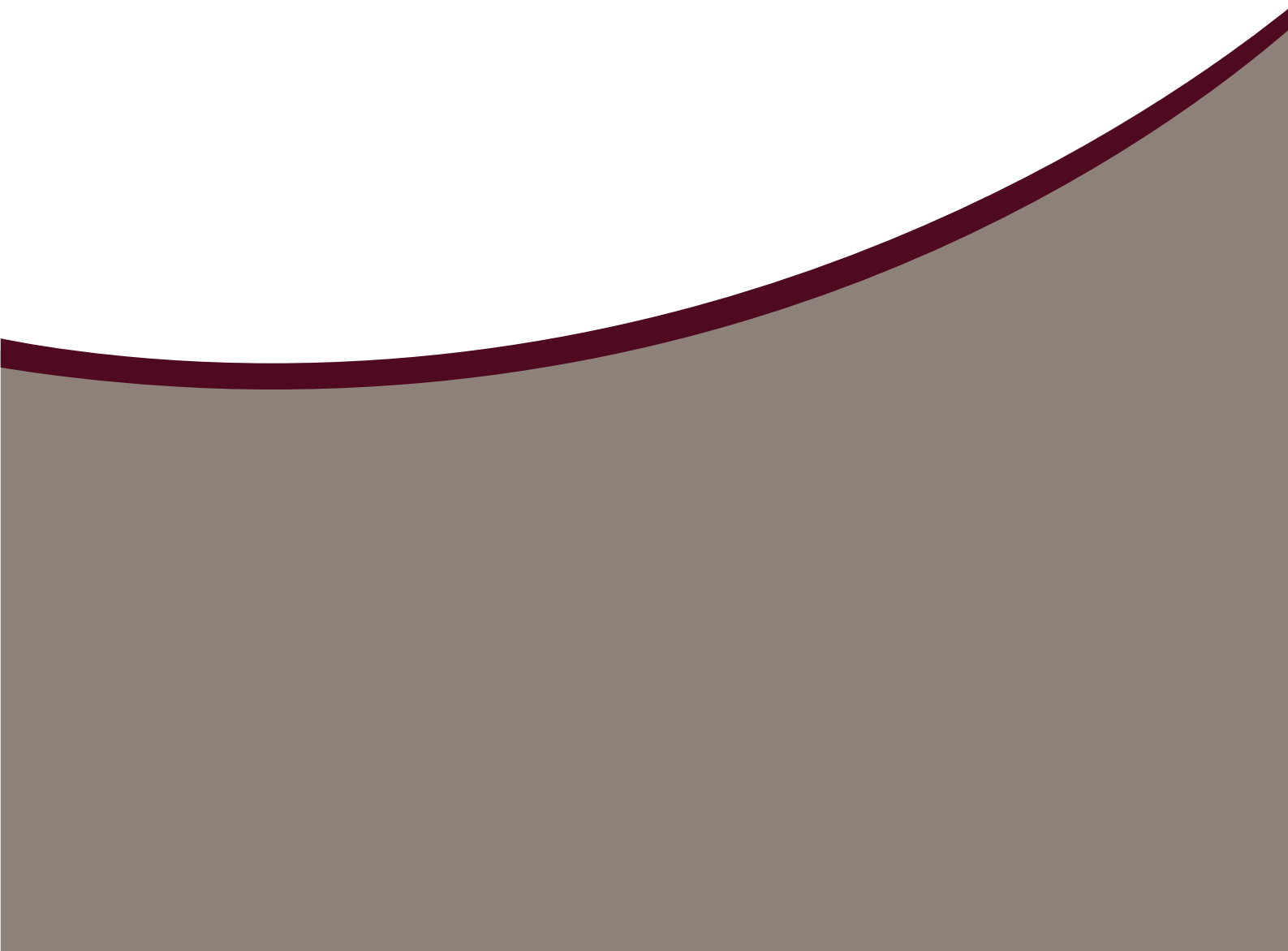


DEVELOPING ADMINISTRATIVE JUSTICE RESEARCH

Contents

Executive Summary	1
1. Introduction	2
1.1 The present body of administrative justice research	3
2. Current Research and Funding Landscape	4
2.1 Government Departments	4
2.1.1 Ministry of Justice (MoJ)	4
2.1.2 Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)	5
2.1.3 Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR)	5
2.1.4 The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) ..	6
2.1.5 Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG)	7
2.2 Non-Departmental Public Sector Bodies	9
2.2.1 Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)	9
2.2.2 Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)	10
2.2.3 The Law Commissions	11
2.2.4 Legal Services Research Centre (LSRC)	11
2.2.5 Audit Commission	13
2.2.6 National Audit Office (NAO)	14
2.2.7 Consumer Focus	14
2.2.8 The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) ...	15
2.2.9 Big Lottery Fund	16
2.2.10 Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) ...	17
2.3 The Independent Sector	19
2.3.1 The Nuffield Foundation	19
2.3.2 The Leverhulme Trust	21
2.3.3 The Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF)	22
2.3.4 British Academy	22
2.3.5 Advice Services Alliance (ASA)	23
2.3.6 Citizens Advice	24
2.3.7 Policy Studies Institute (PSI)	24

