

Setting the Research and Innovation agenda from the Wales perspective

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Who is HEFCW?



- Receive funds from, and are accountable to, Welsh Government
- Arms length – Governance via HEFCW Council

Our Vision:

- Sustainable, accessible, internationally excellent higher education in Wales

Our mission: In pursuit of this vision we

- Fund higher education in Wales
- Regulate higher education providers in Wales
- Influence higher education with evidence-based advice and strong partnership working
- Work in partnership with students

- ➔ Research Funding: Quality-related (QR) and Postgraduate Research (PGR)
- ➔ Innovation and Engagement Funding
- ➔ Make and influence R&I policies to drive behaviour and performance

HEFCW's R&I Funding & Policy



Research Funding

- Rewards excellence
- Unhypothesized
- Underpins



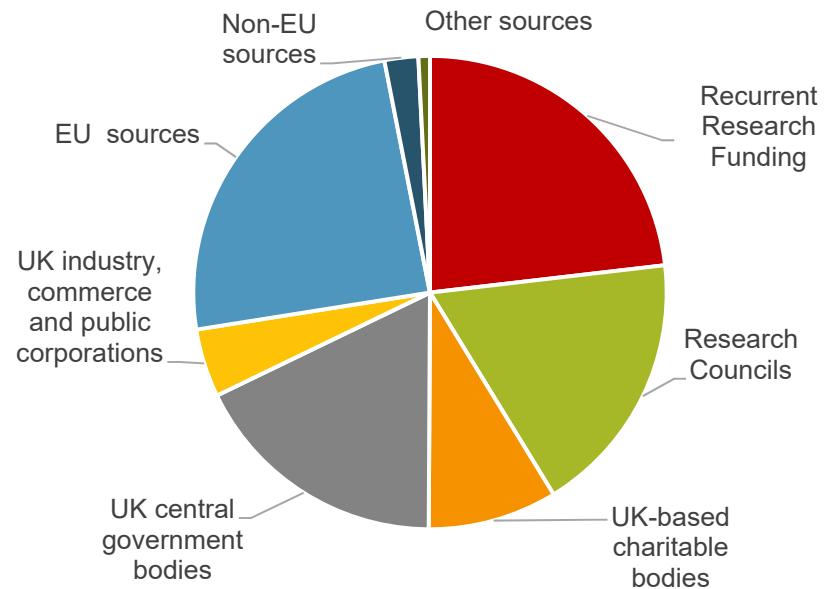
Innovation and Engagement Funding – same principle



