



ESRC  
Delivery Report  
2008-9

## CONTENTS

<b>1.</b>	<b>Executive Summary</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Recent Successes</b>	<b>4</b>
2.1	Research Priorities	4
2.2	Sustainability - Strengthening the Social Science Infrastructure	5
2.3	Sustainability – People and Disciplines	5
2.4	Economic, Social and Policy Impact	6
2.5	International Strategy	7
<b>3.</b>	<b>Progress in Management</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Progress against Targets and Milestones</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Future Targets and Milestones</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Update of Economic Impact Baseline</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>7.</b>	<b>The Efficiency Programme</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Science and Society</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>9.</b>	<b>Summary Financial Tables</b>	<b>12</b>

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Delivery Report provides detail on the achievements of the Economic and Social Research Council during 2008-09, as well as progress against the targets set out in the ESRC Delivery Plan 2008.

The Council agreed to fund three applications to the 2008/09 Centres Competition which will focus on the economic wellbeing of the UK: The Centre for Competitive Advantage in the Global Economy at the University of Warwick; the Centre for Economic Performance at the London School of Economics and the Centre for the Microeconomic Analysis of Public Policy at the Institute for Fiscal Studies.

ESRC completed commissioning of the third year of both the Large and First Grants Schemes. Awards were also made under the Professorial Fellowship Scheme. A major communication initiative has been launched to emphasise impact, cross disciplinary research, risk and innovation in the responsive mode funding schemes.

2008 has seen the launch of Understanding Society (formerly the UK Household Longitudinal Study) with Wave 1 of the fieldwork commencing. The ESRC has also successfully secured 'ear-marked' funding of £28.5m from the Large Facilities Capital Fund to develop a Birth Cohort Facility. The proposed facility will integrate the existing birth cohort studies and, critically, it will expand the series with an innovative new cohort commencing in 2012.

ESRC's commitment to further improve the quality of postgraduate skills development and ensure the health of social science has continued with the appointment of two Strategic Advisors to develop capacity building strategies in the areas of Advanced Quantitative Methods and Social Work and Social Care. This year also saw the commencement of four Capacity Building Clusters in Business Research and Engagement which combine a range of opportunities to foster greater engagement with users.

In addition to vital work in response to the global economic crisis, the ESRC has implemented its Third Sector Engagement Strategy and in partnership with the Office for the Third Sector and the Barrow-Cadbury Trust, a new Third Sector Research Centre and two capacity building clusters were launched. The Council also continued to implement its Business Engagement Strategy through the Placements Fellowships Scheme and the launch of the third call of the Business Engagement Opportunities Scheme.

The ESRC held another successful Festival of Social Science in 2008 with over 5000 people attending more than 100 events held in 40 locations around the UK. The Council has continued its engagement work with schools and young people through the development of two briefings for A-level teachers on thematic areas and facts and figures of the UK and has led on the development of the public engagement strategy for the RCUK Living with Environmental Change research programme.

Key organisational developments included the appointment of a Head of Communications for Longitudinal Studies and the successful transition of the ESRC HR and payroll functions to the RCUK Shared Services Centre.

## 2. RECENT SUCCESSES

ESRC has further developed its research and impact activities during the last financial year and has continued to extend its sustainability and international agendas: below are some of the highlights of the year.

### 2.1 Research Priorities

#### 2.1.1 Directed Research

The Council agreed to fund one new Centre and to continue its support for two existing Centres as a result of the **2008/09 Centres Competition**. All three Centres will focus on the economic wellbeing of the UK: The Centre for Competitive Advantage in the Global Economy at the University of Warwick; the Centre for Economic Performance (funded by the ESRC since 1990) at the London School of Economics; and the Centre for the Microeconomic Analysis of Public Policy (funded by the ESRC since 1991) at the Institute for Fiscal Studies.

During 2008/09 ESRC announced eight awards to support Exploratory Interdisciplinary Research Networks under the first call of the **Understanding Individual Behaviours** challenge. In collaboration with the Arts and Humanities Research Council, ESRC also awarded six large grants under the second phase of the **Religion and Society Programme**. ESRC has also played a leading role in the **New Opportunities for Research Funding and Co-operation in Europe** (NORFACE) network second round call of the Transnational Research Programme on Migration.

ESRC has been centrally involved in the RCUK Research Priorities over the past year, working to embed social science at the heart of the cross-Council priority areas. The RCUK programme on **Global Uncertainties** is led by the ESRC. ESRC funded three workshops on food security, health and security and energy security to bring together researchers and policy makers to develop the research agenda, and led engagement with key government departments, NGOs and think tanks. ESRC's contribution to the programme has included a call for fellowships on Ideas and Beliefs with AHRC, which has resulted in 14 applications being funded.

#### 2.1.2 The Responsive Mode

Building on the outcomes of the **Responsive Schemes Review** in 2007 the Council has taken forward work during 2008 to enhance support for Cross disciplinary research, risk and innovation in its responsive mode schemes. Revisions to electronic applications forms and scheme guidance have been developed to give a greater emphasis to the potential impact of a proposal, and encourage interdisciplinarity and innovation, with revisions to peer review guidance and training being implemented. This work has been supported by the publication of a statement for applicants about ESRC's expectations of the research it funds, re-emphasising the primacy of scientific excellence, but encouraging impact, innovation and interdisciplinarity.

In 2008 the ESRC completed commissioning of the third year of both the **Large and First Grants Schemes** with four and 31 awards funded respectively, representing success rates of 15% and 18%. Six **Professorial Fellowships** awards were funded under the 2008 competition and commissioning has commenced for the 2009 competition. Seven of the eight Professorial Fellowships funded in 2004 have been completed and evaluated; all seven achieved outstanding grades, demonstrating the high quality of work funded through this scheme.

1,251 Standard and Small Grant and Fellowship applications were considered by the Council in 2008/09. 238 were recommended for awards, which represents an overall success rate of 19%.

## 2.2 Sustainability – Strengthening the Social Science Infrastructure

The Council has continued to oversee the successful implementation of **Understanding Society** (originally developed as the UK Household Longitudinal Study). During 2008 a comprehensive communications plan was developed and rebranding of the Study was launched following public consultation. Wave One of the Study commenced on schedule in January 2009 to be undertaken over a 24 month period. ESRC has also begun significant discussions with stakeholders during 2008 surrounding the use of bio-medical markers within Understanding Society to provide an unrivalled source of data for understanding issues such as gene–environment interactions and the links between lifestyles and health.

