

Forfás



Research and Development in the Public Sector, 2000

*Financial allocations by Government
for 2000 to institutions engaged in
research & development.*

*Volume Two – The Research and
Development Element of the Science
and Technology Budget*

Functions of Forfás

Is é Forfás an bord náisiúnta um polasaí agus comhairle le haghaidh fiontraíochta, trádála, eolaíochta, teicneolaíochta agus nuála. Is é an comhlacht é a bhfuil comhactaí dlíthiúla an stáit maidir le cur-chun-cinn tionscail agus forbairt teicneolaíochta dílsithe ann. Is é an comhlacht é freisin trína dciomnaítear cumhachtaí ar Fhiontraíocht Éireann le tionscail dúchais a chur chus cinn agus ar ghníomhaireacht Forbartha Tionscail na hÉireann (GFT Éireann) le hinfheistíocht isteach sa tír a chur chun tosaigh. Is iad feighmeanna Fhorfás:

- ▶ *comhairle a chur ar an Aire ó thaobh cúrsaí a bhaineann le forbairt tionscail sa Stát*
- ▶ *comhairle maidir le forbairt agus comhordú polasaithe a chur ar fáil d'Fhiontraíocht Éireann, d'GFT Éireann agus d'aon fhoras eile dá leithéid (a bunaíodh go reachtúil) a d'fhéadfadh an tAire a ainmniú trí ordú*
- ▶ *forbairt na tionsclaíochta, na teicneolaíochta, na margáíochta agus acmhainní daonna a spreagadh sa Stát*
- ▶ *bunú agus forbairt gnóthas tionsclaíoch ón iasacht a spreagadh sa Stát, agus*
- ▶ *Fiontraíocht Éireann agus GFT Éireann a chomhairliú agus a chomhordú ó thaobh a gcuid feidhmeanna.*

Forfás is the national policy and advisory board for enterprise, trade, science, technology and innovation. It is the body in which the State's legal powers for industrial promotion and technology development have been vested. It is also the body through which powers are delegated to Enterprise Ireland for the promotion of indigenous industry and to IDA Ireland for the promotion of inward investment. The broad functions of Forfás are to:

- ▶ *advise the Minister on matters relating to the development of industry in the State*
- ▶ *to advise on the development and co-ordination of policy for Enterprise Ireland, IDA Ireland and such other bodies (established by or under statute) as the Minister may by order designate*
- ▶ *encourage the development of industry, technology, marketing and human resources in the State*
- ▶ *encourage the establishment and development in the State of industrial undertakings from outside the State, and*
- ▶ *advise and co-ordinate Enterprise Ireland and IDA Ireland in relation to their functions.*

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Executive Summary

For the first time this year's 'State Expenditure on Science and Technology' includes a separate volume on research and development. Altogether R&D represents about a quarter of public science and technology expenditure, and the 2000 budget allocation amounts to £232.9m (€295.7m). This represents a very significant increase over the actual expenditure in 1999 of £147.7m (€187.5m).

The levels of R&D performed in the various Government Departments and their agencies is not the same as the total amounts they fund. An individual Department or its agencies might perform little or no R&D themselves while providing funding to other performers in either the public or private sectors.

In terms of public funding, the Departments and their agencies are allocating £232.9m (€295.7m) to R&D in 2000, up from £147.7m (€187.5m) in 1999. The major increases in allocations relate to additional allocations by the Department of Education and Science via the Higher Education Authority (£31m (€39.4m)) for research in the third level institutions, to the new Technology Foresight Fund (£25m, €31.7m) introduced by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (DETE) to establish Ireland as a leading research player in biotechnology and information and communications technologies, and to extra funding by DETE via Enterprise Ireland (£14m (€17.8m)) for R&D grants to industry.

The allocation for performance of R&D in 2000 is £53.8m (€68.3m), up from £50.2m (€63.7m) last year. This figure includes £11.4m (€14.5m) which is earned income so that the public funds invested in R&D performed in the public sector amount to £42.4m (€53.8m) in 2000.

Commentary

For the first time this year's 'State Expenditure on Science and Technology' includes a separate volume on research and development. Altogether R&D represents about a quarter of public science and technology expenditure, and the 2000 budget allocation amounts to £232.9m (€295.7m). This represents a very significant increase over the actual expenditure in 1999 of £147.7m (€187.5m). This additional investment alone justifies the need for a separate analysis of the funding and performance of R&D within the state sector.

