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Slides 3

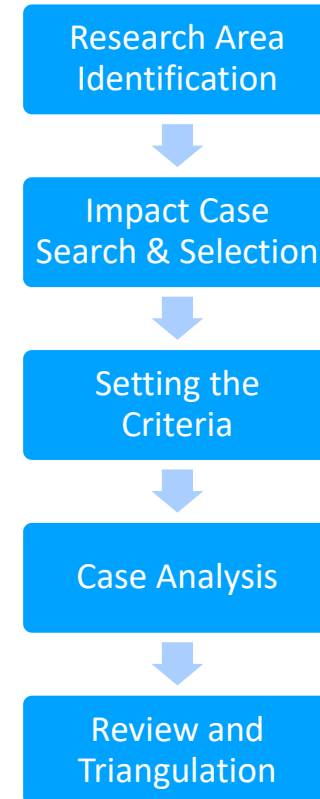
The Key Characteristics and Evolution of Impact Case Studies
Across two REF Periods: the case of International Business /
International Management

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Background

Aims:

- Identify the key characteristics of impact case studies in the IB/IM research area
- Understand the evolution of IB/IM impact cases across REF2014 and REF2021
- Assess the coherency, transparency and verifiability of compliance with the main REF criteria for IB/IM impact cases



Analysis approach

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar for REF2014 impact case studies, including links for About, How to search, FAQs, API, Terms of Use, and REF2014 Home. Below the navigation is a search box with the text "Search REF Impact Case Studies" and a prompt to "Browse the index below or search all Case Studies using keywords [e.g. 'NHS']". There is a search input field, a "Search" button, and a "See all case studies" button. At the bottom of the search section, there is a link to "Learn about advanced search options" and another link to "read our Terms of Use".

Browse the index

The screenshot shows the REF2021 Research Excellence Framework website. It features a navigation menu with "Results and submissions" selected. Below the navigation is a breadcrumb trail: "Home / Results and submissions / Impact database". The main heading is "Impact case study database". The text describes the database and provides instructions on how to search. There are several links: "Download all impact case studies (spreadsheet)", "REF 2014 impact case study database", "Website help", "View results", "Impact case study database FAQs", "Submitted outputs' details", and "Environment database". At the bottom, there is a "Search and" button.

Evidence
Provided

Pathway to
Impact

Research
Outputs

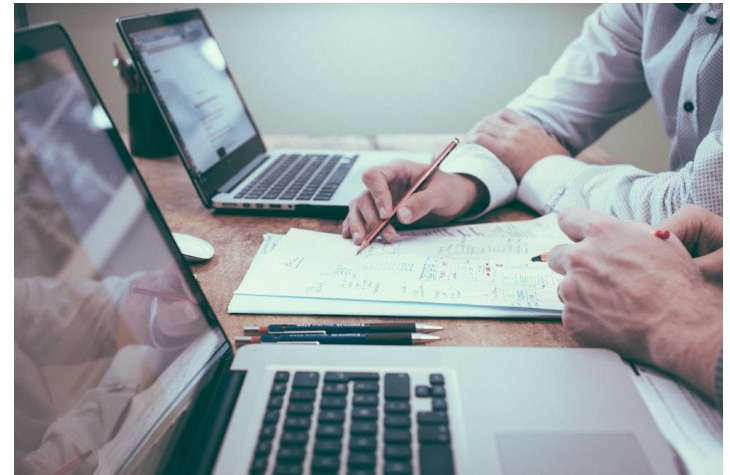
Impact

Research
Reach

Demographics

Points to note

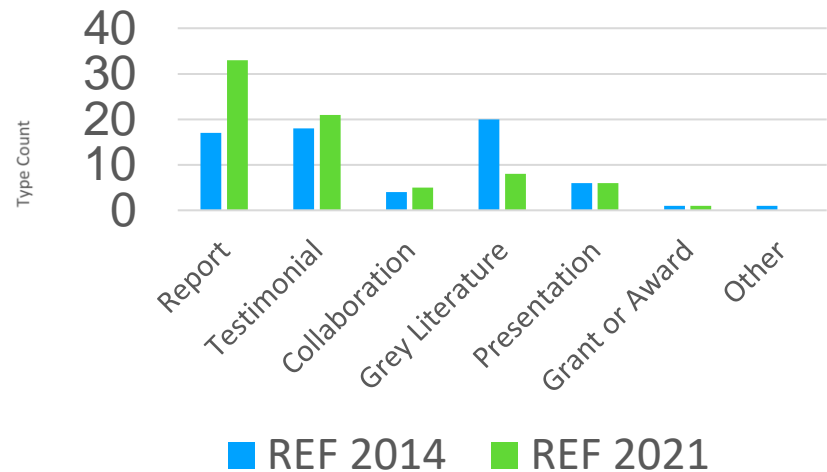
- **Case construction:** Not all cases are constructed in the same way...
- **Impact Pathway:** Clarity and transparency challenges
- **'Grey Areas':** a number of points were difficult to sort, we wonder why this persisted across 2014-2021
- **Outcome Blind:** We conducted this analysis without knowing the rating or outcome of these submissions