With support from the Medical Research Council, in 2008 the Council successfully secured ‘ear-marked’ funding of £28.5m from the Large Facilities Capital Fund to develop a **Birth Cohort Facility**, subject to ministerial approval of the full business case in 2009. The proposed facility will integrate the existing birth cohort studies (including those funded by MRC and Wellcome Trust) and, critically, it will expand the series with an innovative new cohort commencing in 2012. A Development Group of experts in birth cohort studies has been established to develop the specification that will be used to appoint the Scientific Leadership teams for both the Birth Cohort Study 2012 and the co-ordination facility.

During 2008 the ESRC began a review of the National Strategy for Data Resources for Research in the Social Sciences (**National Data Strategy**). The ESRC acts as steward to the strategy which is owned collectively by the UK Data Forum. Findings from the consultation highlight the excellent infrastructure already supported in the UK and emphasise that such core infrastructure needs to be sustained and enhanced over the longer-term. The Council will continue to work with the UK Data Forum in revising the strategy to agree a new version in summer 2009.

## 2.3 Sustainability – People and Disciplines

In 2008 the ESRC has continued to build capacity in shortage areas. During the past year the Council has developed the second phase of work under the initiative to strengthen capacity in **Advanced Quantitative Methods**. This includes the appointment of a Strategic Advisor for this area tasked with developing a coherent programme of activity aimed at enhancing undergraduate teaching of quantitative methods across the social sciences.

A Strategic Advisor has also been appointed in the area of **Social Work and Social Care** to bring together the wide range of stakeholders in this area to develop a comprehensive capacity building strategy. The Council has also continued to provide higher stipends and two year postdoctoral fellowships in **Economics** to improve recruitment and retention.

This year saw the commencement of four **Capacity Building Clusters in Business Research and Engagement**. The clusters combine a range of opportunities to foster greater engagement with users including CASE studentships, Knowledge Transfer Partnerships and co-sponsored placements making a significant contribution to the Council's Business Engagement and Impact strategies.

During the year the ESRC has taken a further step to provide structured development opportunities for researchers at all career stages with the re-launched **Mid Career Fellowship Scheme** to complement the postdoctoral and professorial schemes that the Council already makes available. This dedicated scheme is targeted at excellent researchers ready to take their research in a new direction or to a new level.

## 2.4 Economic, Social and Policy Impact

Knowledge transfer and the achievement of impact are integral to ESRC activities. Over the last year the Council has built on its commitment to a wide range of knowledge transfer schemes and public engagement events and has developed new initiatives through its strategic partnerships. The updated **ESRC Economic Impact Baseline**, which provides an update on the Council's vital contribution to the UK's economic performance for 2008/09 is attached at **Annex 1**.

The economic crisis has had a fundamental impact in the UK and worldwide. The ESRC has worked with DIUS to provide advice to government on responding to the economic situation and has provided both written and face-to-face briefings for the Science Minister. A task force of leading economists, management researchers and other scholars was established to review evidence based options for further policy interventions and made recommendations to Government in early 2009. In order to highlight ESRC funded research relevant to the economic downturn, three public lectures were organised on the recession and health and happiness, global poverty and the green economy, in addition to an extensive series of **Public Policy Seminars**. The portfolio of Public Policy Seminars in 2008/09 included Third Sector, Industry and business-focused topics and encouraged evidence-based policy through an exchange between researchers and policy-makers.

In 2008 the Council implemented its **Third Sector Engagement Strategy** following consultation with third sector stakeholders. In partnership with the Office for the Third Sector and the Barrow-Cadbury Trust, a new Third Sector Research Centre was launched in 2008, based jointly at the Universities of Birmingham and Southampton, with two capacity building clusters led by the University of Middlesex and Lincoln University. The Council also continued to implement its **Business Engagement Strategy** with 35 Placements Fellowships arranged and the launch of the third call of the Business Engagement Opportunities Scheme.

The Council has continued to develop its partnership with the **Technology Strategy Board** (TSB). For instance, in collaboration with the TSB and other partners the ESRC has announced awards under the Network Security and Assisted Living Innovation Platforms. The Council has also been closely involved with the development of the recently launched Financial Services Knowledge Transfer Network and has been involved in ongoing discussions to integrate social science research to support business development in the TSB's forthcoming Research and Development call for proposals in the Creative Industries.

Investment in the ESRC **Collaborative Ventures Scheme** continues to increase with Ventures making a significant contribution to the Council's portfolio. Ventures approved for funding during the past year include phase 2 of Problem Gambling Interventions in partnership with the Responsibility in Gambling Trust; the Innovation Research Centre in collaboration with the Technology Strategy Board, the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts and DIUS; and the Collaborative Research Centre on Sustainable Behaviours in partnership with the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs, the Scottish Government, the Welsh Assembly Government, the Department of Environment Northern Ireland, the Environment Agency and other potential partners across the UK.

The development of the new **ESRC Strategic Plan 2009-2014** has been a key activity this year. The Council received 144 responses to an extensive written consultation carried out with stakeholders to inform the Council's key strategic objectives and identify the principle challenges for social science. Further engagement with stakeholders in the development of the plan was achieved through holding an Open Meeting in autumn 2008 attended by academics, members of the press, government, businesses, education authorities and learned societies, with further

consultation meetings held with university groups and public, private and third sector stakeholders in early 2009. The new plan will have a central theme of maximising impact and will be published in summer 2009.

In November 2008 the Council published the third issue of the annual ESRC newsstand magazine, **Britain in 2009**. The magazine offered a concise analysis of research on issues of relevance to the state of the nation in 2008, showcasing the diversity of ESRC-funded research. It was sold at WHSmiths retail and travel, Borders and Waitrose, Sainsbury's and international outlets. Sales have increased by over 100% compared to the first issue in 2007. This year also saw the launch of **Society Now**, the new magazine aimed at an academic and non-academic audience with features highlighting the value of engagement and impact.

## 2.5 International Strategy

During 2008 an increasing number of international collaborative funding applications were received, and new agreements implemented with L'Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR), France and the National Research Foundation (NRF), South Africa. The 'lead agency' approach, which allows decisions to be taken by a single agency and eliminates double jeopardy, was expanded to the bilateral agreements with the Austrian Science Fund (FWF) and the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO).