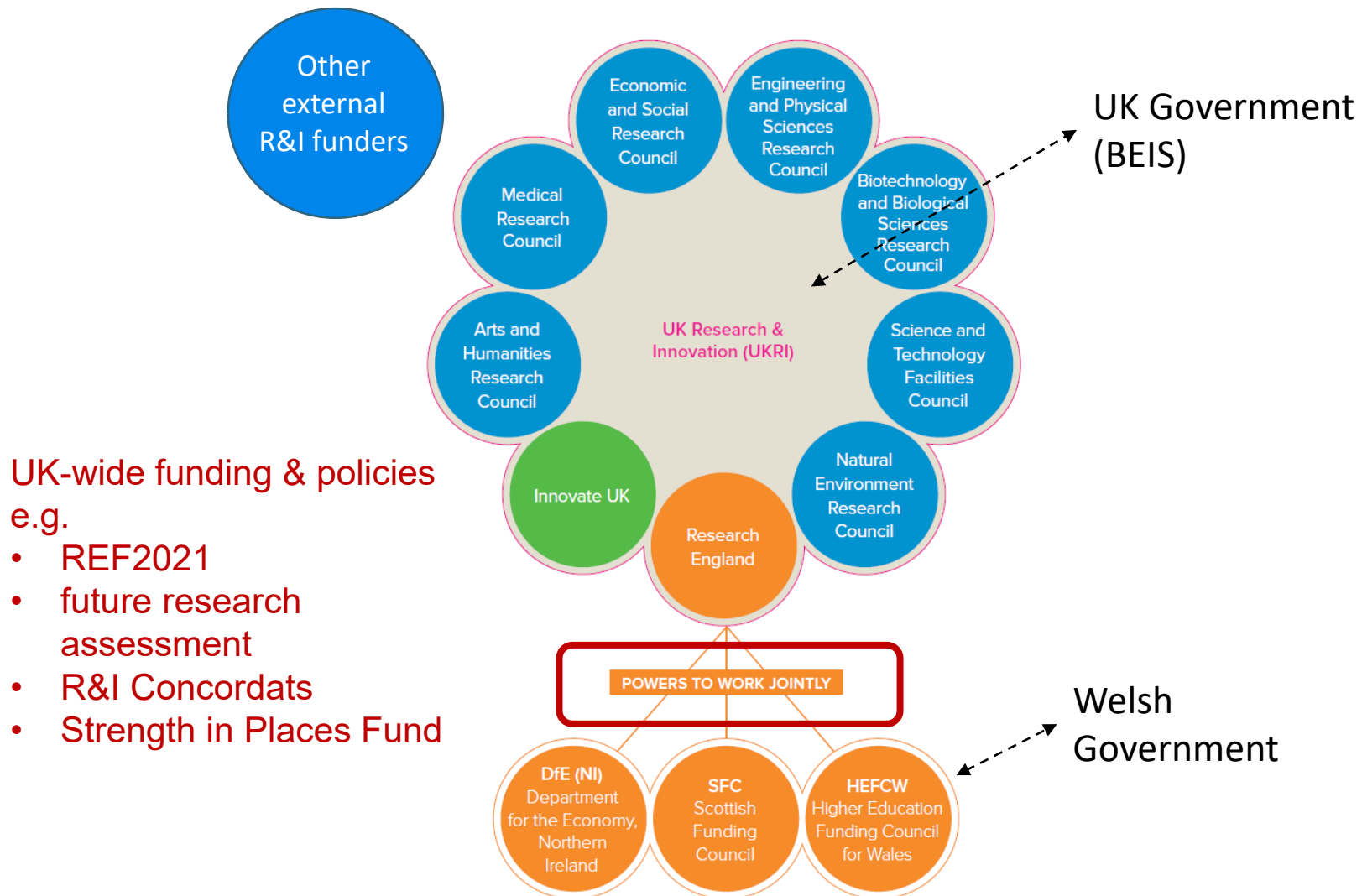
Make and influence R&I policies to drive behaviour and performance

- Formulas behind funding allocations
- Other funding e.g. Welsh Crucible, HE-FE innovation partnerships
- Concordats
- Our Vision

Research Income of Higher Education Institutions in Wales 2018/19 (Total ~ £340m)