Findings: Evidence

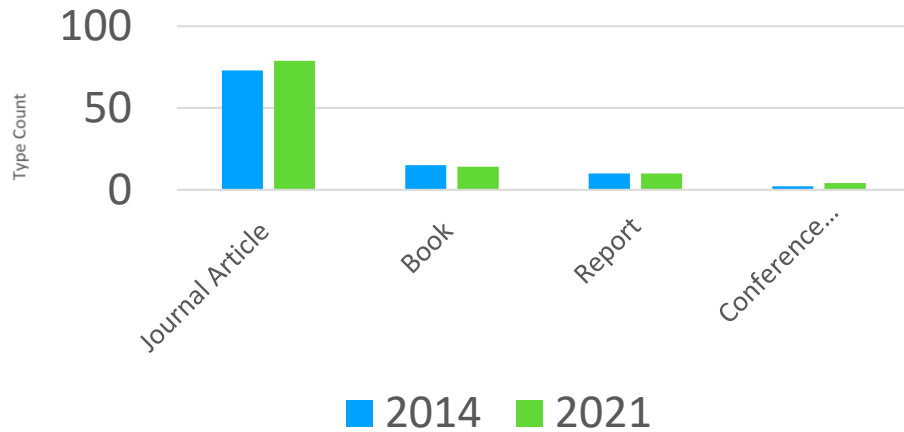
- Overall, the evidence provided can be placed into several categories extracted from the guidelines
- It should be noted that of this evidence, 23% of the 2014 evidence and 5.7% of the 2021 evidence could be considered confidential

Evidence Type Comparison
(REF2014-REF2021)