The new bilateral scheme with ANR makes use of a joint decision panel, an alternative strategy for eliminating double jeopardy, and is also based on the criteria set out in the International Common Application Process, the development of which was led by the ESRC. Furthermore, the Academy of Finland (AKA) and the Swedish Research Council (VR) have in principle committed to the 'lead agency' approach and the International Common Application Process, and will work with ESRC with a view to implementing these from 2009 onwards.

Agreement has been reached with agencies in France, Germany and the Netherlands to launch an '**Open Research Area (ORA) in the Social Sciences**'. The ORA will allow for a single application to be made to a single decision making structure for joint applications involving applicants from two or more of all of the four countries.

October 2008 saw the successful launch of the **RCUK India Office** managed by the ESRC which will develop positive, sustainable and influential relationships with key stakeholders; support the facilitation of high quality research collaborations between India and the UK; and build the profile of the RCUK office to influence policy and deliver valuable, high impact outputs. During 2008 the ESRC and the Indian Council for Social Science Research (ICSSR) made the first awards under their new India-UK Scholar Exchange Scheme.

ESRC has continued to develop relations with US funding agencies with joint calls issued with the National Science Foundation on the Ecology of Infectious Diseases and the National Institutes of Health on Health Disparities / Inequalities. In addition a joint workshop was held with the National Institute of Ageing on the neuroscience of ageing. The Council has also continued to foster relations with the Chinese Academy for the Social Sciences through a series of co-sponsored workshops in the areas of The Social and Economic Challenges of Ageing Societies.

The ESRC has continued to take a leading role in working towards the permanent establishment of the **International Data Forum**, which will provide a mechanism to identify and prioritise data needs for cross-national collaborative social science research, and co-ordinate efforts by national funding agencies and statistical authorities to make data more widely available for research purposes.

### 3. PROGRESS IN MANAGEMENT

ESRC has carried out extensive work during the last financial year to develop its new Strategic Plan for 2009-2014. In support of this the Council has considered revisions to its governance structure to ensure the most effective and efficient delivery of its strategic objectives and has carried out internal reviews of its directorates. Changes to the Board and Committee structure will be agreed by Council in July 2009.

In early 2009 ESRC appointed a Head of Communications for Longitudinal Studies to maximise awareness and foster confidence in the quality of investments including Understanding Society and the new Birth Cohort Facility among key domestic and international audiences.

The first cohort of the Council's new Management Development Programme began in 2008. The overall aim of the Programme is to help staff to develop core management and leadership skills which they can use to ensure they become effective and consistent people managers. The Programme includes a competency framework and management model developed specifically for the ESRC with the involvement of its staff.

### 4. PROGRESS AGAINST TARGETS AND MILESTONES

The ESRC Scorecard for 2008-9 included 13 Key Deliverables, divided further into 98 Milestones. Achievements against the milestones can be summarised as follows:

Milestones <b>fully achieved</b> , or to <b>be achieved</b> , but with some delays	Milestones <b>not fully achieved</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	Milestone delivery date <b>beyond</b> 2008/09
<b>97*</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>0</b>

\* The following 13 milestones will be or have now been achieved, but with some delay to the original timescale:

- To call for new Networks and Visiting Fellowships on Rising Powers (1:d);
- To announce a new collaborative Centre on Sustainable Behaviours in partnership with DEFRA and other partners (2:b);
- To establish with RCUK and other partners a Strategic Oversight Board (3:a);
- To issue the first call for large interdisciplinary proposals, fellowships and exploratory grants with RCUK and other partners (3:c);
- Develop and publish online presentations on training and funding opportunities through an academic career life course (4:b);
- Promote to the social science community changes to research council application forms and guidelines, to ensure there is a shared understanding of the value of addressing potential economic impact (4:g);
- To have delivered two collaborative workshops with Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (5:i);
- Develop and host launch event and produce supporting magazine supplement for UKHLS (9:c);
- To develop a plan for promoting and exploiting the science in society research evidence base for approval by the CIC in March 2009 (10:i);
- Announce new Ventures funding opportunities with TSB and other partners for research on the creative industries, addressing the Succeeding in the Global Economy key research challenge (11:e);
- Announce new Ventures funding and networking opportunities with TSB and other partners on financial services, addressing the Succeeding in a Global Economy key research challenge (11:f);
- Complete the international benchmarking review of UK Sociology (12:a);
- Ensure smooth transfer of phase one staff in-scope to Shared Services Centre (SSC) by the agreed target date of the end of September 2008 (13:a).

Of the 98 milestones set for the year, one was not achieved in full.

- 12:j “*To increase the volume of visitors to ESRC Society Today by 30%.*” The number of pages and content visited has increased by 56%, although the total number of individual visitors has declined.

## 5. FUTURE TARGETS AND MILESTONES

The targets and milestones for 2009-10 have been published in the Scorecard 2009-10, available at <http://www.esrc.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/about/delivery%5Fplan/>. The Delivery Plan is being refreshed to reflect the strategic objectives in the new Strategic Plan and sets out the activities which the ESRC will be taking forward up to 2010/11.

Milestones for the coming year include activities to address the challenges for social science set out in our Strategic Plan and the RCUK research priorities; agree outlines for the new cross-Council programmes; to complete commissioning of distributed projects on open, holistic innovation with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, NESTA and the TSB; and to refine research priorities for Global Uncertainties through a series of workshops, and deliver a portfolio of activities to accelerate the uptake and impact of Research Councils' investments in the programme.

As part of ESRC's commitment to excellence in postgraduate training, the Council will launch commissioning under its revised Postgraduate Training Framework, which will further improve the quality of postgraduate skills development and enhance transferable skills. Work will continue to facilitate student placement opportunities in collaboration with government departments and other organisations in the business and third sector. The Council will also continue to address capacity shortages in priority areas and will commission a fourth round of innovative and creative training and development opportunities for researchers at all stages of their academic career through the Researcher Development Initiative.

Major strategic investment to provide a world class data infrastructure will continue through the development of both the Birth Cohort Study 2012 and the Birth Cohort Facility and the formulation of the long-term funding strategy for Understanding Society. The Council will also Commission projects under the Comparative Cross-National Research Methods initiative and will facilitate the publication and dissemination of the revised National Data Strategy.

The ESRC will continue to develop its international collaborative funding agreements with the National Institutes of Health in the US, L'Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR), France and the National Research Foundation (NRF), South Africa. In addition the Council will also work with NORFACE ERA-NET partners to submit a proposal to the European Commission for NORFACE 2 and agree with the Department for International Development a renewed partnership on research into global poverty and the future global economy.

