HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND

An update on research policy and funding priorities

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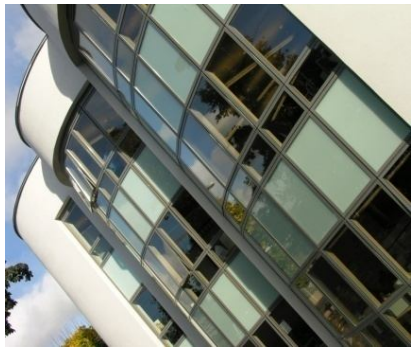
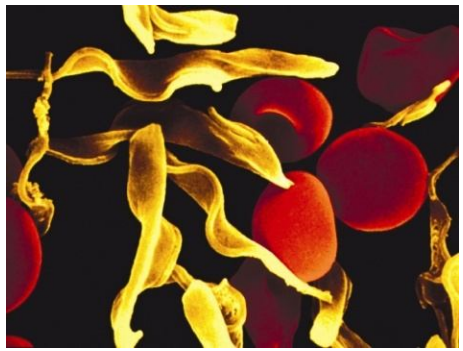
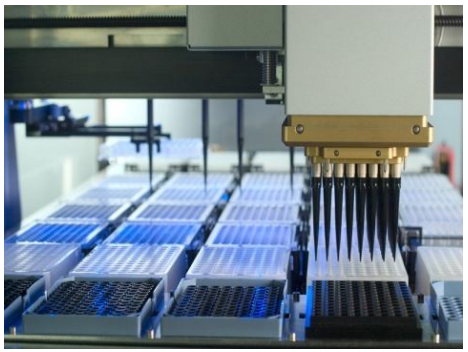
29 September 2011

A successful UK research base

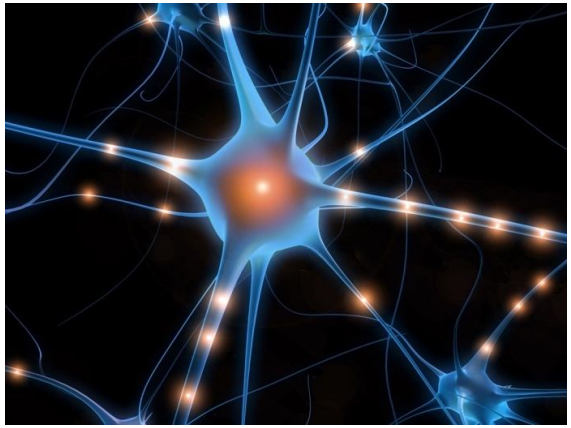
- 11 UK universities in the World universities ranking top 100 (second only to US)
- UK attracts 5% of all international doctoral students (second only to US)
- 3rd in G8 (behind US and Germany) for production of PhD qualifiers
- UK produces more publications and citations per pound spent on research than other G8 nations
- with 1% world population we produce 7.9% of world publications, receive 11.8% of citations and 14.4% of citations with highest impact

Pre-requisites for success

- sustaining the balance between curiosity driven research and work targeted on national priorities
- maintaining the dual support system
- investing in infrastructure and human capital
- long term commitment of funding
- vibrant postgraduate and postdoctoral communities
- the research excellence framework

