



Understanding the research policy landscape

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Succeeding in the Research Excellence Framework
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Policy principles

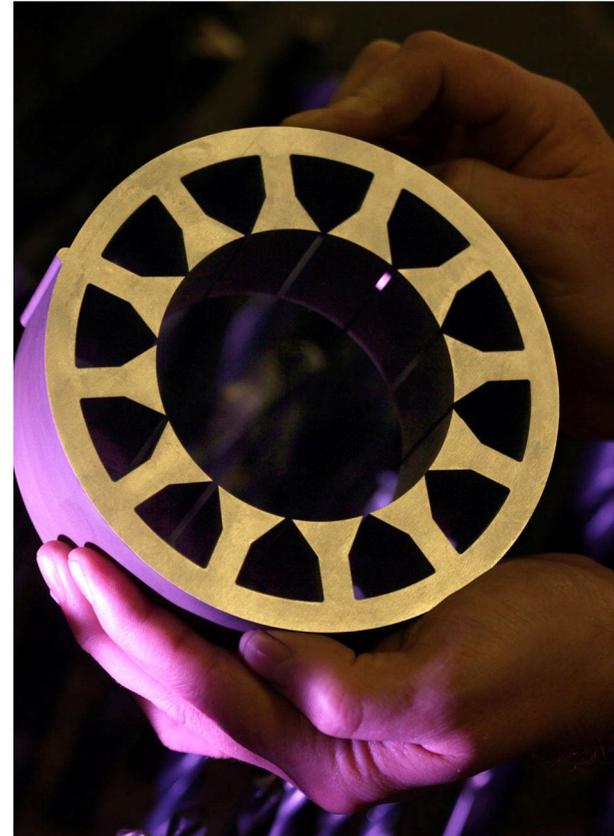
Public investment for a purpose

Excellence

Transparency and accountability

National policy

- A strong and innovative national research base is essential to support national prosperity in a globalised knowledge based economy
- Need to strengthen links between undertaking research and developing new products and services
- Our strategic aim is to develop and sustain a dynamic and internationally competitive research sector that makes a major contribution to economic prosperity, national wellbeing and the expansion and dissemination of knowledge.



A successful UK research base

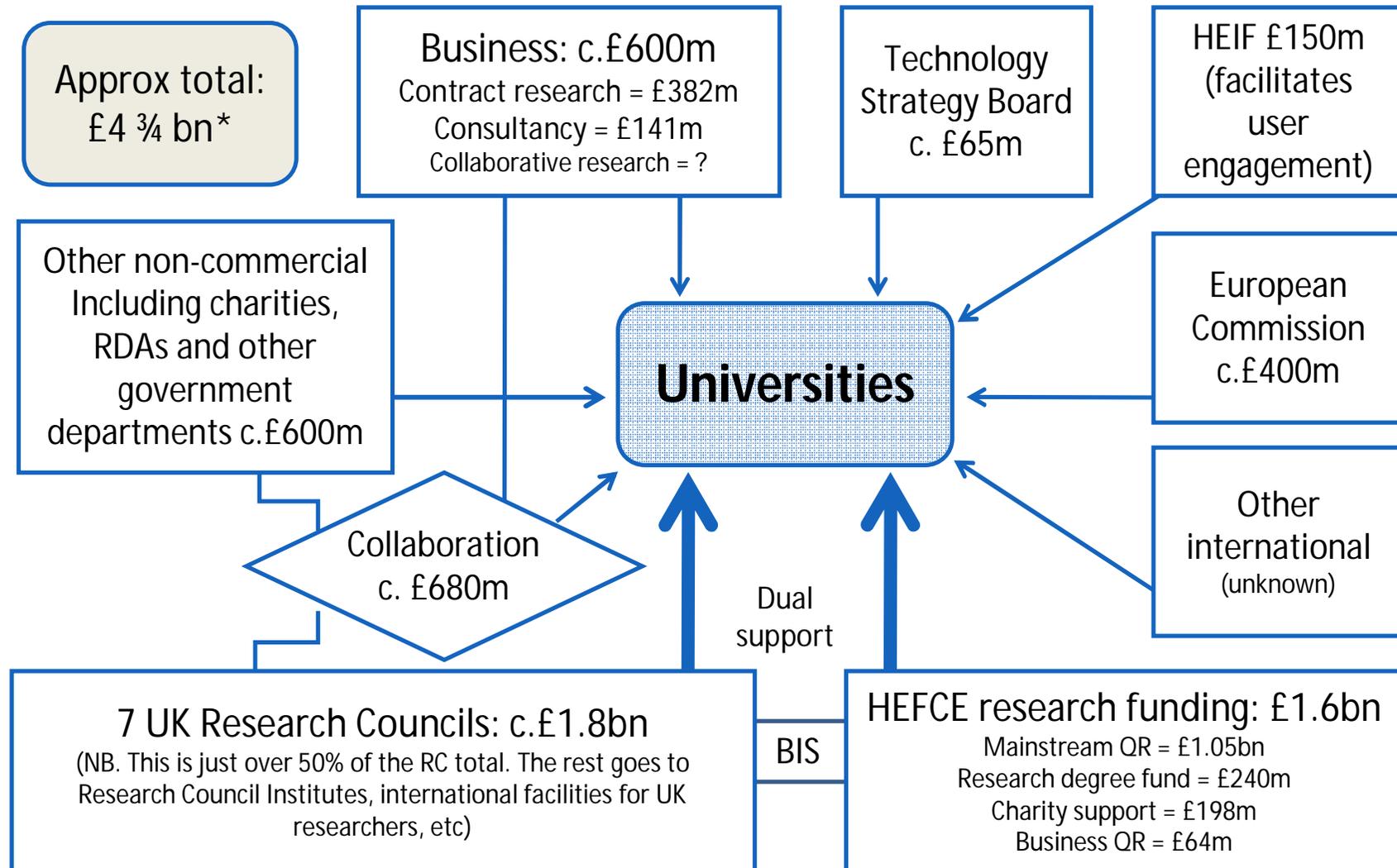
- 11 UK universities in the World Universities Ranking Top 100 (second only to US)
- UK attracts 15% of all international doctoral students (second only to US)
- 3rd in G8 (behind US and Germany) for production of PhD qualifiers
- UK produces more publications and citations per pound spent on research than other G8 nations
- With 1% world population we produce 6.9% of world publications, receive 10.9% of citations and 13.8% of citations with highest impact.