Following the publication of the ESRC Strategic Plan 2009-2014 the Council will ensure ongoing engagement of user communities with ESRC's strategy through the launch of an online strategic plan. ESRC will continue to fund a wide range of knowledge transfer schemes with its strategic partners and will further enhance its relationship with the Technology Strategy Board through collaborative activities and the development of ventures.

## **6. UPDATE ON ECONOMIC IMPACT / EVALUATION OUTCOMES**

The Council has continued to review the economic and societal impact of its research programme and as part of this work, further ESRC impact case studies have been completed. These have demonstrated considerable impact from two major ESRC investments: the Centre for Social and Economic Research on the Global Environment and the People at the Centre of Information & Communication Technologies Programme.

The 2008/09 **Economic Impact Reporting Framework** contains data on selected aspects of ESRC's performance relevant to the Government's objectives for the UK science base: progress towards measuring the economic and societal impact of research, knowledge generation, investment in the research base and innovation, framework conditions and knowledge exchange. The report will be published in summer 2009.

The third international benchmarking review to assess the quality of UK research in a global context provided a very positive assessment of UK Economics. The International Panel of leading experts concluded that 'the research achievements of United Kingdom scholars are exceptional by World standards'. The review of UK sociology in partnership with the British Sociological Association and the Heads & Professors of Sociology Group has begun and is due to report in 2010.

The Council's knowledge transfer activities continue to play a major role in generating economic impact. This year has seen an increased number of knowledge transfer partnerships and collaborative studentships and awards, alongside the achievement of considerable impact through the co-production of research with users with an increasing number and value of research contracts with external partners, the extended number of strategic partnerships, the growth in the number of co-funded research projects and the level of external co-funding.

The ESRC evaluates all research grants funded and in 2008 the quality of individual projects has remained consistently high. Over 30% of awards were evaluated by reviewers as 'outstanding'.

## **7. THE EFFICIENCY PROGRAMME**

The Council has continued to contribute towards and meet the agreed cross-Council efficiency targets in 2008/09 expecting to have contributed £9.9m towards RCUK value for money savings over the year, achieved through proactive reprioritisation of research spend and new joint funding secured.

ESRC has continued to play an active role in the development of a Shared Service Centre (SSC), the Research Council initiative to fully harmonise back office activities across all seven Councils. 2009 saw the successful transition of the ESRC HR and payroll functions to the SSC with work completed within the Council to develop capability and capacity of those parts of HR functions retained after transfer.

## 8. SCIENCE AND SOCIETY

The **2009 ESRC Festival of Social Science** was once again a success. The week-long programme included over 100 events held in 40 locations around the UK. Over 5000 people attended the Festival this year with events targeting academics, professionals, young people and general audiences.

The ESRC has continued its engagement work with schools and young people over the last year through the development of two briefings for A-level teachers on thematic areas and facts and figures of the UK. Through ongoing engagement with the Royal Anthropological Society resources have been developed for the A-level Citizenship curriculum highlighting the value of social methodologies.

The Council has also led on the development of a public engagement strategy for the RCUK **Living with Environmental Change** research programme, in collaboration with other Research Councils and external partners. This included establishing a strategic advisory group to oversee the implementation of the strategy.

Throughout the year the ESRC has piloted the development of two research syntheses in science and society with the aim of drawing together what is already known from published research (and where accessible, current research) and highlighting what further research questions remain. Two topics on **Improving the take-up of science and technology subjects in secondary schools and colleges** and **PhD graduates' career choices and impact: a review of UK evidence** have been published on the ESRC Society Today website.

## 9. SUMMARY FINANCIAL TABLES

The tables below provide summaries of expenditure during the last financial year by theme and mechanism. These figures include both funding received from the science budget allocation and other income.

### ESRC Expenditure by Theme 2008/09

Theme	£m
Succeeding in the Global Economy	26.522
Energy, Environment and Climate Change	16.216
Religion, Ethnicity and Society	14.369
Education for Life	16.780
International Relations and Security	12.101
Population Change	17.237
Understanding Individual Behaviour	23.789
Impact and Knowledge Transfer	9.409
Health of Disciplines	27.745
Data and Resources	16.635
Other	14.390
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>195.19</b>

### ESRC Expenditure by Mechanism 2008/09

Mechanism	£m
Strategic and Collaborative Research	52.138
Responsive Research	45.575
Research Resources	19.924
Postgraduate Training	59.601
Administration Costs	5.263
Knowledge Transfer and Communication	6.137
International, Policy, Evaluation and Programme Management	6.556
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>195.19</b>



## ESRC ECONOMIC IMPACT BASELINE 2008/09

### 1. Executive Summary

This report provides an update on the Economic & Social Research Council's (ESRC's) vital contribution to the UK's economic performance. Five major contributions are highlighted:

- *Economic Downturn:* the Council is making an enormously important contribution to the UK's economy during a time of considerable challenge. By drawing on its World-class research portfolio and investments in the UK's research base over many years, the Council has delivered evidence-based advice to Government on combating the economic recession. This work will continue as the Government continues to tackle the downturn and prepares the UK for the eventual upturn.
- *Economic Policy:* ESRC's research programme continues to have important impacts on all aspects of UK economic policy. This is demonstrated by independent evaluations showing that our Centre for Economic Performance was crucial to the implementation of the National Minimum Wage, and that our Centre for Social and Economic Research on the Global Environment has had a powerful influence on the UK's use of economic appraisal techniques in environment policy.
- *UK Business:* the Council has strengthened further its engagement with UK business. A key aspect of this relationship is our support for people-transfer schemes in which academics work on practical problems with individual firms. Our Knowledge Transfer Partnerships are transforming the economic performance of businesses and the introduction of the INDEX Voucher Scheme has provided an even greater number with access to high-quality academic advice.
- *People and Skills:* the ESRC's training programme delivers highly-trained people with transferable skills that are needed in the public and private sectors as well as academia. This year has seen a continued emphasis on equipping students with the quantitative skills that are valued by many employers. The Council's commitment to building a relevant skills base is reflected in its decision to fund a new cadre of macroeconomics students to support future economic policy.
- *The Wider Picture:* the Council's impact is not restricted to its direct influence on economic policy and business. Economic efficiency can also be promoted through more effective public policy, improved professional practice and increased quality of life. ESRC research has continued to make important contributions in all of these areas as illustrated by examples of impacts from across our research portfolio.

