

# Supporting REF 2021 impact case study authors – tips for success from FBMH Impact Officers

- ICS writing day at key development stage to provide advice and support and allow authors space to focus on requirements
- Be mindful of differences in working styles and communication preferences and work flexibly to accommodate this.
- Build trusted relationships with impact case study (ICS) authors.
- Identify key contacts within author teams who are best able to engage with iterative writing process
- Draft suggested ICS text (using track changes) rather than adding to reviewers' comments on already busy documents.
- Take charge of formatting the ICS document.
- Be clear around attribution, particularly for cases involving public engagement.
- Faculty fund for REF2021 ICS development, e.g. for evaluation.
- Be alert to opportunities to submit the same ICS to different UoAs.

## Lessons learnt from REF 2021 and preparations for REF 2029

- Earlier identification of potential impact case studies and evidence collection (for REF and wider use).
- Targeted strategy to raise awareness of research impact and its importance (not just for REF), and support available (raising profile of Impact Officers), for example:
  - Research impact training developed and being delivered university-wide.
  - Support resources developed and promoted, inc drop-in clinics
  - Impact Officers now on School R&I committee and contribute to grant workshops.
  - Improved interaction with related teams, e.g. NIHR Biomedical Research Centre.
  - FBMH Faculty Impact Development Fund set up – small, discretionary fund for impact development work, with light-touch application process.
  - UoM REF ICS toolkit for authors under development.