Public Funding of Research and Development

On the expenditure side, £85.2m (€108.2m) extra has been allocated to R&D funding by the State in 2000. This represents an increase of 57.7% over 1999. The major increases relate to additional allocations by the Department of Education and Science via the Higher Education Authority (£31m (€39.4m)) for research in the third level institutions, to the new Technology Foresight Fund (£25m, €31.7m) introduced by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (DETE) to establish Ireland as a leading research player in biotechnology and information and communications technologies, and to extra funding by DETE via Enterprise Ireland (£14m (€17.8m)) for R&D grants to industry.

These additional allocations are to be welcomed, particularly the increased support for strategic research in the third level sector, an area where Ireland has long experienced significant under-investment compared to other developed countries. It should be noted, however, that the need to put in place a new organisation, Science Foundation Ireland, and completely new mechanisms to ensure that expenditures under the new Foresight Fund (over £500m (€634.9m) for the period 2000 – 2006) are distributed in line with best international practice for the funding of research will mean that not all of the £25m (€31.7m) allocated for 2000 will be spent by the end of the year.

Another welcome trend is the decreasing reliance, in percentage terms, on EU structural funds to support R&D in Ireland. Almost all of the increased allocations in 2000 are from exchequer sources, with the result that exchequer funds account for 68.0% of total allocations this year compared with 62.4% in 1999. The EU CSF (Community Support Framework) contribution is still significant in absolute terms and indeed is expected to increase substantially from £56m (€71.1m) in 1999 to £75m (€95.2m) in 2000, although these are provisional estimates by Departments which will only be confirmed when the various Operational Programmes are finalised with the European Commission.

Performance of R&D in the Government Sector

Irish public sector research performance is dominated by the agriculture and food sectors, with Teagasc and the research laboratories of the Department of Agriculture and Food accounting for 55% of the total expenditure of about £54m (€68.6m). Seven organisations spending over £1m (€1.27m) per year on the performance of R&D account for 30% of the balance, with the Economic and Social Research Institute (£3.8m, €4.8m) being the largest of them. Research performance in the only industry focused organisation, Enterprise Ireland, at £1.8m (€2.3m) accounts for about 3% of the total.

The two major productive sector Government Departments – Agriculture and Food, and Enterprise, Trade and Employment – have adopted different approaches to the development of their respective sectors. For agriculture and food there is a policy to support the sector by significant levels of research performed in public sector institutes. For the manufacturing and service industries supported by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment there is a policy to encourage and fund the performance of R&D within the individual firm; at the same time, considerable efforts have been devoted to strengthening the third level colleges’ performance of industry-relevant research and to improving interaction and collaboration between the business sector and the colleges.

This report shows that Ireland relies less on research in public research institutes than many other countries. This is reflected in the overall balance of research performance in Ireland. Taking Finland as a comparison, Table 1 shows the different composition of total research performance between the two countries. The comparison is useful because Finland also has a national strategy to develop a high technology business sector based on the generation and application of new knowledge.

Table 1

Performers (%)	Ireland	Finland
Business Sector	74	68
Higher Education Sector	19	19
Public Sector	7	13
Total	100	100

The level of R&D performed in the business sector in Ireland is still below the EU average, at 1.02% of GDP. Other economies which also rely on high technology industries have a much higher level – Sweden 2.9%, Japan and Korea 2.1%, US and Finland 2.0%. Much of the innovation underlying the performance of multinational enterprises located here is based on research and development performed elsewhere. It could be argued, therefore, that Ireland is not generating the level of innovation appropriate to its industrial structure.

This year the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment put in place the most significant development ever in the history of support for science and technology. This was the establishment of Science Foundation Ireland and the allocation of over £500m (€634.9m) to it to fund research in niche areas of biotechnology and information and communications technologies.

The strategic rationale behind this initiative is the need to stimulate a greater level of top class research in the economy in support of high-technology sectors and to ensure that a sufficient supply of good researchers become available to drive a more sophisticated research performance in the business sector. This new investment, together with complementary initiatives from the Department of Education and Science, will contribute to a more balanced national research portfolio, where research performed in the business sector is supported by a significant and high quality research effort in the wider public sector, including the third level colleges.

Ireland is now committed to an industrial strategy heavily dependent on high technology industries. Amongst these can be included sectors such as pharmaceuticals, which have a history of over twenty years experience of manufacturing in Ireland. The rapid increases in living standards in recent years is continuing to make Ireland less competitive as a location for basic manufacturing activities. The emphasis in industrial policy is shifting to higher value-added activities, to industries based on the exploitation of new knowledge and brain-power. Ireland's relatively low performance in R&D in all sectors of the economy – business, third level colleges and public research institutes – is a cause for some concern in this regard. There is good reason to expect that recent research initiatives will lead towards a more balanced national research strategy.