## 2. Key Impact Measures

<b>Expenditure</b>	ESRC Expenditure (Net of staff and operating costs)	2007: £149M 2008: £166M
<b>Investment</b>	Research	2007: £100M 2008: £106M
	People Skills	2007: £47M 2008: £56M
	Knowledge Transfer	2007: £2M 2008: £4M
<b>User collaboration</b>	ESRC's External co-funding	2007: £16M 2008: £21M
	Impact Grants The Impact Grants Scheme was wound-down last year when the new Follow-On Grants Scheme introduced. The first awards under the new scheme will be made shortly.	2007: 21 2008: 10
<b>Human Capital</b>	ESRC trained people joining the UK labour market (Figures based on an 80% thesis submission rate and 94% employment rate)	2007: 500 2008: 530
	ESRC sponsored people transfers from academia to non-academic organisations	2007: 37 2008: 40
<b>Business</b>	ESRC seminars for business	2007: 14 2008: 28
	ESRC workshops on entrepreneurship and commercialisation	2007: 6 2008: 6
	New Knowledge Transfer Partnerships	2007: 9 2008: 11
	New Collaborative innovation vouchers	2007: 0 2008: 50
	New CASE awards	2007: 18 2008: 19
<b>Policy &amp; Practice</b>	New Knowledge Transfer Partnerships	2007: 17 2008: 19
	New CASE awards	2007: 65 2008: 69
	Concordat agreements with strategic partners	2007: 16 2008: 23
	Getting Research into Practice Workshops	2007: 5 2008: 5

### 3. ESRC's Economic Impact Strategy

The ESRC and the social science it funds make a critical contribution to the UK's economic performance. The Council is committed to providing a strong knowledge and evidence base for economic policy and decision-making, and the values that underpin ESRC research: quality, impact and independence, are fundamental to achieving this. As demonstrated in this report, the Council's research provides an essential understanding of the ever changing economic and social context, and is informing effective interventions to respond to current challenges.

It is critical that economic policy should be based on the best possible research evidence. Independent evaluation of ESRC research shows that over 90% of projects are of outstanding or good quality, while international benchmarking assessments demonstrate that the UK social science is second only to the United States in terms of research quality and impact and leads the World in some areas<sup>1</sup>.

The concept of economic impact in the social sciences embraces both direct economic benefits and the indirect benefits that increase economic performance such as more effective government policy and third-sector initiatives, improved professional practice and increased quality of life more generally. The ESRC's strategy is to create and support economic impact from all of its main activities: (i) research, (ii) people training and transfer, and (iii) infrastructure: data, information and methodologies.

#### Implementing the ESRC's Impact Strategy

Examples of activities and schemes to realise the impact strategy include:

- *Embedding the model of the co-production of knowledge by integrating knowledge transfer and economic impact throughout the research process.* All ESRC researchers are now required to have clear plans to engage with users and to generate and demonstrate impact from the outset, throughout and following the research process. The Council has already agreed a number of changes to improve the management, reporting and evaluation arrangements for its major research investments so as to maximise the wider impact of its work.
- *A new follow-on grants scheme with earmarked funding has been introduced in 2008.* This scheme is open to all social scientists, and provides up to a year of additional funding at full cost where the research team can demonstrate the potential for significant economic, social or policy impact. The funding for this scheme will grow significantly over this CSR period from £0.5 million (08/09) to £3 million (10/11) a year.
- *The development of a positive relationship and substantial joint investment with the Technology Strategy Board (TSB) as part of a significant increase in support for business engagement.* The Council aims to spend £8 million in partnership with the TSB over the next three years.
- *Implementing the Council's new business engagement strategy, also in close partnership with the TSB.* The Council is prioritising business sectors (see section 5, below) where there is potential for social science to have a strong impact, where the sector is of relative, and often growing, importance within the UK economy as a whole, and where there are existing investments and relationships. As part of this approach we are ensuring that we work with and address the needs of SMEs as well as larger enterprises.
- *Extending substantially our investment in the highly successful ESRC Ventures scheme* which is based primarily on the co-production model, involving partnerships with other

organisations in the private and public sector, and generates a significant amount of co-funding for the social sciences.

- *Emphasising 'people transfer' as one of the most effective forms of knowledge transfer.* We have created opportunities both for established academics and doctoral students to be supported on placements in non-academic organisations and for research users to have the opportunity to work in a HEI. Our public sector placements scheme is a resounding success, and the scheme had been adjusted to work in other sectors including the business sector.

#### 4. Impact on National Economic Policy

*ESRC's recent work on the economic downturn*

The ESRC is working closely with the UK government to help tackle the economic recession, bringing to bear the results of its research and the expertise of researchers funded by the Council.

Shortly after the establishment of the Government's National Economic Council (NEC), Lord Drayson met with Professor Ian Diamond, in his capacity as Chair of RCUK, and Mr. Adrian Alsop, the ESRC's Director of Research, to discuss ways in which the Councils and other members of the 'DIUS family' could contribute to the NEC's work. Following this meeting the ESRC, on behalf of the Research Councils, developed three areas of advice:

- (i) on evidence informed initiatives that might be considered by the NEC;
- (ii) on "people flow" measures where attracting newly available talent would boost the research base and help prepare for the economic upturn; and
- (iii) on the exploration of areas of capital spend that might be brought forward to the immediate economic benefit of business and specific locations.

#### **ESRC's Advice to Government**

The ESRC, on behalf of Research Councils UK, has been able to provide a great deal of evidence-based advice to the UK Government to help combat the economic recession and prepare for the upturn. This contribution has been made possible through the Council's long-term support for World-class research and its investment in the development of the UK research base. The main features have been:

- *Evidence base:* written briefings for Lord Drayson on skills, health, the green economy and securing value from global innovation. We have also arranged a seminar for BERR on small businesses and recession which has now been updated to brief DIUS on high growth SMEs.
- *Stimulation:* briefings for the Minister from two groups of experts. The first group advised on the possibilities of an economic stimulation package in general and measures to help small businesses in particular. The second group covered the international context of the recession and the potential threat to the research intensive universities that will help drive the economic upturn.
- *Economics Task Force:* the Council has established a task force of 13 leading economists who have submitted advice to DIUS and HMT on the following topics:
  - How recession enhances opportunities for innovation by taking advantage of

the lower opportunity cost of re-organisation

- How to avoid repeats of the credit crunch (supplemented by results from the ESRC World Economy and Finance Programme)
- The likely pace of recovery from 2010 onwards
- The potential benefits and design of labour market interventions

DIUS and BERR have now requested further advice on:

- Activism in public policy
- *New research capacity*: the ESRC has brought forward funding for around 30 studentships to retain economics trained graduates in the priority areas of macro-economics and quantitative methods.