A successful UK research base (2)

Drivers for success:

- Dual support
- Block grant and institutional autonomy
- Excellence with diversity
- Funding – stability and challenge

Research funding flows to HE



* This is an estimate. Excludes informal flows, funding in kind and other funding streams that universities themselves may channel into research.

HEFCE's objectives for research

- maintain strength and dynamism of the research base through selective institutional grant funding
- implement the Research Excellence Framework in 2014
- support institutions in training and developing the next generation of excellent researchers
- encourage and enable institutions to undertake excellent research funded from a variety of sources



HEFCE Research funding (QR)

- Government request of: *selectively funding on the basis of only internationally excellent research*
- Mainstream quality related (£1,050M): allocated selectively to reward evidence of highest quality as best indicator of future performance
- QR charity support element (£198M): is allocated in proportion income from charity sponsored research
- QR business support element (£64M): is allocated in proportion to income from business sponsored research
- PGR supervision funding (£240M): planning to increase cash value and allocate more selectively from 2012-13.

How we use our funding

- funding selectively to reward evidence of performance, impact, and the best environments for conducting world-leading research
- encouraging collaborations that improve efficiency and effectiveness
- understanding and influencing the drivers for research that contribute to societal and economic development
- encouraging universities and researchers to engage with business and the broader public, to inform research directions and disseminate the direction and outcomes of research
- ensuring our input complements that of other research funders, notably the Research Councils but also charities and businesses, to ensure maximum return on investments

The Research Excellence Framework

Why are we doing this?

- To allocate funding
- To encourage and reward excellent research – including a tool for institutional research managers (*Excellence*)
- Benchmarking and public information (*Transparency and accountability*)
- To identify, encourage and reward effective application of research outcomes (*Public investment for a purpose*)

REF: the state of play

In summary

- All the key elements of “rules” and procedures are in place
- The assessment panels are up and running and have produced their criteria for assessment
- We have explained fully and clearly what we are doing and why

Impact: Definition for the REF

- An effect on, change or benefit to the economy, society, culture, public policy or services, health, the environment or quality of life, beyond academia
- Impact **includes** an effect, change or benefit to:
 - The activity, attitude, awareness, behaviour, capacity, opportunity, performance, policy, practice, process or understanding
 - Of an audience, beneficiary, community, constituency, organisation or individuals
 - In any geographic location whether locally, regionally, nationally or internationally
- It **excludes** impacts on research or the advancement of academic knowledge within HE; and impacts on teaching or other activities within the submitting HEI

Societal contribution (1)

- **Economic & commercial** – creating wealth, for public good and private gain
- **Public policy and services** – stimulating public sector innovation as a contribution to growth and quality of life
- **Society, culture and creativity** – enriching and expanding lives, imaginations and sensibilities while challenging cultural values and social assumptions
- **Health and welfare** – saving lives and enhancing the quality of life.

Societal contribution (2)

- **Production** – increasing production, yields or quality; reducing waste
- **Practitioners and services** – changes to professional standards, guidelines or training; influence on workforce planning
- **Environment** – influencing the policy debate on climate change or other environmental policy issues
- **International development** – influencing international policy development or international agencies or institutions; quality of life improved in a developing country
- **Education** – influencing the form or the content of the education of any age group in any part of the world.

Benefits of research

Clinical medicine

-

Physics

-

Earth systems & environmental sciences

-

Social work & social policy

-

English language & literature

-

Other policy issues

- Developing the research workforce:
 - Postgraduate provision
 - Research careers – the Concordat and REF codes of practice
 - Research integrity
- Transparency and accountability
 - Open access publication
 - Open data

Looking forward: the bigger picture

- supporting economic recovery and growth
- building education and research partnerships in the faster growing economies
- focusing research efforts
- maintaining our international reach
- preparing graduates with a 'global' outlook
- maintaining a rich diversity of higher education institutions
- **Continuing pressure on funding leading to sustained interest in the efficiency of the research system and in the outcomes that the funding is buying**



Thank you for listening

www.hefce.ac.uk

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