1 Introduction

The role of research has become increasingly relevant in modern society where the complexity and technology-content of most activities offers significant opportunities for innovation based solutions to complex problems. The R&D element of the government's STI expenditure is important because it is the most discretionary component when compared to other Government expenditures in support of regulatory and statutory functions.

Research and development (R&D) in all countries is performed in three distinct sectors of the economy – the business sector, the universities and technological institutes of the third level sector, and the government sector. The State both funds R&D activities performed in all three sectors and also arranges for R&D to be performed within the state sector in order to promote its own strategic objectives. This section examines both performance and funding of R&D by the State.

2 Funding of R&D by the State

Table 2 shows the Government funding of R&D, which can be performed either in the Government sector itself (as discussed in the previous sections), in the business sector or in third level education colleges. The total allocation is £232.9m (€295.7m), up from £147.7m (€187.5m) in 1999 (an increase of 57.7%).

Table 2: Public Funding of Research and Development

Funding Dept./Agency	Allocating Organisation	1999			2000		
		Exchequer £'000	CSF £'000	Public Funding £'000	Exchequer £'000	CSF £'000	Public Funding £'000
Enterprise, Trade & Employment	Enterprise Ireland	2,775	20,081	22,856	5,320	31,290	36,610
	Forfás				25,000		25,000
	PAT's	1,928	5,787	7,715	3,028	7,533	10,561
	Higher Education Authority	1,791	5,374	7,165	1,900	5,700	7,600
	Shannon Development	1,403	4,008	5,411	1,560	4,000	5,560
	IDA Ireland	42	3,878	3,920	50	4,000	4,050
	NMRC	684	2,052	2,736	659	1,978	2,637
	FÁS	567	599	1,166	640	494	1,134
	Údarás na Gaeltachta		766	766		800	800
	Dept. of Enterprise, T&E	149	375	524	21	375	396
	Innovation Centre	162	83	245	129	71	200
	ESRI	200		200	58		58
	DIAS	5	18	23	12	28	40
	NMAC	19	57	76			
	Sub-total		9,725	43,079	52,803	38,377	56,269

Table 2: Public Funding of Research and Development

Funding Dept./Agency	Allocating Organisation	1999			2000		
		Exchequer £'000	CSF £'000	Public Funding £'000	Exchequer £'000	CSF £'000	Public Funding £'000
Education & Science	Higher Education Authority	23,436	2,089	25,525	56,873		56,873
	Education & Science	19,288	47	19,335	8,204	8,570	16,774
	DIAS	1,256		1,256	1,285		1,285
	ESRI	76		76	97		97
Sub-total		44,056	2,136	46,192	66,459	8,570	75,029
Agriculture & Food	Teagasc	14,040	5,064	19,104	17,761	2,509	20,270
	Higher Education Authority	900	2,702	3,602	1,148	3,445	4,593
	Department of Agri & Food	4,214	179	4,393	4,154	238	4,392
	Enterprise Ireland	5	14	19			
	ESRI	11		11			
Sub-total		19,170	7,959	27,129	23,063	6,192	29,255
Marine & Natural Resources	COFORD	73	787	860	273	554	827
	Marine Institute	995	346	1,341	164	496	660
	Higher Education Authority	107	322	429	156	470	626
	Marine & Natural Resources	436		436	396		396
	Enterprise Ireland	64	193	257	70	131	201
	Teagasc	25	75	100	16	47	63
	DIAS	10	28	38	28	10	38
	ESRI	10		10	9		9
Sub-total		1,720	1,751	3,471	1,112	1,708	2,820
Health & Children	Health Research Board	5,512		5,512	9,152		9,152
	Health & Children	553		553	634		634
	ESRI	334		334	398		398
Sub-total		6,399		6,399	10,184		10,184
Environment & Local Government	Environmental Protection Agency	608	362	970	589	650	1,239
	Higher Education Authority		219	219		1,200	1,200
	National Roads Authority	534		534	570		570
	Environment & Local Gov	186		186	173		173
	ESRI	11		11	165		165
	Teagasc		7	7		50	50
	Met Éireann	10		10	20		20
Sub-total		1,349	588	1,937	1,518	1,900	3,418