National research policy context

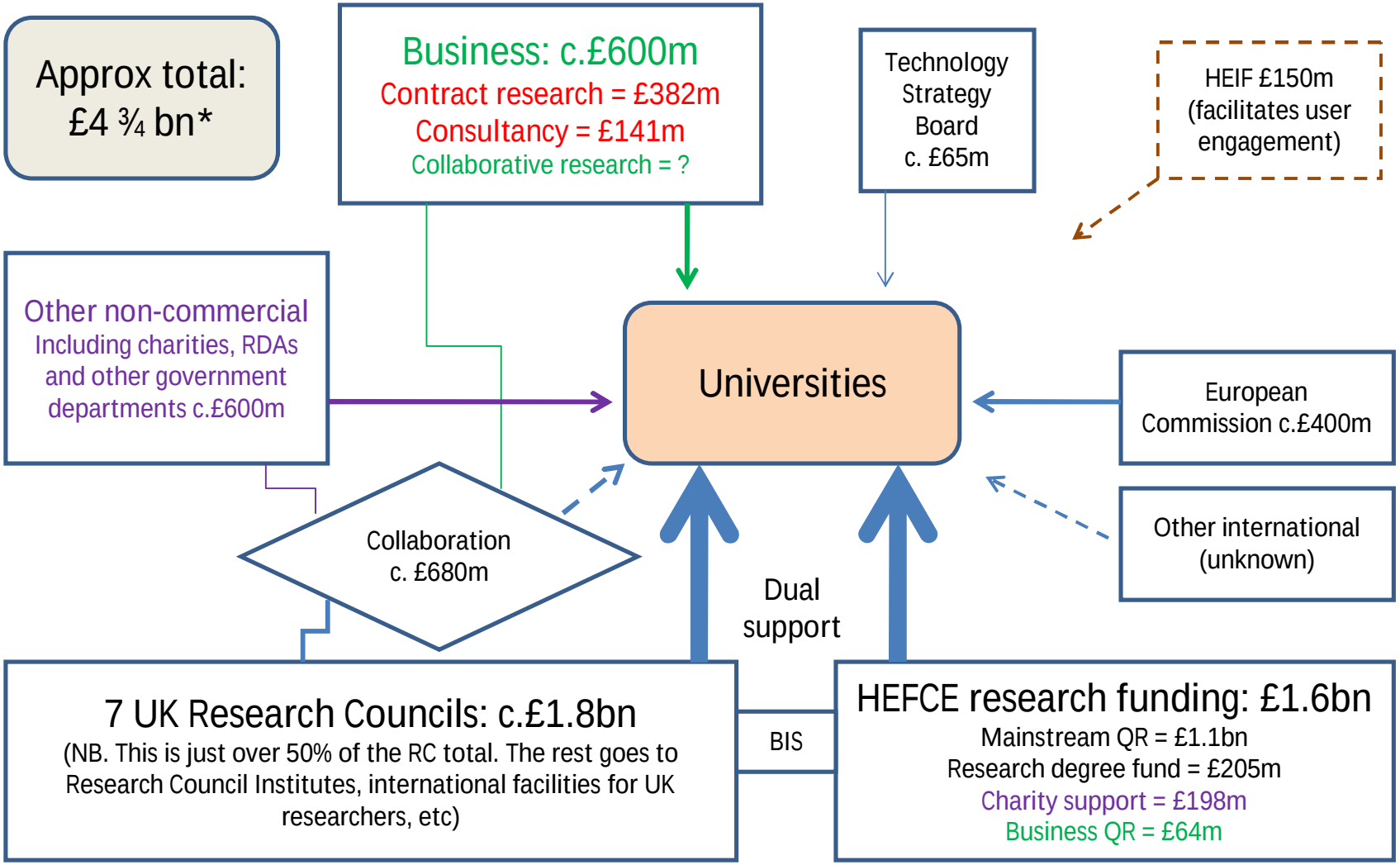


- sustained public investment in UK research - flat cash protection for science and research until 2014-15
- Government innovation and research strategy to be published in autumn
- success of UK research is dependent on ongoing commitment to dual support system
- no proposals in BIS technical consultation to change structures for either the funding or the delivery of research

"...we do not intend the changes proposed to the new regulatory framework outlined in this consultation to impact on HEFCE's ability to apply the current research funding criteria, and that we intend that the requirements of eligibility and accountability for HEIs to receive HEFCE grant for research [...] will be very similar in scope and effect to those now in force."