3. Looking Ahead	26
3.1 The Present Position	26
3.2 The Contribution the AJTC Can Make	26
3.2.1 Helping to articulate the scope of administrative justice .	26
3.2.2 Working with funding bodies	27
3.2.3 Working with researchers	27
3.2.4 Developing strategic research partners internationally ..	27
3.2.5 Making authoritative research proposals	28
3.2.6 Publicising research	29
4. Conclusion	30



- 3) **We are committed to, and promote, equality** and diversity
- 4) We are proud of our **staff**, respect their views and invest in helping them meet their potential
- 5) At all times we are **accountable** for our performance
- 6) We are **one organisation**, no matter where we are based or what job we do.

Acas has a Strategy Unit and a Research and Evaluation Section, which work closely with its advisers, customers and other stakeholders to analyse working life issues. Research findings are used to improve Acas services and develop new methods for meeting the changing requirements of workplaces.

Recent Policy Discussion Papers produced by Acas include:

- ☞ S. Podro and R. Suff in collaboration with J.Purcell (Acas Strategy Unit), *'Employee Representatives: Challenges and changes in the workplace'* (undated);
- ☞ R. Suff in collaboration with K. Mizon and C. Reid (Acas individual conciliation unit), *'New rules, new challenges: Acas' role in the employment tribunal system'*, No 3, April 2006; and
- ☞ S. Podro and R. Suff in collaboration with Acas Mediation Development Group, *'Making more of Alternative Dispute Resolution'*, No.1 January 2005.

Further information can be found at:

🔗 www.acas.org.uk/index.aspx?articleid=1578

Acas current and forthcoming research priorities for 2008/9 include:

- Research and evaluation of the **new dispute resolution system**, including evaluation of pilots to make its statutory conciliation service more widely available to parties before disputes become tribunal claims;
- Funding for, and involvement in, the **Survey of Employment Tribunal Applications** and the Workplace Employment Relations Survey; and
- Deliberative research on management best practice in handling **sexual orientation and religion and belief (SORB)** at work.

Included in its most recent Research Papers (2007 and 2008) are the following:

- ☞ G. Dix (Acas), J. Forth (NIESR) and K. Sission (University of Warwick), *'Conflict at work: The pattern of disputes in Britain since 1980'* (Ref: 03/08);
- ☞ T. Johnston (Acas Research and Evaluation Section), *'Knowledge and use of mediation in SMEs'* (Ref: 02/08);
- ☞ L.Harris, A. Tuckman and J. Snook (Nottingham Trent University) and S.Tailby, S. Hutchinson and J. Winters (University of the West of England), *'Small firms and workplace disputes resolution'* (Ref: 01/08);

Four main strands of work have been identified as follows:

- 1) **Pathways:** from initial handling and filtering to sorting and settlement;
- 2) **Feedback mechanisms** and administrative justice;
- 3) Questions about **quality**; and
- 4) The choice of **redress** mechanism.

The following proposals have received approval under this initiative or before its launch:

- ☞ V. Bondy, *'Design and choice of redress mechanism - a conceptual and empirical study'*;
- ☞ S. Halliday and C. Scott, *'A conceptual analysis of administrative justice and feedback mechanisms'*;
- ☞ H. Genn and C. Thomas, *'Tribunal decision-making: impact of oral hearings and consistency of outcomes'*;
- ☞ P. Dunleavy *'Information redress processes and administrative justice in the UK/England'*;
- ☞ R. Thomas *'Asylum adjudication: a study of the procedure and determination of asylum appeals'* (project due to end December 2008);
- ☞ S. Craig *'An evaluation of onward immigration and asylum appeals in Scotland'* (project due to end December 2008);
- ☞ C. Haley *'Mediation and judicial review - an action research study'* (project completed June 2008).

The Foundation will be launching revised guidelines in the autumn of 2008, but will retain its special interest in administrative justice.

A selection of research in the administrative justice area previously funded by the Nuffield Foundation can be found at:

🔗 www.nuffieldfoundation.org/go/grants/accesstojustice/page_480.html

In April 2008 LERSnet, the website of the Legal Empirical Research Support Network, was launched. This grew out of the Nuffield Report: 'Law in the Real World' and is intended to:

- **Promote communication** between empirical researchers, working both in academic institutions and in other research organisations;
- **Encourage new entrants** to the field by enabling them to ask more experienced colleagues for advice and assistance on research matters;
- **Provide new channels of communication** between researchers and research funders.

Further information about the project, and the content of the site may be found by visiting the site at:

🔗 www.lersnet.ac.uk