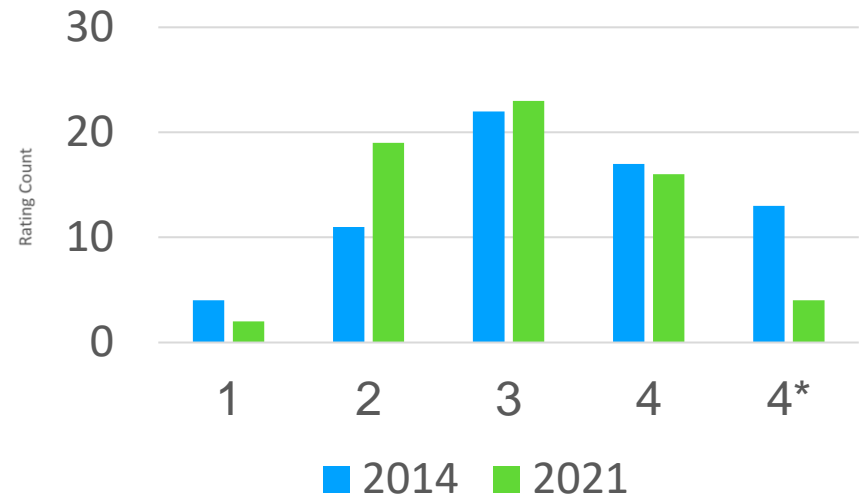


Findings: Research Outputs

Research Output Types REF2014- REF2021

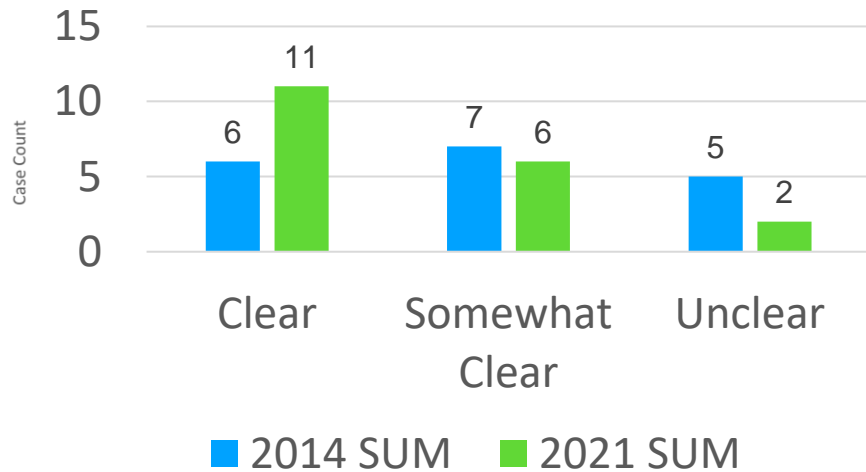


AJG Rating REF2014-REF2021

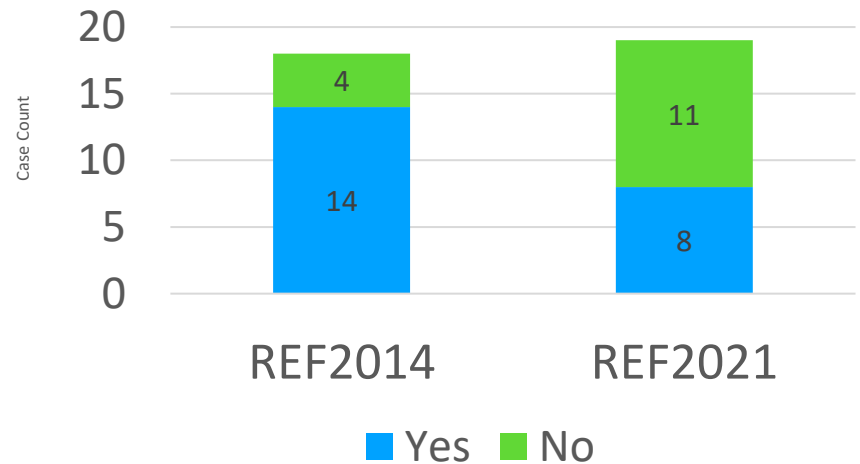


Findings: Impact and Grants

Link to Impact REF2014-REF2021

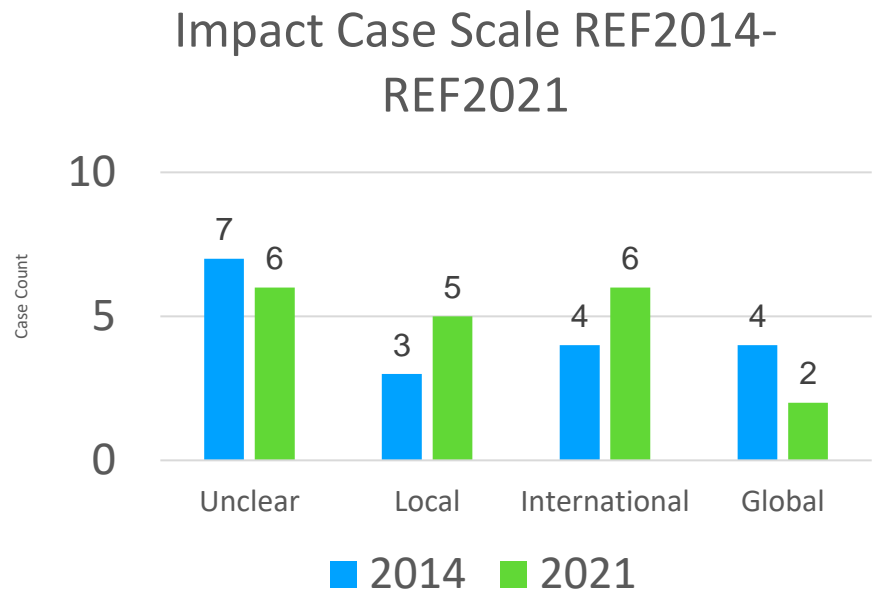


Grant Support Distribution REF2014- REF2021



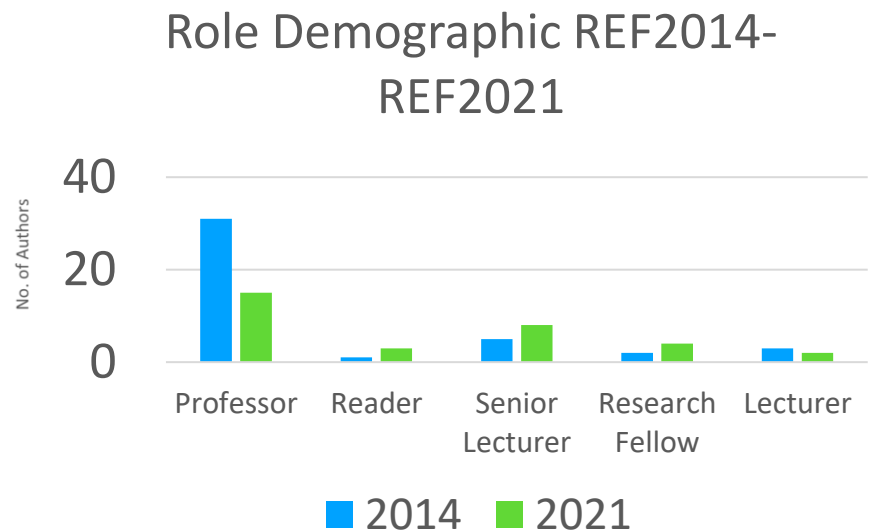
Findings: Impact Beneficiary Information