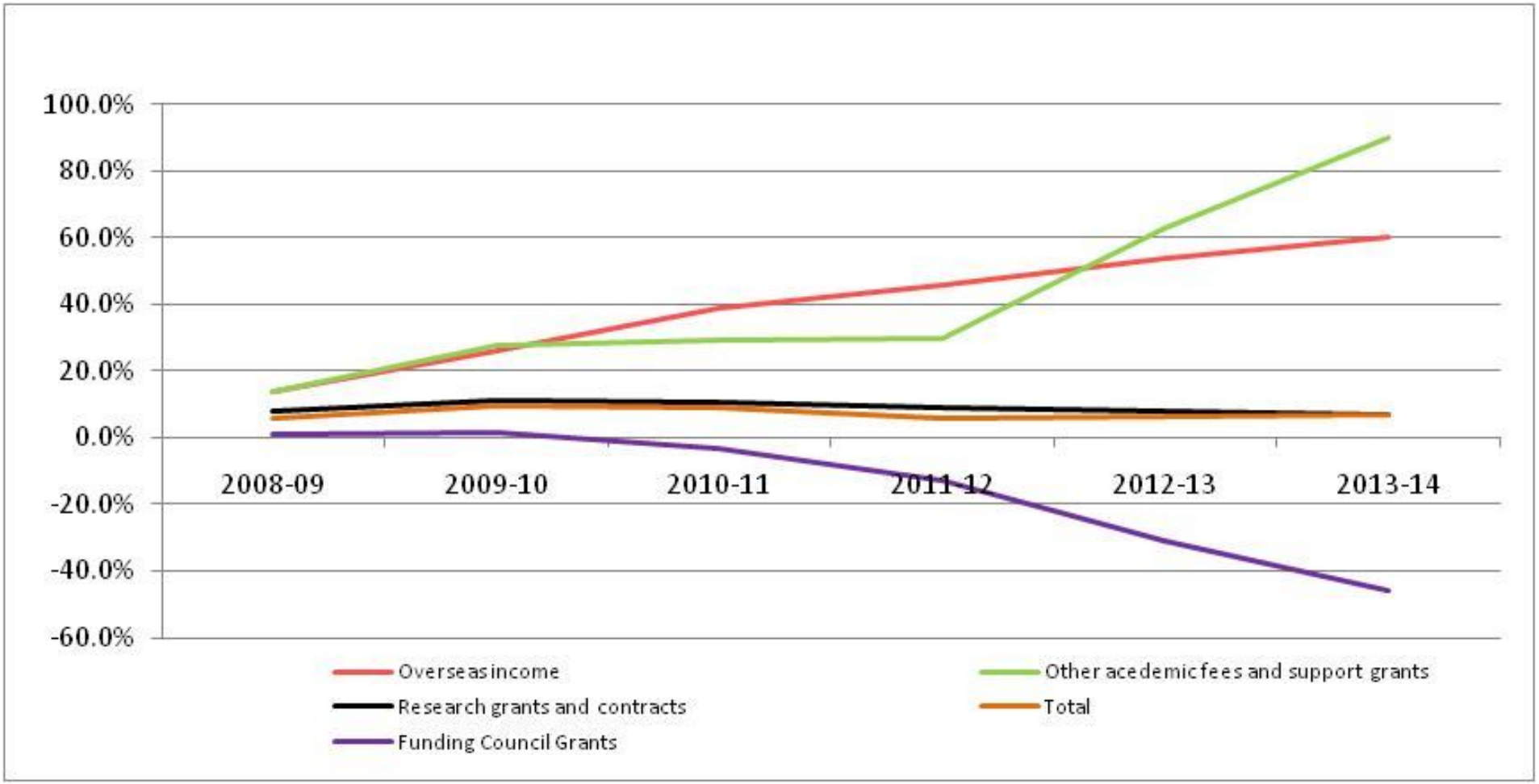
Research and innovation

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.

