Environment (15%) – REF will also assess how far the research environment supports a continuing flow of excellent research and its effective dissemination and application.

REF

Outputs (60%)– The primary focus of the REF will be to identify excellent research of all kinds, as demonstrated by the quality of research publications and other outputs. A **rounded assessment** should be made of the impact of the submitting **unit as a whole**, not the impact of individual researchers. Submissions should provide examples of **research-driven** impact that arose from the unit's **broad portfolio of work**.

The impacts must have been **underpinned by high-quality research**.

Because of time-lags, especially with blue-skies research, the **impact must be evident during the REF assessment period**, but the research may have been undertaken earlier (we suggest up to **10-15 years earlier**). need to be 'groundbreaking, transformative or of major value, relevant to a range of situations'.

The assessment will be based on qualitative information informed by appropriate indicators.

Assessment will be made by the REF expert **subpanels**, comprising people who understand research in the discipline and its wider use and benefits. Panels will be supplemented with members who are **research users**, to assess impacts.

Sub-panels should assess impact against criteria of **reach** (how widely the impacts have been felt) and **significance** (how transformative the impacts have been).

Given that the assessment of impact in the REF will be an important new feature but is comparatively untested, we are running a pilot exercise to test and develop the proposals. One of these is in **Earth & Environmental Systems**

Impact (25%) – Significant additional recognition will be given where researchers have built on excellent research to deliver demonstrable benefits to the economy, society, public policy, culture or quality of life.