Table 2: Public Funding of Research and Development

Funding Dept./Agency	Allocating Organisation	1999			2000		
		Exchequer £'000	CSF £'000	Public Funding £'000	Exchequer £'000	CSF £'000	Public Funding £'000
Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht & the Islands	Údarás na Gaeltachta	1,352		1,352	1,250		1,250
	Dept. of Arts, Heritage, etc	892		892	1,150		1,150
	Natural History Museum	169		169	169		169
Sub-total		2,413		2,413	2,569		2,569
Public Enterprise	Met Éireann	688		688	844		844
	R.P.I.I.	271		271	268		268
Sub-total		959		959	1,112		1,112
Social, Community And Family Affairs	Social, Community etc	3,632		3,632	10,844		10,844
	ESRI	81		81	52		52
Sub-total		3,713		3,713	10,896		10,896
Finance	ESRI	1,667		1,667	1,852		1,852
Taoiseach	NESC	464		464	470		470
Central Bank	Central Bank	387		387	481		481
Ordnance Survey	Ordnance Survey	130		130	135		135
Total		92,152	55,513	147,664	158,228	74,639	232,866
%Total		62%	38%	100%	68%	32%	100%

* Public funds are exchequer & CSF funds

Table 2A: Public Funding of Research and Development

Funding Dept./Agency	Allocating Organisation	1999			2000		
		Exchequer €'000	CSF €'000	Public Funding €'000	Exchequer €'000	CSF €'000	Public Funding €'000
Enterprise, Trade & Employment	Enterprise Ireland	3,523	25,498	29,021	6,755	39,730	46,485
	Forfás				31,743		31,743
	PAT's	2,448	7,348	9,796	3,845	9,565	13,410
	Higher Education Authority	2,274	6,824	9,098	2,413	7,238	9,650
	Shannon Development	1,781	5,089	6,871	1,981	5,079	7,060
	IDA Ireland	53	4,924	4,977	63	5,079	5,142
	NMRC	869	2,606	3,474	837	2,512	3,348
	FÁS	720	761	1,481	813	627	1,440
	Údarás na Gaeltachta		973	973		1,016	1,016
	Dept. of Enterprise, T & E	189	476	665	26	476	502
	Innovation Centre	205	105	311	164	90	254
	ESRI	254		254	74		74
DIAS	6	23	29	15	36	51	
NMAC	24	72	97				
Sub-total		12,348	54,699	67,046	48,728	71,448	120,175
Education & Science	Higher Education Authority	29,758	2,652	32,410	72,213		72,214
	Education & Science	24,491	60	24,550	10,417	10,882	21,299
	DIAS	1,595		1,595	1,632		1,632
	ESRI	97		97	123		123
Sub-total		55,940	2,712	58,652	84,385	10,882	95,267
Agriculture & Food	Teagasc	17,828	6,430	24,258	22,552	3,186	25,737
	Higher Education Authority	1,143	3,431	4,574	1,458	4,374	5,832
	Department of Agri & Food	5,351	227	5,578	5,274	302	5,577
	Enterprise Ireland	6	18	24			
	ESRI	14		14			
Sub-total		24,341	10,106	34,447	29,284	7,862	37,146
Marine & Natural Resources	COFORD	93	999	1,092	347	703	1,050
	Marine Institute	1,263	439	1,703	208	630	838
	Higher Education Authority	136	409	545	198	597	795
	Marine & Natural Resources	554		554	503		503
	Enterprise Ireland	81	245	326	89	166	255
	Teagasc	32	95	127	20	60	80
	DIAS	13	36	48	36	13	48
	ESRI	13		13	11		11
Sub-total		2,184	2,223	4,407	1,412	2,169	3,581

Table 2A: Public Funding of Research and Development

Funding Dept./Agency	Allocating Organisation	1999			2000		
		Exchequer €'000	CSF €'000	Public Funding €'000	Exchequer €'000	CSF €'000	Public Funding €'000
Health & Children	Health Research Board	6,999		6,999	11,621		11,621
	Health & Children	702		702	805		805
	ESRI	424		424	505		505
Sub-total		8,125		8,125	12,931		12,931
Environment & Local Government	Environmental Protection Agency	772	460	1,232	748	825	1,573
	Higher Education Authority		278	278		1,524	1,524
	National Roads Authority	678		678	724		724
	Environment & Local Gov.	236		236	220		220
	ESRI	14		14	210		210
	Teagasc		9	9		64	64
	Met Éireann	13		13	25		25
Sub-total		1,713	747	2,459	1,927	2,413	4,340
Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht & the Islands	Údarás na Gaeltachta	1,717		1,717	1,587		1,587
	Dept. of Arts, Heritage, etc	1,133		1,133	1,460		1,460
	Natural History Museum	214		214	215		214
Sub-total		3,064		3,064	3,262		3,262
Public Enterprise	Met Éireann	873		873	1,072		1,072
	RPII	344		344	340		340
Sub-total		1,217		1,218	1,412		1,412
Social, Community And Family Affairs	Social, Community etc	4,612		4,612	13,769		13,769
	ESRI	103		103	66		66
Sub-total		4,715		4,715	13,835		13,835
Finance	ESRI	2,117		2,117	2,352		2,352
Taoiseach	NESC	589		589	597		597
Central Bank	Central Bank	491		491	611		611
Ordnance Survey	Ordnance Survey	165		165	171		171
Total		117,008	70,487	187,495	200,908	94,774	295,679
%Total		62%	38%	100%	68%	32%	100%

