Measuring UK research and development

FST/ Resolution Foundation event
15 November 2023

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R&D development plan

Mission	Review & development of UK R&D statistics completed by 2024			
Vision	By 2024, UK R&D statistics are internationally recognised and trusted as high quality and responsive to user needs			
Drivers	Differences between ONS/HMRC estimates	New data sources	Levelling up	Need to conduct a review of R&D statistics
Objectives	Understand and explain differences between BERD and HMRC R&D estimates	Use administrative data sources alongside survey data	Provide more granular level statistics	Be flexible and adaptive to user needs

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UK R&D – what we have done

Business:

- Action taken: 9-month period of work with HMRC; identified BERD method improvement; peer review and implementation of uplift; BERD despatched online; improved guidance

- Result: Ten-fold increase in sample size covering all businesses; unbiassed estimates and more granularity; better measurement of business R&D levels (particularly small businesses)
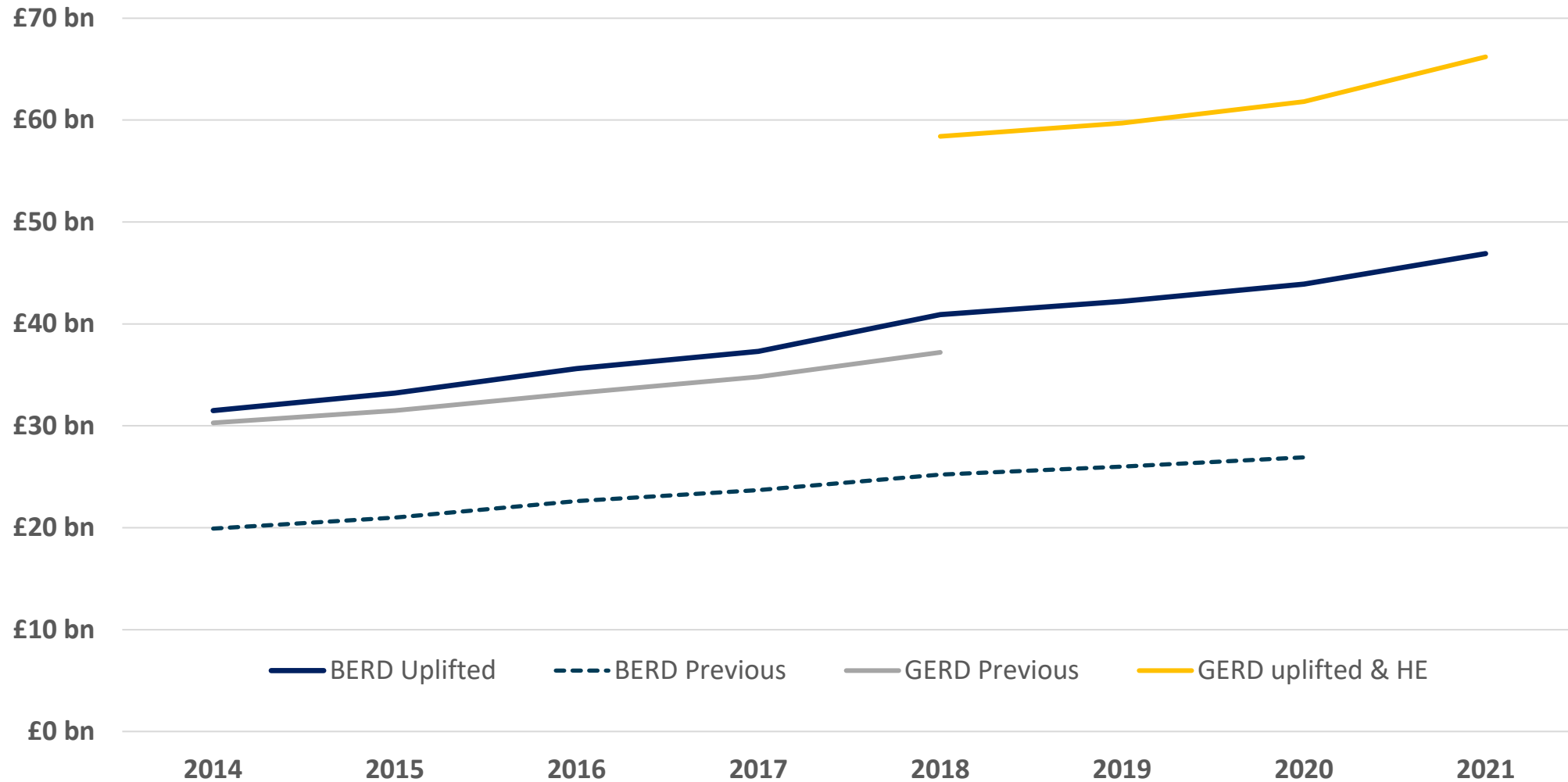
Higher education:

- Action taken: Engaged, tested and secured use of TRAC data (in place of HESA)

