case studies
  • Single page max
    • single sentence that succinctly states the impact
    • paragraph that outlines the impact, including evidence
    • links to papers/people/projects
Summary

• Continue putting all outputs into PURE
• REF-2021 may
  • submit more staff than REF-2014
  • be more flexible about number of outputs / person
  • be less flexible about which inputs are acceptable
• Need to develop potential impact case studies
• Details should become clearer over the next year…