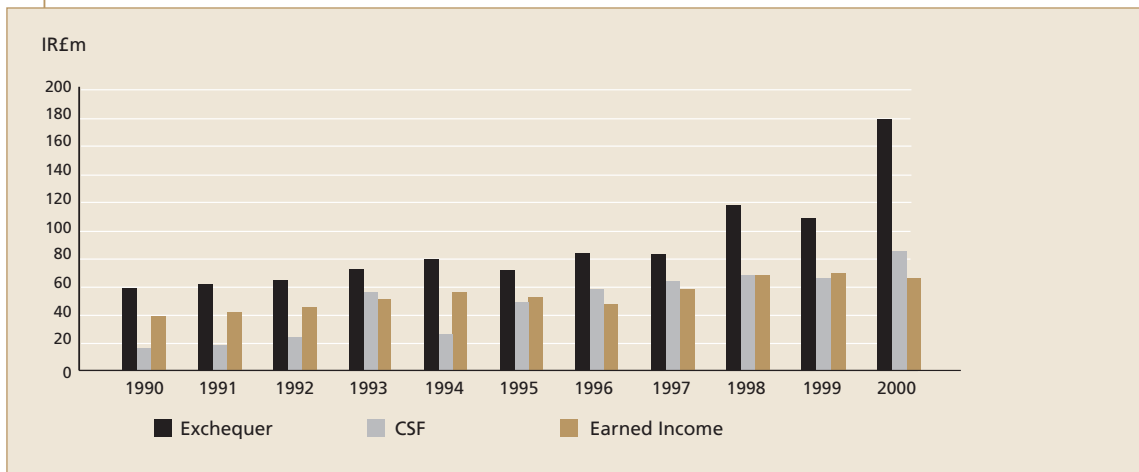
* Public funds are exchequer & CSF funds

The anticipated level of funding in 2000 shows an increase of about £85m (€107.9m) over 1999 levels. The major components of this increase are :

- ▶ *Department of Education and Science / Higher Education Authority* : £31m (€39.4m) additional under the Programme for Research in Third Level Colleges
- ▶ *Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment / Forfás* : £25m (€31.7m) for the Technology Foresight Fund to be administered by *Science Foundation Ireland*. In practice, the bulk of this money will not be spent until 2001.
- ▶ *Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment / Enterprise Ireland* : £14m (€17.8m) additional for R&D grants to the business sector and £3m (€3.8m) for research conducted by the PATs (Programmes in Advanced Technologies), mainly in third level colleges.
- ▶ *Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs* : £7m (€8.9m) to fund the development of new systems
- ▶ *Department of Health and Children / Health Research Board* : £3.5m (€4.4m) additional for health-related research.

Figure 1 depicts the sources of funds for total R&D expenditure over the past decade. The most notable aspect is the fact that while Exchequer funding has slightly increased its percentage of the total funding from 52% in 1990 to 54%, it has in real terms increased by £106.1m (€134.7m) or 203% since 1990. The contribution of EU Community Support Framework programmes has increased from 14% of the total funding in 1990 to 26% of the total in 2000.

Figure 1 Sources of Total R&D Funding 1990-2000 (2000 prices, £m)



3 Performance of R&D in the Public Sector

Table 3 gives the profile of R&D performance in the public sector. The total 2000 allocation is £53.8m (€68.3m), representing about 0.3% of total government budget allocations of over £21 billion (€26.7 billion). Indeed, nearly £11.4m (€14.5m) of the total comes from earned income, so that the public investment in R&D, which is performed in the state sector, is £42.4m (€53.8m). There was an increase in total exchequer R&D support in 2000 of £4.1m, €5.2m (12.5%) over the 1999 outturn. This is to offset the decrease in funding from the CSF programmes of £2.7m, €3.5m (-32.5%).