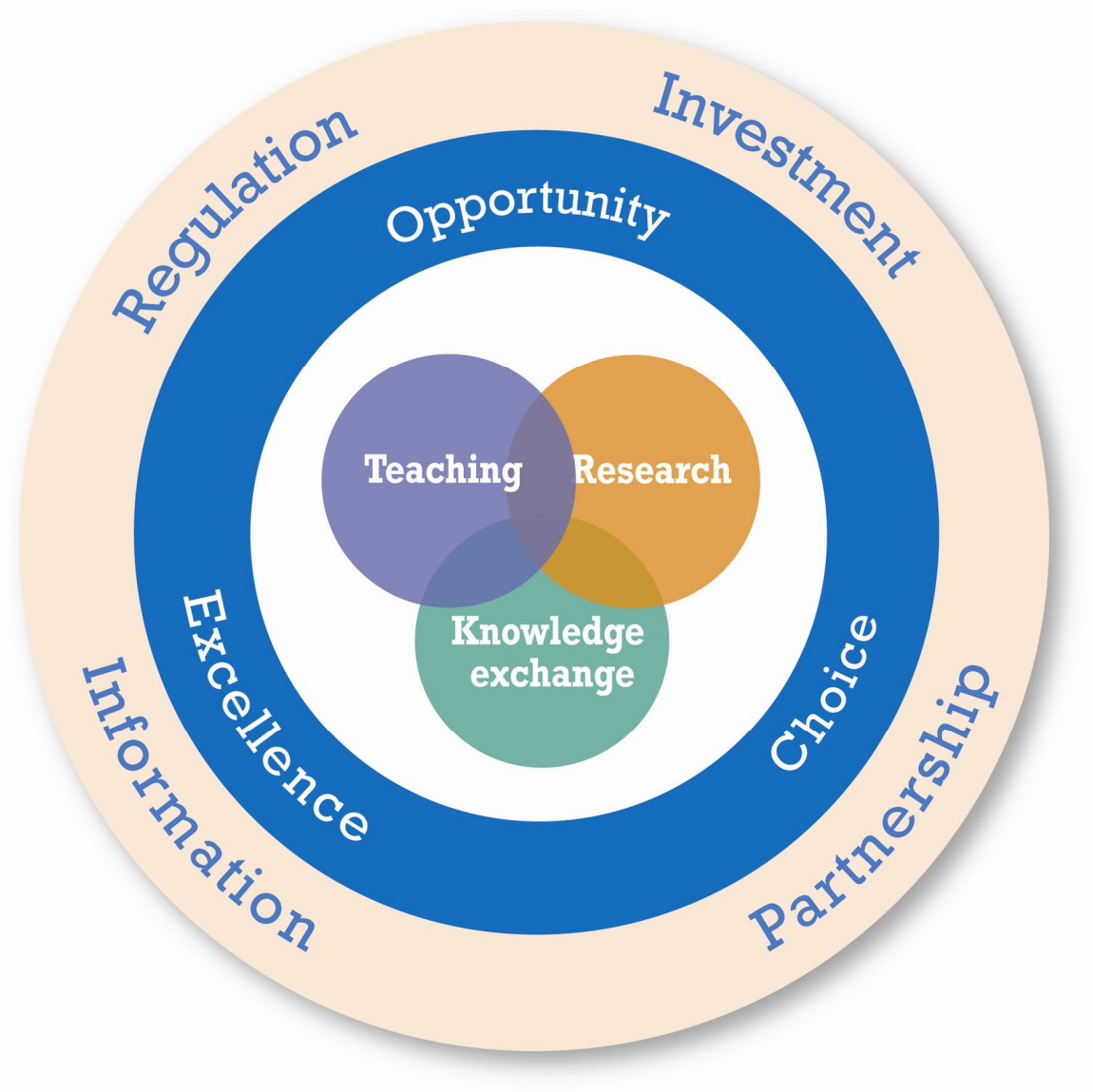
Changes in income since 2007-08



Funding for 2011-12

- £6,507M for teaching, research and capital (6.5% reduction compared to 2010-11)
- £1,558M research grant with key elements of research funding protected:
  - £1,053M for mainstream QR grant
  - support for postgraduate research students: £205M
  - charity-related funding: £198M
  - business related funding: £64M
  - national research libraries: £6M
- £549M research capital (from total investment of £662M)

Tackling higher education reform



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

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

REF: a UK-wide framework

- aiming to maintain the capacity of higher education to undertake world-leading research across a range of academic disciplines, promote economic growth and national well-being and the expansion and dissemination of knowledge
- delivered by the REF team on behalf of the four UK funding bodies

The REF:

- drives our selective allocations of research funding, supporting excellence wherever it is found
- provides international benchmarks and reputational yardsticks
- provides accountability and demonstrates the benefits of public investment in research

The REF framework

Overall excellence profile

Outputs	Impact	Environment
(65%)	(20%)	(15%)
Maximum of 4 outputs per researcher	Case studies	Narrative template + income and student data
Criteria -rigour -originality -significance	**Criteria** -reach -significance	**Criteria** -vitality -sustainability

Benefits of research

Clinical Medicine

- Impacts on patient outcomes, health policy and practice, medical technology and the pharmaceutical industry

Physics

- Impacts on high-tech products and services, public engagement with science and defence and energy policy

Earth systems & environmental sciences

- Impacts on environmental policy, conservation, managing the environmental, utilities, risks and hazards, exploration of resources, public health

Social work & social policy

- Impacts on social policy, public services, third sector, practitioners and public debate

English language & literature

- Impacts on creative industries, cultural enrichment, civil society, English as a global product, policy development

REF timetable

2011

- Panels appointed (Feb)
- **Guidance on submissions (Jul)**
- **Draft panel criteria for consultation (Jul)**
- Close of consultation (5 Oct)

2012

- **Final panel criteria and methods (Jan)**
- HEIs submit codes of practice (Jul)
- Survey of submission intentions & requests for multiple submissions (Oct-Dec)