- >40% of cases provided us with clarity of beneficiary information
- Whilst number of users was not possible to capture, we did consider beneficiary information by sector
- The public to private sector beneficiary distribution was largely equal



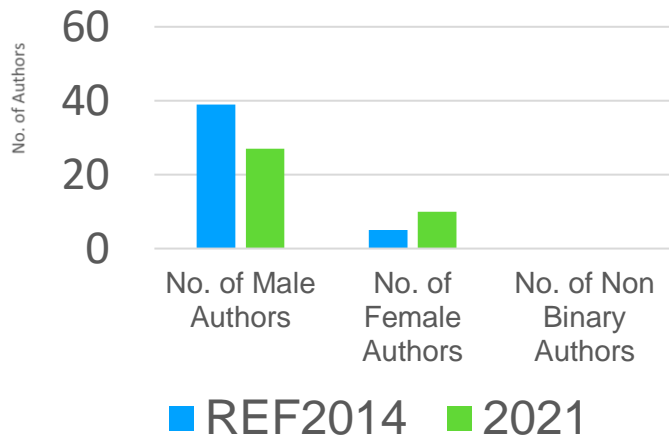
Findings: Demographics

- Role titles are based on what was submitted at the time of impact case and may not be reflective of individuals in the role now
- We could not always ascertain role tenure
- Generally, most cases were led by at least one Professor (in some cases only by Professors)- by REF2021 we saw some cases being led by Senior Lecturer/Reader roles

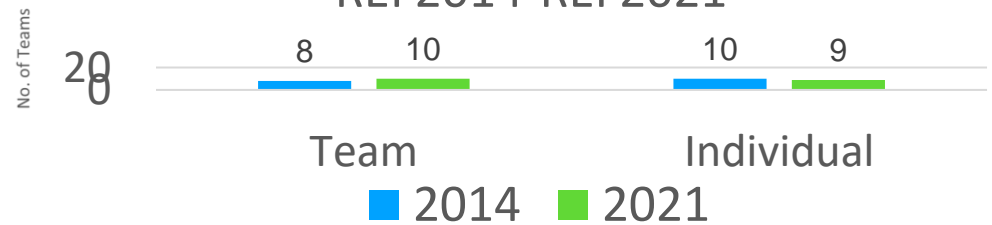


Findings: Demographics

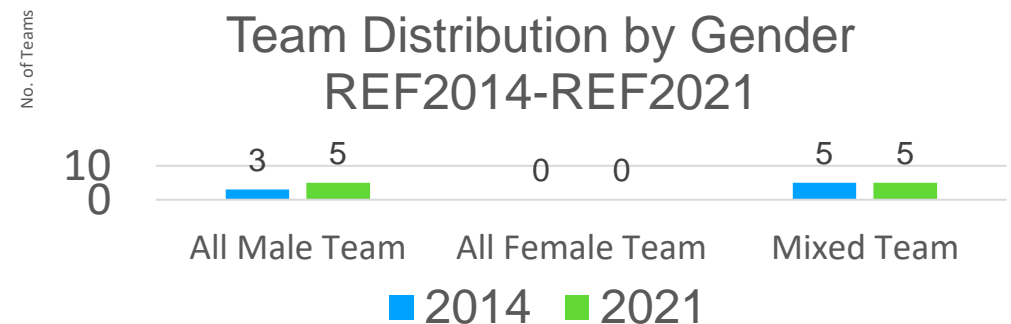
Gender Distribution REF2014-REF2021 (Public Information)



Team versus Individual Distribution REF2014-REF2021



Team Distribution by Gender REF2014-REF2021



Summary

- The comparison of the REF 2014 and REF 2021 indicate that in general the transparency and verifiability of evidence presented in REF impact cases is improving
- There appears to be problems with clearly demonstrating the links from research to impact on the practice of beneficiaries. Although there has been improvement in this area in REF 2021 this still seems to be a problem
- Evidence of the underpinning research is dominated by journals with 2 and 3 AJG rated journals – this raises questions about the place of other types of research outputs and the somewhat limited role of AJG 4* journals
- The number of grants linked to impact cases declined in REF 2021 raising questions about the importance of grants for impact, at least in the IB/IM research area
- Demographic data highlights underrepresentation of females and research fellows and lecturers.