Table 3: Performance of Research and Development in the Government Sector

Performing Department/Agency	1999 Source of Funds					2000 Source of Funds				
	Exchequer £'000	CSF £'000	Private £'000	Total £'000	% Total	Exchequer £'000	CSF £'000	Private £'000	Total £'000	% Total
Department of Agriculture & Food	3,201	179		3,380	6.7%	3,206	238		3,444	6.4%
- Teagasc	13,650	5,146	5,729	24,526	48.7%	17,313	2,606	6,089	26,007	48.4%
Department of the Marine & Natural Resources	436			436	0.9%	396			396	0.7%
- COFORD	73	787		860	1.7%	273	554		827	1.5%
- Marine Institute	995	346	66	1,407	2.8%	164	496	735	1,395	2.6%
Department of Health and Children	553			553	1.1%	634			634	1.2%
- Health Research Board	1,843		629	2,472	4.9%	1,831		1,765	3,596	6.7%
Department of Enterprise, Trade & Employment	125	375		500	1.0%	3	375		378	0.7%
- FÁS	567	599		1,166	2.3%	640	494		1,134	2.1%
- Enterprise Ireland	815	417	654	1,886	3.8%	950	131	747	1,828	3.4%
- Innovation Centre	162	83		245	0.5%	129	71		200	0.4%
- National Microelectronics Applications Centre	11	34	503	548	1.1%			430	430	0.8%
Department of the Environment & Local Government	153			153	0.3%	134			134	0.2%
- Environmental Protection Agency	600	362		962	1.9%	561	650	89	1,300	2.4%
- National Roads Authority	534		94	628	1.3%	570		79	649	1.2%

Table 3: Performance of Research and Development in the Government Sector

Performing Department/Agency	1999 Source of Funds					2000 Source of Funds				
	Exchequer £'000	CSF £'000	Private £'000	Total £'000	% Total	Exchequer £'000	CSF £'000	Private £'000	Total £'000	% Total
Department of Finance										
- Economic and Social Research Institute	2,390		1,148	3,538	7.1%	2,631		1,145	3,776	7.0%
Department of Social, Community & Family Affairs	2,369			2,369	4.7%	2,596			2,596	4.8%
Department of Education & Science										
- Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies	1,271	46	257	1,574	3.1%	1,325	38	240	1,603	3.0%
Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht & the Islands	787			787	1.6%	980			980	1.8%
- Natural History Museum	169			169	0.3%	169			169	0.3%
Department of Public Enterprise										
- Met Éireann	697		49	746	1.5%	865		57	922	1.7%
- Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland	271			271	0.5%	268			268	0.5%
Department of the Taoiseach										
- National Economic and Social Council	464		10	474	0.9%	470		10	480	0.9%
Central Bank	387			387	0.8%	481			481	0.9%
Valuation and Ordnance Survey Office	130			130	0.3%	135			135	0.3%
Total	32,654	8,375	9,138	50,166	100%	36,725	5,653	11,385	53,762	100%

* Where there are transfers from one S&T agency/department to another the funds are accounted for in the performing agency