2013

- Launch REF submissions system
- Recruit additional assessors
- Staff census date (31 Oct)
- **Submissions deadline (29 Nov)**

2014

- Panels assess submissions
- **Publish outcomes (Dec)**

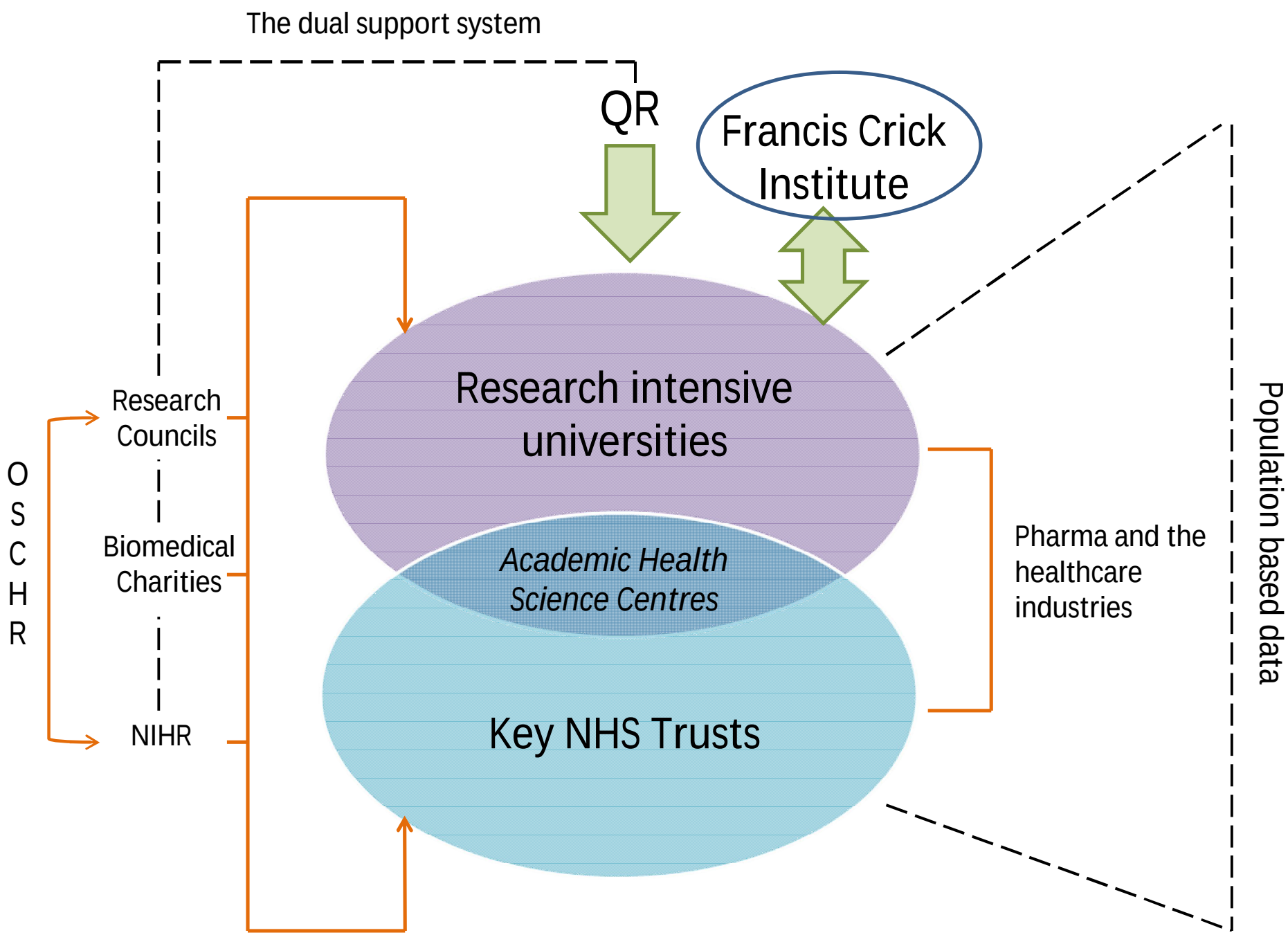
Building on strong foundations

- £20.3 billion total capital investment in higher education over past decade
- highly advanced research infrastructure across the sciences, arts and humanities:
  - creation of new, state of the art facilities e.g. for biochemistry at Oxford and in arts and law at Sheffield
  - major refurbishments - laboratories at the Institute of Cancer Research, biological sciences at University of Leeds and the Institute of Psychiatry at King's College London
  - major upgrade of equipment – physics department at Warwick

