

Social Sciences and the Welsh Government: a WISERD experience

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The 'Impact Agenda'



- Knowledge exchange and transfer has become a central element in the political economy of social science research:
 - the expectations of the Research Councils (and the UK Government);
 - the organisation of REF 2014.
- Devolution since 1999 has created a specific context in which to develop relationships between social science research and central government:
 - development of policy-making capacity;
 - engagement of research in the policy-making process;
 - need to make the most effective use of increasingly scarce public resources.



Impact and the Social Sciences



- There are a number of well-rehearsed issues relating to the impact agenda:
 - Is there a necessary tension between social and economic impact, on the one hand, and academic impact, on the other?
 - How do we define the scope of the social and economic impacts that we seek to achieve?
 - How do we best balance the demands of creating impact with other aspects of research activity?
- One of WISERD's aims is: To strengthen the impact of social science research on the development of policy in the public, private and third sectors.
- Therefore, WISERD has attempted to develop a knowledge exchange and transfer strategy that addresses these issues.