Table 3A: Performance of Research and Development in the Government Sector

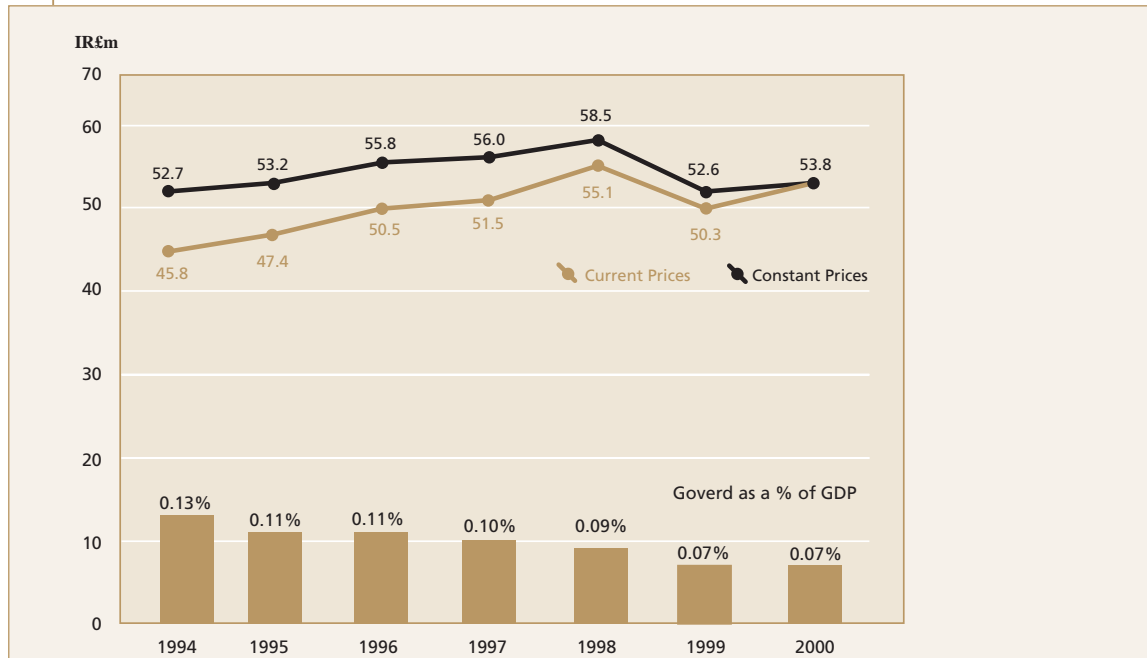
Performing Department/Agency	1999 Source of Funds					2000 Source of Funds				
	Exchequer €'000	CSF €'000	Private €'000	Total €'000	% Total	Exchequer €'000	CSF €'000	Private €'000	Total €'000	% Total
Department of Agriculture & Food	4,064	227		4,292	6.7%	4,071	302		4,373	6.4%
- Teagasc	17,332	6,534	7,274	31,141	48.9%	21,983	3,309	7,731	33,022	48.4%
Department of the Marine & Natural Resources	554			554	0.9%	503			503	0.7%
- COFORD	93	999		1,092	1.7%	347	703		1,050	1.5%
- Marine Institute	1,263	439	84	1,787	2.8%	208	630	933	1,771	2.6%
Department of Health and Children	702			702	1.1%	805			805	1.2%
- Health Research Board	2,340		799	3,139	4.9%	2,325		2,241	4,566	6.7%
Department of Enterprise, Trade & Employment	159	476		635	1.0%	4	476		480	0.7%
- FÁS	720	761		1,481	2.3%	813	627		1,440	2.1%
- Enterprise Ireland	1,034	530	830	2,394	3.8%	1,206	166	949	2,321	3.4%
- Innovation Centre	205	106		311	0.5%	164	90		254	0.4%
- National Microelectronics Applications Centre	14	43	638	696	1.1%			546	546	0.8%
Department of the Environment & Local Government	194			194	0.3%	170			170	0.2%
- Environmental Protection Agency	762	460		1,221	1.9%	712	825	113	1,651	2.4%
- National Roads Authority	678		119	797	1.3%	724		100	824	1.2%
Department of Finance										
- Economic and Social Research Institute	3,035		1,458	4,492	7.0%	3,341		1,454	4,795	7.0%
Department of Social, Community & Family Affairs	3,008			3,008	4.7%	3,296			3,296	4.8%

Table 3: Performance of Research and Development in the Government Sector

Performing Department/Agency	1999 Source of Funds					2000 Source of Funds				
	Exchequer €'000	CSF €'000	Private €'000	Total €'000	% Total	Exchequer €'000	CSF €'000	Private €'000	Total €'000	% Total
Department of Education & Science										
- Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies	1,614	58	326	1,999	3.1%	1,683	48	304	2,035	3.0%
Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht & the Islands	999			999	1.6%	1,244			1,244	1.8%
- Natural History Museum	214			214	0.3%	214			214	0.3%
Department of Public Enterprise										
- Met Éireann	885		62	948	1.5%	1,098		72	1,170	1.7%
- Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland	344			344	0.5%	340			340	0.5%
Department of the Taoiseach										
- National Economic and Social Council	589		13	602	0.9%	597		13	609	0.9%
Central Bank	491			491	0.8%	611			611	0.9%
Valuation and Ordnance Survey Office	165			165	0.3%	171			171	0.3%
Total	41,461	10,633	11,603	63,698	100%	46,631	7,177	14,456	68,264	100%
* Where there are transfers from one S&T agency/department to another the funds are accounted for in the performing agency										

R&D performed in the public sector (known as GOVERD) has remained static since 1994 in real terms. In 2000 it amounted to £53.8m (€68.3m) or 0.07% of GDP. Figure 2 shows the trend since 1994.

Figure 2 Performance of R&D in the Public Sector 1994-2000



4 Research and Development Performers

The major public sector performers (with expenditure over £1m, €1.27m in 2000) are listed in Table 4.