UK R&I Structures



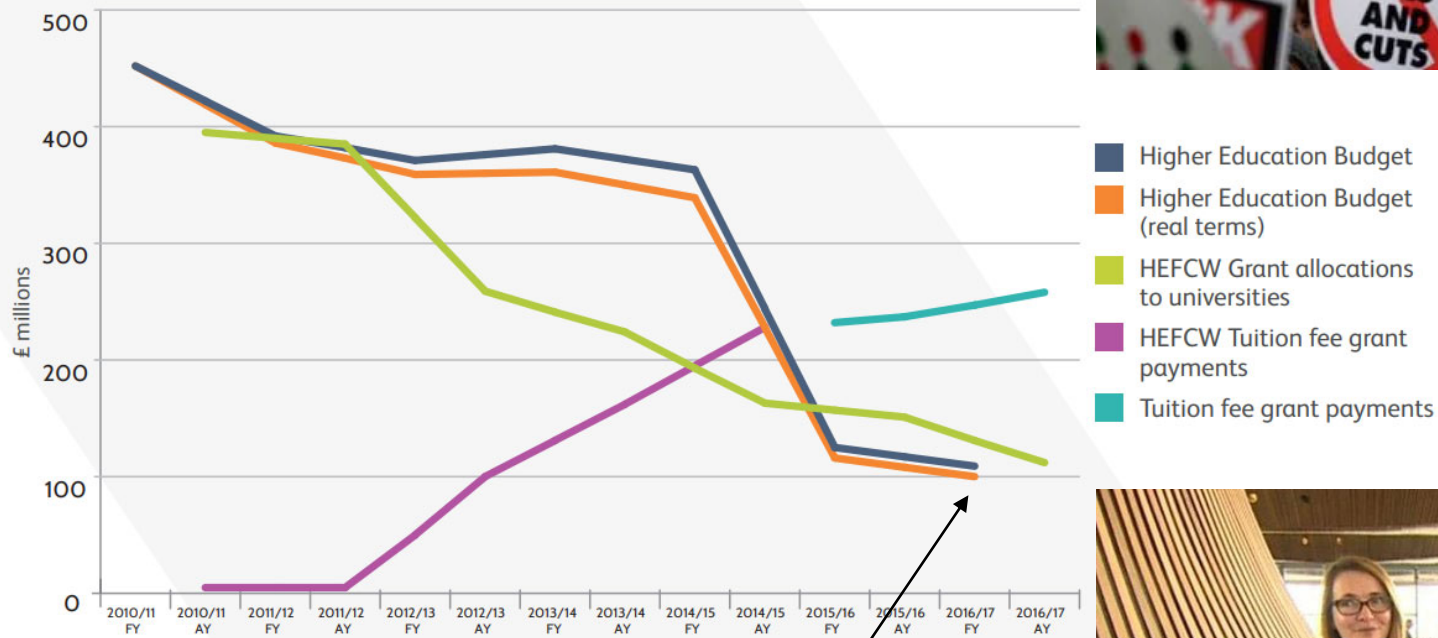
UK-wide funding & policies e.g.

- REF2021
- future research assessment
- R&I Concordats
- Strength in Places Fund

A history lesson

Part 1 – Diamond: 2012 - 2016

Welsh Government budget for Higher Education



Research Funding at all time low
No Innovation & Engagement funding
Unsustainable situation



A history lesson

Part 2 – Reid: 2018

Recognised changed environment for Research & Innovation:

- Formation of UKRI
- UK Government commitment to R&D
- Brexit and replacement funds

Diamond “**plus**” recommendations to increase universities’ ability to compete and win more external funding to Wales.

HE-BCI income

% Change from 2013/14 to 2017/18	
Wales	-9.50%
England	16.70%
Scotland	14.90%
Northern Ireland	34.70%
UK total	15.60%



The Vision for Wales



The Vision: Statement of intent

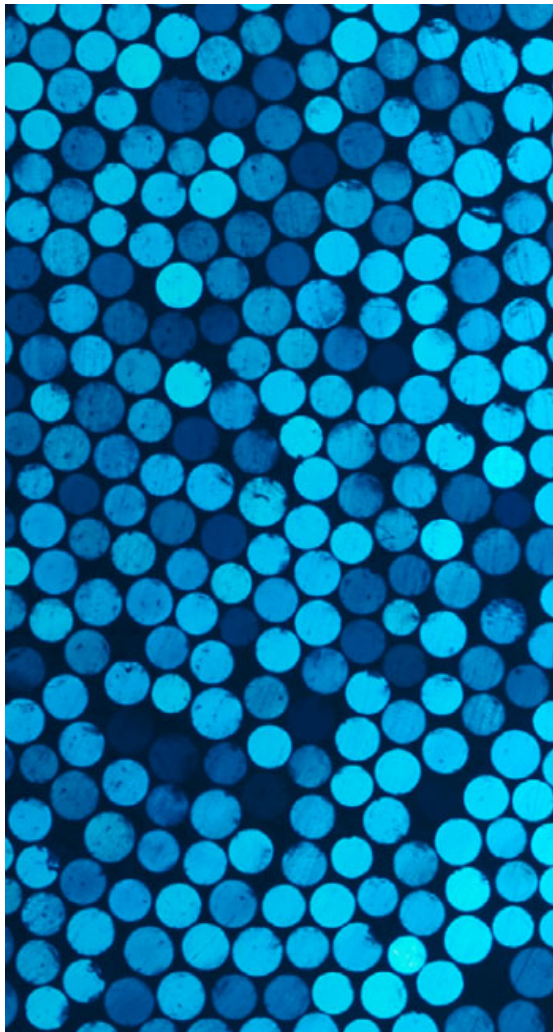
*“Wales will maintain and develop an **excellent research base** within its universities. Our research base will support innovation that **boosts productivity** in Welsh businesses, **delivering economic prosperity** and **social wellbeing** for the people of Wales. It will make a vital contribution to Welsh Government’s economic action plan and the delivery of the UK Government’s target of 2.4% of GDP expenditure on research and development.*