A unique
facility
Encouraging
creativity

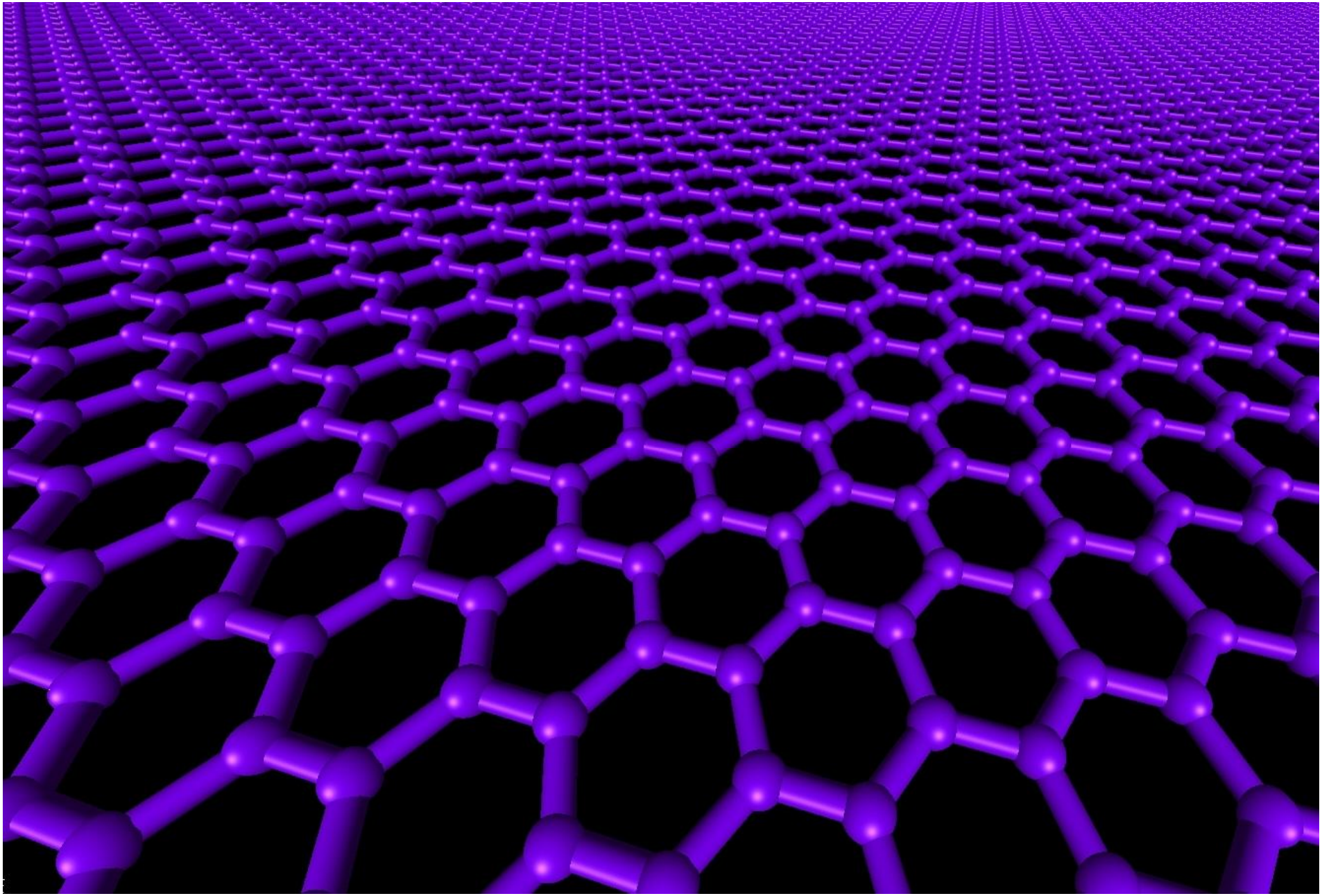
Ron Cooke Hub

UKCMRI


The dual support system
QR
Francis Crick Institute
Research Councils
Biomedical Charities
NIHR
O S C H R
Research intensive universities
Academic Health Science Centres
Key NHS Trusts
Pharma and the healthcare industries
Population based data

Focus on 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



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HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND

Thank you for listening

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