

Recommended structure for writing a case study



Title of the Case Study:

Does the title give an indication of the impact involved?

Is the title concise and engaging?

Is the narrative clear to a non-specialist?

Section 1. Summary of the impact (indicative maximum 100 words)

Is the impact being summarised (i.e. not the research)
[time period not yet determined]

Have you considered the context and purpose of research impact in your project?

Who initiates and leads on your project's route to impact?

How are your research of group(s) represented?

Are the beneficiaries identified?

Is '[reach and significance](#)' clear?

Has your research had a beneficial change in one or more of the following, if so indicate which:

- Understanding and awareness
- Attitudes
- Economy
- Environment
- Health and wellbeing
- Policy
- Other forms of decision-making and behaviour change
- Culture
- Other social
- Capacity or preparedness

Section 2. Underpinning research

(indicative maximum 500 words - indicative maximum of six references)

Was the majority of the research undertaken at University of Aberdeen?

Are names and positions of key researchers listed?

Are joining and leaving dates provided if this is relevant during the time described?

Has the problem or opportunity addressed by the research clear? Have you provided context around the problem so that a lay person can understand the importance?

Is there an outline of the underpinning research?
What was your approach to addressing the issue/problem?

Have key research insights and findings, related to the case study, been outlined?

Has an outline of what research was undertaken (e.g. methods/approaches), when and by whom been included?

Has key contextual information been made about the research area (e.g. value of research in the 'big picture')?

Are dates provided throughout the section?

Section 3. References to the research

(indicative maximum of six references)

Are the research outputs on Pure? Are the dates of outputs clearly listed?

Are bibliographic details provided, including DOI or URL? If not available, where can publications be found? Are they open access?

Is there evidence of underpinning research being predominantly $\geq 2^*$?
(Quality that is recognised internationally in terms of originality, significance and rigour)

Other comments:

Section 4. Details of the impact

(indicative maximum 750 words)

Does the first paragraph provide a convincing and compelling narrative ‘hook’?

Is ‘reach and significance’ of the impact clear?

Are the beneficiaries identified?

Is it clear how the underpinning research made a distinct and material contribution to the impact?

Are the links from research to impact clear and key stages corroborated?

Where there was collaboration, has the specific contribution been made clear?

Are dates provided throughout the section?

Are the data and evidence contextualised, relevant & concise?

Are key claims corroborated?

Have you considered how corroborative testimonials might be embedded?

Is narrative clear without prior knowledge/expertise?

Other comments: Make sure to identify which evidence will be needed to verify claims around your impact – consider your sources and best way to capture these. Get in touch with the Impact Team if you have any questions.

Section 5. Sources to corroborate the impact

(indicative maximum of 10 references)

How many individual sources are there?

If gaining testimonials ensuring they re-iterate the impact story you are telling

Are specifics of where to find verifying information listed? i.e. page numbers, sections within reports, etc.

Have you sort permission of individual users/beneficiaries to be cited (impact case studies may be audited to verify your claims).

Confidential reports will require redacting

Capture online evidence such as reports, web links, media interviews as soon as possible in case they become unavailable online – add to your Pure profile