*The Welsh research base will be global in perspective. Our universities will continue to **collaborate** with each other and with research leaders across the UK and internationally. They will work to maintain and enhance partnerships with **industry, with the public sector and third sector organisations.***

*Universities in Wales will have a strong sense of **place**. Research activity will respond to challenges specific to the local region, engaging local communities to create new solutions. Their work will be understood and appreciated by the local community and have relevance across Wales, the UK and the world.”*

– The Vision, HEFCW

The Vision: Four pillars



Our Vision for Research and Innovation in Wales is built upon four thematic pillars:



Excellence: a research base recognised for its outstanding quality; internationally excellent in identified areas of focus; robust, resilient and sustainable.



Place: a clear focus on partnership and clusters; a confident contribution to the regions of Wales; a strong sense of civic responsibility; visibility, involvement and active engagement with local communities.



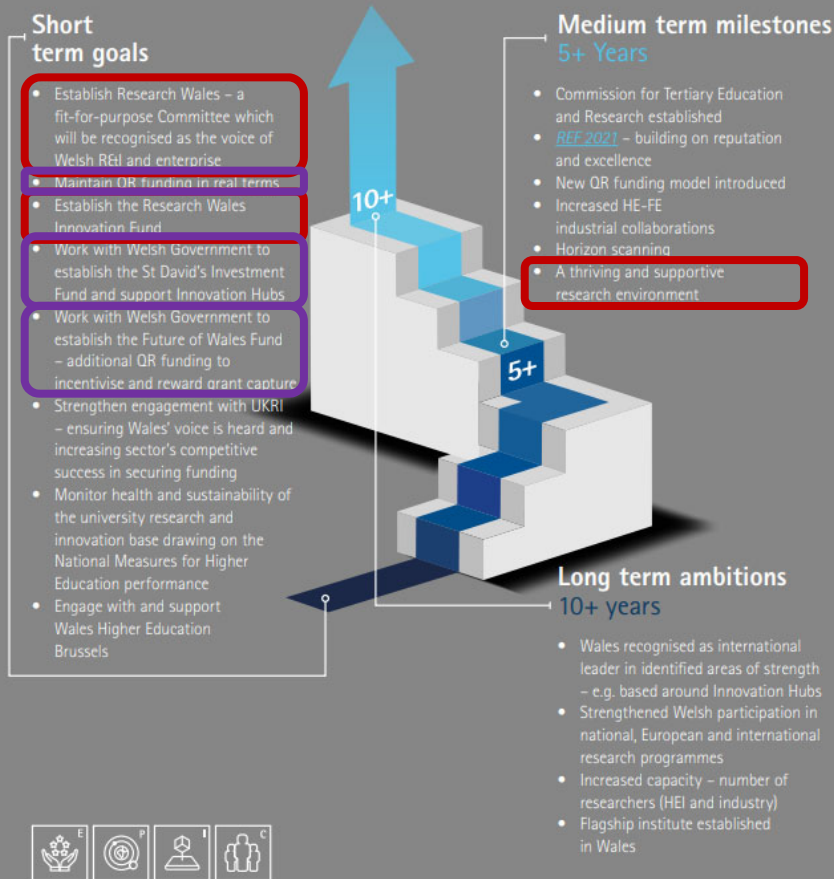
Innovation: innovation, enterprise, entrepreneurship and skills development activity that can transform Wales' productivity; new ways of working that support innovative approaches to applied research and partnership funding.



Collaboration: collaborations that link expertise in universities with key anchor companies, SMEs, the public and third sectors and with further education institution partners; collaborations that grow critical mass within Wales and build new partnerships across the UK; collaboration with international researchers and organisations.