- Result: Improved measurement of HE R&D levels (own funded and performed R&D and wider indirect costs of R&D) included in GERD
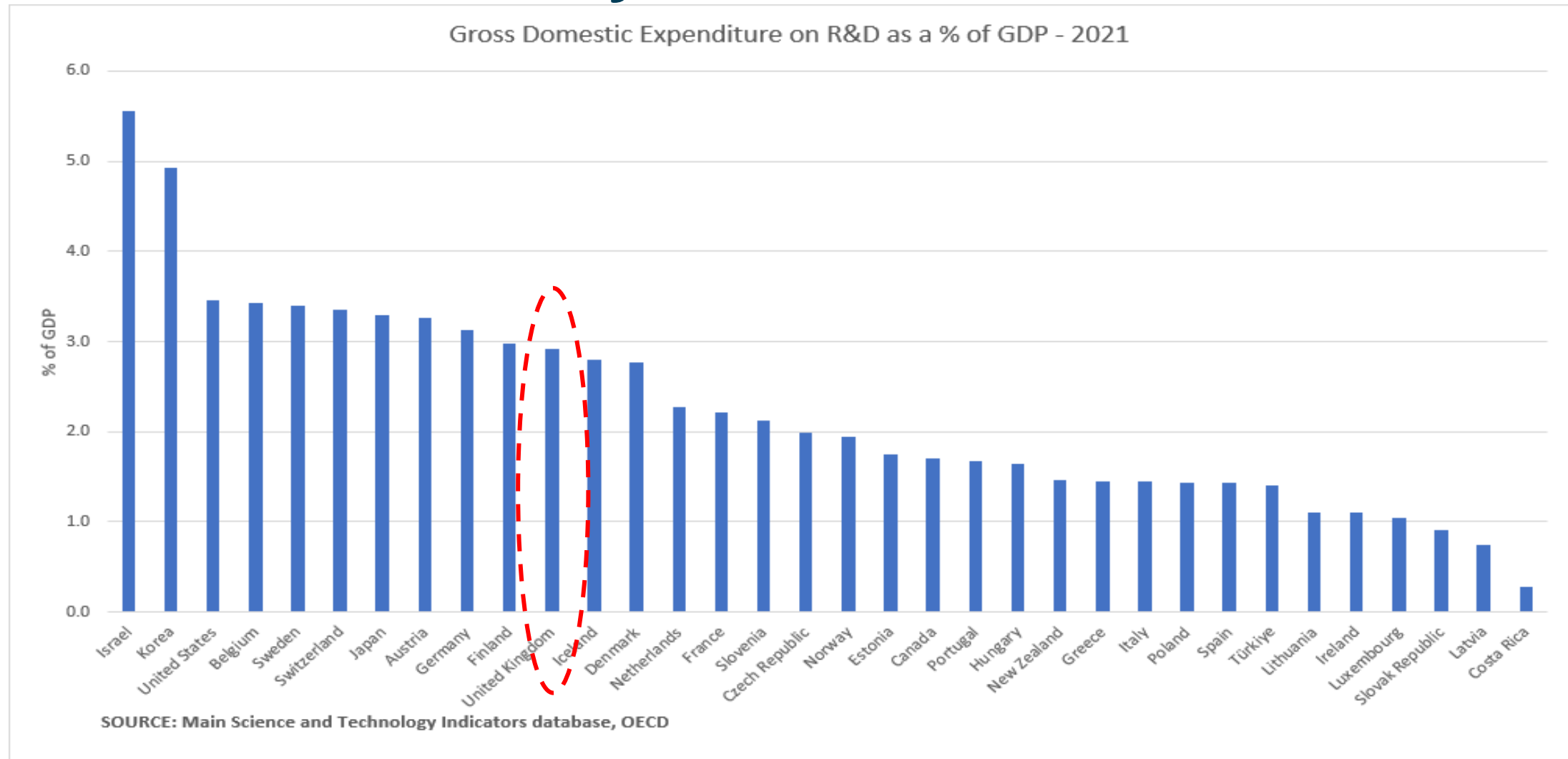
Government:

- Action taken: 8-month microdata project with largest R&D funding departments to develop Government funded R&D by location

- Results published in April, alongside methods note providing baseline for Levelling Up R&D

R&D internationally

Gross Domestic Expenditure on R&D as a % of GDP – 2021

SOURCE: Main Science and Technology Indicators database, OECD

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UK R&D – next steps

User concerns:

- Action being taken: New results system development

- Will result in: Enable more timely results processing (early 2024)

Government subnational:

- Action being taken: Continue to engage Govt Depts on improving R&D recording (with Go Science) and to analyse GovERD survey with new location questions

- Will result in: Improved data on location of government funded R&D

Onward impact:

- Action being taken: Understanding impact on other key statistics & planning for National Account implementation (supported by British Academy Fellow Dr Enrico Venino)

- Will result in: Initially indication of impact on GDP and productivity, followed by full integration into National Accounts