### *Evaluating the economic value of ESRC research*

The Council's Research Evaluation Committee (REC) has made strong progress in developing new methods for assessing the economic impact of the research it funds. This work is part of an initiative to assess the wider policy and practice contributions of ESRC research, on which a progress report has been published recently<sup>ii</sup>. Work completed to date has demonstrated the economic impacts of ESRC research, identified the drivers of social science impact and provided lessons for increasing further the impact of ESRC investments.

### **Economic Impact on UK Environment Policy**

The economic impact of ESRC research is demonstrated by the results of its evaluation programme. This contribution is exemplified by an independent impact study in 2008 of the Council's Centre for Social and Economic Research on the Global Environment (CSERGE)<sup>iii</sup>.

CSERGE's economic impact has been felt across UK government. The Centre pioneered the development of environmental economic evaluation in which it is an international leader and was commissioned in 2002 to write the (then) Department for Transport's official manual 'Economic Valuation with Stated Preference Techniques'. The manual is now the recognised guide for undertaking valuation research in Whitehall.

The Centre's research has had a considerable economic impact on the UK Government's environmental policy. For example, CSERGE's valuation of the externalities from land-filling and incineration provided the basis for UK Landfill-Tax legislation in the 1990's, and it devised a cost-benefit approach to quantifying noise values that was used by the Department for Transport to help assess road-building schemes. More recently, CSERGE economic assessments have been used by the UK Government in its negotiations with the European Commission over the EU Bathing Water Directive, and by the UK's Environment Agency to provide cost-benefit analyses of Water Company investment plans.

The REC is now trialling methods of quantifying the economic value of the impacts highlighted through its evaluation programme. This is a challenging task because of the absence in most cases of recognisable markets for social science outputs, and the widely acknowledged difficulties associated with attribution and time-lags. But a scoping report prepared for the Council in 2008 by Frontier Economics Ltd<sup>iv</sup> has pointed the way

forward, and the Committee is now applying its recommendations. A central feature of the Council's approach is that the economic impact of social science research includes both direct contributions to economic performance and indirect economic benefits that flow from more effective public policy and improved health and quality of life.

### **Impact on National Wage Policy**

The first of the Council's economic valuation trials analysed the impact of work at the ESRC Centre for Economic Performance (CEP)<sup>v</sup>. A particular focus of the independent study was the CEP's contribution to the UK Government's National Minimum Wage (NMW) policy.

In the early 1990s, work by CEP researchers was critical in countering the view popular amongst many academics and parts of the media that the NMW would have substantial employment effects. They presented research that suggested the employment effects of the NMW would be minimal, while the impact on those benefiting from the policy would be substantial. This, together with contributions from other groups, provided the evidence base for the Government's introduction of the NMW in 1999.

After 1999, CEP research became critical to informing the Low Pay Commission (LPC) on the appropriate level of the NMW. The Centre's research was fundamental to the LPC's recommendation that the Wage should be increased above the level of inflation over the four-year period 2003-06.

CEP staff and their research on the minimum wage also influenced Treasury officials in a number of areas including employment and price effects and how the youth rate should be developed.

The government has not undertaken a policy evaluation of the NMW. Consequently, there is no reliable independent estimate of the net economic benefits generated by the policy. However, Frontier Economics Ltd has calculated that over 12 million workers have benefited from the introduction of the minimum wage at a total wage-bill impact of about £1.2 billion. Frontier's analysis used a conservative estimate of a 2% CEP contribution to the gross benefit of the NMW to derive an economic impact from the Centre of about £24M. This level of contribution, on just one of the many policies to which the CEP has contributed, is well above the public investment in the Centre as a whole.

The Council will undertake more economic impact valuations in 2009, and we are also introducing a new project reporting system that will capture more evidence of impact from ESRC funding.

## **5. Impact on the UK Labour Market**

### *ESRC- sponsored people transfer*

People transfer is widely recognised as one of the most effective means of knowledge exchange and as an important driver of economic and social impact. The ESRC promotes and supports the bi-directional movement of people between the business and public sectors and academia.

The Council's Placement Fellowship Scheme is a prime example of this activity. Awards under the Scheme are funded jointly by the ESRC and a host partner with the aims of

providing: (i) knowledge exchange opportunities between partner organisation and the fellow; (ii) research-informed evidence to the partner organisation; (iii) networks into academia for the partner organisation; and (iv) career development and new skills for the placement fellow. In the three years since the public sector scheme was introduced nearly 50 fellows have participated in it. And nearly 20 fellows have now taken part in the recently introduced business scheme.

### Impact from People Transfer

The ESRC's people placement schemes have generated economic impact in a range of host institutions. Examples include:

- Mark Chadwick from Liverpool John Moores University worked with Alternative Futures Group, a large charity that provides support, care and accommodation for people with complex learning disabilities and enduring mental health challenges. The project developed an improved ITC infrastructure, capable of providing more effective organisation-wide communication and a better customer relationship system. The project has saved AFG £40,000 per year on ICT contracts usually issued to a third-party supplier and, by improving its branding and providing new multimedia channels, has positioned it for future growth.
- A collaboration between Professors Paul Longley of University College London (UCL), Peter Halfpenny of the University of Manchester and ESRI – the world's leading geographic and mapping systems provider. Through placements at ESRI and UCL, the aim was to facilitate an exchange of information about software developed by GeoVUE, a research node of the ESRC's National Centre for e-Social Science (NCeSS) at UCL, for use in publicly available websites that offer geographical information. The project resulted in the development of [www.londonprofiler.org](http://www.londonprofiler.org) – a unique, collaborative site using web and grid based tools to provide a range of social science data in high-quality visual detail relating to Greater London. The Metropolitan Police is interested in using the technology to display crime statistics in something approaching real time, and it has agreed to co-sponsor an ESRC CASE studentship for further development of the site.
- Work by Professor Feng Li and colleagues from Newcastle University in partnership with the Northern Cultural Skills Partnership to identify and evaluate sustainable business models in the creative industries: for example, work with Jas Print - a digital printing company based in the north east – on the potential to develop new revenue streams linking its existing digital printing facilities with creative media. One Company Director involved in the project said “*Not only did I find the workshop informative but ....as a direct result of my attendance I am happy to report that I have been able to further my company in several areas*”. The wider value of this work is demonstrated by the high demand from other businesses to participate; so far there have been further placements with 66 creative businesses and a number of long-term working relationships.