The Vision – the content: the Roadmap

Delivering the Vision: Goals, milestones and ambitions



HEFCW is only one of the actors needed to achieve the Vision.

Actions to underpin this Vision – creating a strong R&I base that achieves the ambitions:

- Establish the Research Wales Committee
- A thriving and supportive research environment (**today!**)
- Establish the Research Wales Innovation Fund

Research Wales Innovation Fund

- £15m funding distributed by a formula which **incentivises and rewards performance**
- In line with **Reid** – income metrics are weighted more highly than non-income metrics (**rewards**).
- Institution performance be **reassessed** annually (**incentivises**) – potential to increase up to 30%, or decrease by -10%
- Each institution will receive a '**Capacity Grant**' to encourage stability and collaboration.



Research Wales Innovation Fund

Requirements from institutions



3 year strategies – Sets direction but enable HEIs to adapt and seize opportunities

Reflect institutional mission but must align with HEFCW's Vision for R&I including the four pillars

Strategies will focus on:

- Commercialisation and income generating activities
- New business growth and skills support
- Civic Mission & Public Engagement

Key RWIF outcomes linked to economic and social prosperity, and the Well-being of Future Generations Act goals

Next steps

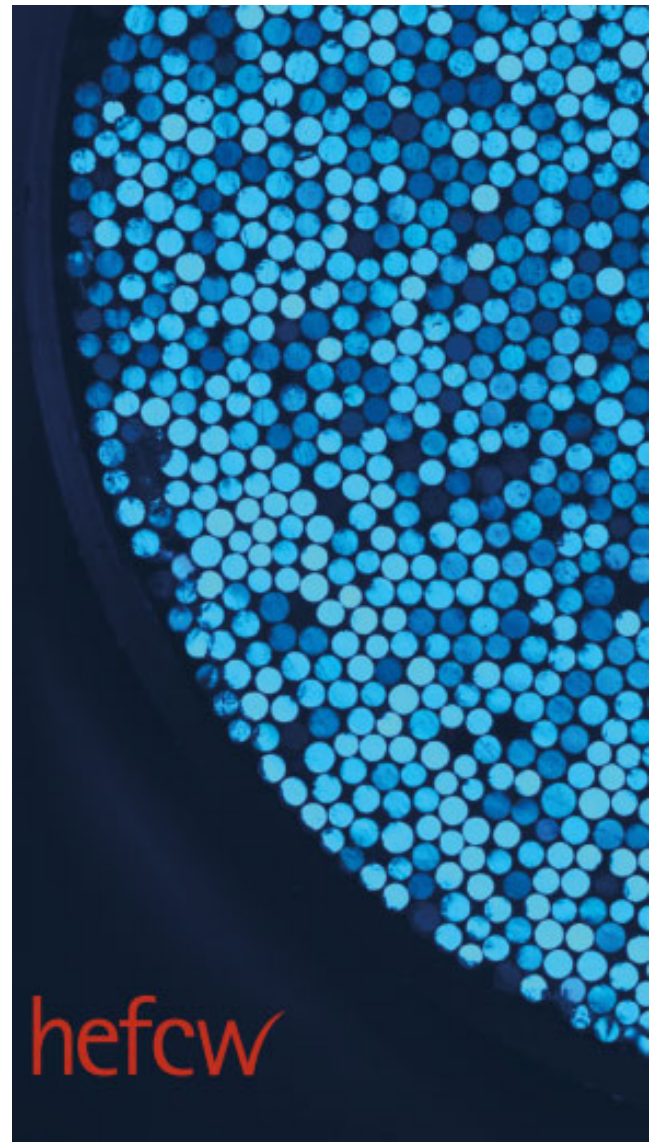
The Vision is still the basis for upcoming decisions – proposed 21/22 allocations increase research and innovation funding.

But context has changed:

- Covid and student recruitment
- Brexit and uncertainty over UK Shared Prosperity Funds
- UK Government reduced research budget?
- Senedd elections = new priorities?

Same Vision but with focus on R&I **rebuilding** the economy and society.

Update short-term goals later this year



Questions?

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