These placements also enrich research and teaching programmes by providing academics with practical experience of economic problems and decision-making in the private and public sectors.

### ESRC Trained Researchers

Trained social science researchers make important contributions to the economy both through employment in organisations outside of academia and through collaborative

work with private and public sector employers during the course of their training. In addition to standard studentship training, the ESRC operates a number of schemes to promote people transfer and user engagement in the social sciences including CASE studentships, user placements and opportunities for people exchange in specific fields such as our co-funded research fellowships with the Foundation for Management Education.

About 500 ESRC trained researchers join the UK labour market each year, with nearly 30% recorded as employed in the business and public service sectors of the economy... The ESRC's postgraduate training programme plays a major role in making sure that students have the analytical skills that are proved highly by employers. In particular, the Council has continued to emphasise quantitative capacity as part of the transferable skills base that ESRC trained researchers offer to employers.

### **Skills For The Workplace**

An independent review of the employment of ESRC trained researchers<sup>vi</sup> has shown clear evidence of demand across a range of employers for the skills and attributes acquired during a social science PhD. The relevance of these skills for employment is illustrated by the following comment from a review participant:

“I use the skills developed on my PhD through researching, writing and articulating arguments on what we should do. This is where the higher order skills I learnt on my PhD come to the fore. I forward plan and translate theoretical ideas about what can be done into practicalities of how the organisation can move forward. One of my roles is to collate information about strategic requirements...and to write strategy. This involves researching and interviewing skills...writing it all up and analysing and synthesising it into a strategic statement. I also have to present to groups, so the skills in group work and presentation are used on a very regular basis.

*(IT Strategy Manager)*

## **6. Impact on UK Business and Commerce**

The ESRC is committed to developing the impact of social science research on the performance of UK business. Currently the Council is focussed primarily on seven components of the sector: (i) financial services; (ii) energy; (iii) retail; (iv) health technologies; (v) creative industries; (vi) sport, leisure and tourism; and (vii) consultancies. Particular attention is being given to the generic themes of innovation, business models and skills.

Significant progress has been made over the past year, starting with scoping studies and seminars with key stakeholders in each priority sector to identify cross-cutting themes, relevant and desired research and the most effective knowledge exchange mechanisms. The ESRC's very positive relationship with the Technology Strategy Board (TSB) is a key factor in delivering the Council's business engagement strategy. The Council has been particularly active in supporting the TSB managed Knowledge Transfer Partnerships Scheme including an active role in forming three Knowledge Transfer Networks: creative industries; financial services; and health technologies.

The ESRC's own knowledge transfer schemes have supported a range of business engagement this year. This has included 19 new Knowledge Transfer Partnerships, 19 new CASE awards in partnership with business organisations, 28 bespoke seminars for

business audiences and the introduction of the SME Innovation Voucher Scheme (INDEX).

INDEX was launched in collaboration with Advantage West Midlands and the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) and enables SMEs to apply for an innovation voucher worth £3,000 that can be used to purchase academic advice to generate innovation from any of the 13 universities in the West Midlands region. An independent evaluation of the first 40 vouchers awarded showed 40% would bring novel products process or service innovations to the market; 66% would target new customers; and that the scheme had largely or wholly met the objectives of the majority of winners. The scheme has now attracted extra co-funding from West Midland CBI, the Institute of Asian Businesses and the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce.

### **Economic Impact on Business and Commerce**

The ESRC's engagement with UK businesses is producing important results. Examples include:

- A project between Arriva Passenger Services Limited and Cranfield University, sponsored by the ESRC and TSB and covering three inter-related activities: a psychometric assessment of bus drivers, designing a simulator to train new bus drivers; and embedding a culture of safety at bus depots. The project made a significant economic impact. For example, over a £1 million reduction in insurance claims, a reduction in staff turnover from 24% to 20% and a decline in absenteeism from 6.1% to 4.5%. The work had a further impact beyond the project. Cranfield University has set up a new company, DriverMetrics, to exploit the commercial benefits of the project's Bus Driver Risk Index, a psychometric assessment of how bus drivers react in challenging situations.
- A partnership sponsored by the ESRC and Heales Medical Ltd in collaboration with associate, Dr Leanne Andrews. The aim of the project was to develop a new business management system for Heales Ltd. which provides occupational health services to a range of organisations throughout the UK. The Medical Managing Director at Heales reported that: *"The IT system developed is a critical management system for our business which... provides a competitive edge, reduces cost, supports the environment by reducing printing and postage and has enabled the development of new services...Our turnover was approximately £,750,000 when we started with the KTP; it is now approximately £,2.6 million with a strong contribution from this project."*

Early feedback from participants in the INDEX Scheme suggests that there will also be a considerable economic impact from those investments. Examples include:

- Company A used its voucher to develop a new product for tagging and monitoring the storage of foodstuffs, medicines and other items with limited storage life. It sought assistance with electronics, software and product design. *"The professionalism and commitment of (the HEI) made the interaction very rewarding, both in innovation terms and in developing a sound business model for our technology"* (Company Director).
- Company B sought university expertise to produce technical drawings to design a lift and carrier to transport mobility scooters by car, thereby making the independence of mobility scooters accessible to hundreds of people. *"The assistance of (HEI) has been invaluable in enabling us to progress to the next stages of product development."* (Company Manager).
- The initial success of the pilot scheme in the West Midlands prompted the

Innovation Nation White Paper to commend the adoption of the scheme by other organisations; particularly regional development agencies.

## 7. Impact on Policy & Practice

The concept of economic impact in the social sciences embraces not only direct economic benefits but also wider social impacts that improve economic performance indirectly through improved public policy and professional practice, or better environment, public health and quality of life.

These wider aspects of economic impact are crucial. There is nothing as costly to the public purse as a failed policy or as beneficial as a successful one. The policies of the last decade in relation to benefits and family tax credits, for example, are largely based on rigorous social science research, most of it funded by the ESRC. Similarly, public sector productivity and a healthy workforce are as important to the UK's economic wellbeing as increased profits in the private sector. For example, it is estimated that absenteeism costs the economy £13.4bn a year. An improvement to that figure of only 0.1% based on improved knowledge of health, diet and wellbeing would more than repay the costs of our investment in research in this area.

### Wider Economic Impact

The following examples illustrate the wide range of ESRC's contribution to more effective public policy and improvements in professional practice :

- *Benefiting from the long view* - ESRC's longitudinal studies have transformed the way in which the UK government approaches problems such as poverty, family breakdown, education and health. For example, work using the British Household Panel Study on how individuals' and families' income changes from year to year has led to a better understanding of the persistence of poverty and low pay as well as the factors which facilitate or impede social mobility. This has influenced policies for the elimination of child poverty, reform of the UK tax system and the Department for Work and Pensions *Opportunity for All* programme.
- *Teaching and learning* - the ESRC's Teaching and Learning Research Programme has demonstrated the importance of collaborative learning and development in challenging learning environments, such as those associated with inter-agency and multi professional working. The work in this area has informed national policy reviews, parliamentary committees, sector skill councils, professional bodies, and the professional development underpinning the reorganisation of children's services in over 80 local authorities.
- *Waste management* – ESRC research has been instrumental in shaping UK policy on waste management by investigating how political pressures are influencing current processes across England. The findings were documented in individual reports for each of the nine English regions and in a national overview report. Officials from the Department of Communities and Local Government and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs have responded by strengthening regional input into policy development.
- *Improved ICT design* - the People at the Centre of Information & Communication Technologies Programme (PACCIT) is an example of the co-production model of research that is an increasingly important part of the ESRC's portfolio. Teams

from academia and industry combined under the Programme to investigate ways of designing more efficient ICT systems by matching the ways in which people use the technology. Impacts to date include a spin-out company, a commercialised software product used in 200 schools and a working prototype for an innovative educational tool.

- *Other impacts* - in this report it is only possible to include a small number of examples of the ESRC's enormous impact on UK society. Further illustrations of this wider impact are described in evaluation reports on the ESRC's web site at:

<http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/Support/Evaluation/publications/index.aspx> and in other Council publications such as Society Now:

[http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/Images/societynow3\\_lowerrres\\_tcm6-31045.pdf](http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/Images/societynow3_lowerrres_tcm6-31045.pdf) (creating impact section).

## 8. Inward Investment

The ESRC is continuing to support conditions for increased inward investment into the UK. This contribution is achieved by informing the government's economic policy (section 3, above), by developing the UK skills base in critical areas (section 4) by engaging with UK business to develop innovation and productivity (section 5) and through its wider contribution to improved public policy and quality of life in the UK (section 6).

The Council is also making a direct contribution to retaining research talent in the UK. This is achieved through a strategy of supporting the best UK academics at all stage of their careers. Young researchers are developed through the ESRC's Postgraduate Training, Post-doctoral Fellowship and First Grant Schemes. Careers are then developed through a range of grant and fellowship funding and researchers can take advantage of further training opportunities. Senior researchers lead major ESRC investments such as centres, networks and programmes, and receive extensive support thorough the Council's prestigious Professorial Fellowship Scheme.

## 9. Forward Look

Over the next year the ESRC is committed to building on its already substantial economic impact. 'Succeeding in the Global Economy' is one of the Council's key research challenges, and we will continue to extend our research portfolio on the economic wellbeing of the UK. In 2009 this work will include new investments in three major research centres:

- (i) *the Centre for Economic Performance (CEP)* at the LSE will continue to conduct World class and policy relevant research on economic performance and macro-economic growth. The Centre will also research how our national capabilities change as a result of globalisation;
- (ii) *the Centre for the Microeconomic Analysis of Public Policy* at the Institute for Fiscal Studies provides the Institute's capacity to respond promptly and authoritatively to policy developments as they happen. The ESRC's new investment will generate significant advances in our understanding of work and retirement decisions, spending and saving behaviour, investment in education and skills, the behaviour of firms and entrepreneurs, and trends in government finances;

- (iii) *the new Centre for Competitive Advantage in the Global Economy (CAGE)* at the University of Warwick will focus on how markets, institutions and public policies interact to create and sustain competitive advantage in a changing global economy. The research will consider how such economic advantage evolves over time, and how it influences growth, deprivation and well-being both in the short and the long term.

The Council expects these Centres to produce research of the highest international standards. The outcomes will provide the foundation stones for the UK's future economic growth and ensure that policies are best designed to help avoid a repetition of the current crisis. The research will also provide business and the voluntary sector with data to support their strategies for growth and development.

The economic impact from our research programme will be supported by a continued emphasis on engagement with UK business through the ESRC's knowledge transfer and training programmes, including further rounds of CASE studentships, people placements and innovation vouchers. The Council will also make the first awards under its new Follow-On Grants Scheme which allows applicants to undertake additional impact generating activities where there is potential for significant economic or social benefits from completed research.

The ESRC will also continue to fund co-production research in partnership with organisations in the private and public sector, supported by our excellent and expanding relationship with the Technology Strategy Board.

## 10. References

- 
- <sup>i</sup> ESRC International Benchmarking Reports on UK Social Anthropology, 2006; Politics and International Studies, 2007; Economics, 2008.  
<http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/Support/Evaluation/publications/IBR.aspx?ComponentId=26430&SourcePageId=16592>
- <sup>ii</sup> Taking stock: a summary of ESRC's work to evaluate the impact of research on policy and practice, ESRC, 2009.  
<http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/takingstock/>
- <sup>iii</sup> Impact evaluation of the ESRC Centre for Social and Economic Research on the Global Environment, CAG Consultants, 2009.
- <sup>iv</sup> Evaluating the impact of ESRC funding, Frontier Economics Ltd, 2008.  
[http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/Images/Evaluating%20the%20Economic%20Impact%20of%20ESRC%20Research\\_tcm6-25908.pdf](http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/Images/Evaluating%20the%20Economic%20Impact%20of%20ESRC%20Research_tcm6-25908.pdf)
- <sup>v</sup> Measuring the impact of ESRC funding, Frontier Economics Ltd, 2008.
- <sup>vi</sup> The employment of social science PhDs in academic and non-academic jobs: research skills and postgraduate training, Kate Purcell and Peter Elias, 2005.

In this report it is only possible to include a small number of examples of the ESRC's enormous impact on UK society. Further illustrations of this wider impact are described in evaluation reports on the ESRC's web site at:

<http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/Support/Evaluation/publications/index.aspx>