Table 4: Public Sector Performers in 2000

	£m	€m
Teagasc	26.0	33.0
Economic and Social Research Institute	3.8	4.8
Health Research Board	3.6	4.6
Department of Agriculture & Food	3.4	4.3
Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs	2.6	3.3
Enterprise Ireland	1.8	2.3
Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies	1.6	2.0
Marine Institute	1.4	1.8
Environmental Protection Agency	1.3	1.7

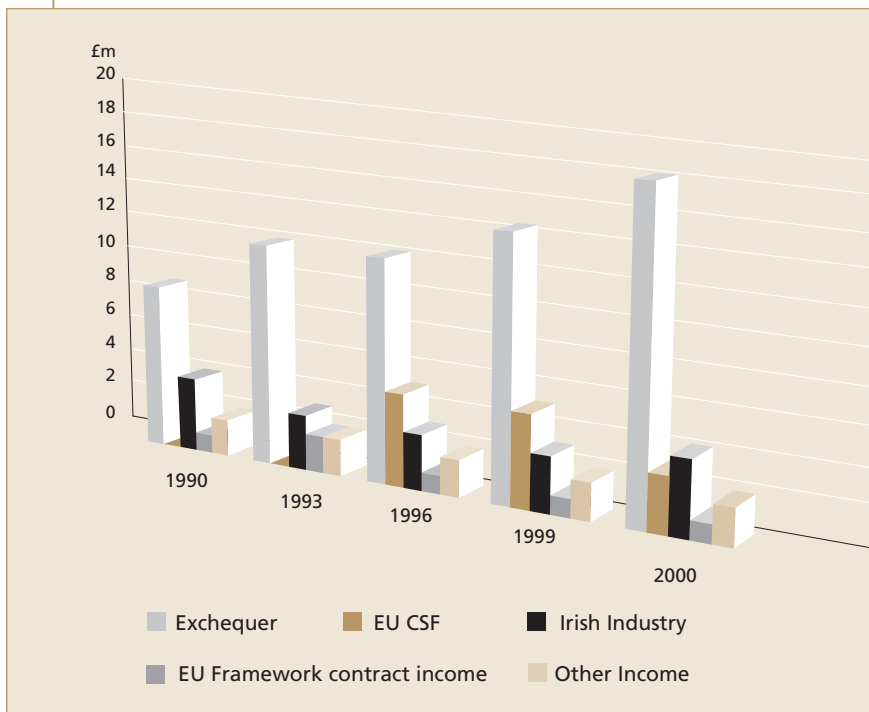
Teagasc is the only significant performer of R&D in the public sector. Its research budget for 2000 is £26.0m (€33.0m), compared to an actual level of £24.5m (€31.1m) in 1999. The Department of Agriculture & Food performs a further £3.4m (€4.3m) of R&D in its food related research. Nearly an order of magnitude lower in terms of scale comes the Economic and Social Research Institute, which performs research to the value of £3.8m (€4.8m). There are four or five other minor players with budgets over £1m (€1.27m) and a larger number who perform relatively small amounts less than £1m annually. It can be seen, therefore, with the significant exception of the agriculture and food sectors, that there is very little research performed in the Irish public sector. Details about the work of these organisations are given below.

Teagasc	£'000 1999	£'000 2000
R&D Budget	24,526 (€31,142)	26,007 (€33,022)

The 2000 research and development budget on a total cost basis is £26.0m (€33m), of which £18.5m (€23.5m) relates to research in sustainable agriculture and rural development and £7.5m (€9.5m) to food research.

Figure 3 presents the sources of funding for research carried out by Teagasc over the last decade. The most significant increase is from exchequer sources, which has increased by £8.4m, €10.7m (93%) over the 1990 figure.

Figure 3 R&D by source of funds, current prices



Teagasc's research activities are grouped together into nine main programmes outlined below.

1 Agri food economics

The programme aims to develop the strategic knowledge base on:

- ▶ changes in the economic performance and competitiveness of the main farm enterprises;
- ▶ developments in export markets and changes in consumer preferences;
- ▶ the impacts of policy changes and market trends on the competitiveness of the Irish agri-food industry.

The work is classified under four sub-programmes as follows:

- ▶ Production Economics
- ▶ Competitiveness
- ▶ Policy Analysis
- ▶ Market Trends

2 Rural Development

A major objective in 2000 is to develop a capacity to model rural change to pinpoint the factors which contribute to rural viability; assess the effects of policy proposals and current trends and evaluate the potential role of alternative enterprises in supplementing farm incomes.

Additional resources are being devoted to a major project on forestry involving the development of a forest soils classification and productivity. Projects are also underway investigating mushroom, vegetable and nursery stock production.

3 Rural Environment

Aims to develop viable nutrient and waste management strategies designed to minimise the adverse impact of agricultural and other enterprises on the rural environment and to develop strategies for the enhancement of rural landscapes and the ecological management of set-aside areas. The programme comprises the following three sub-programmes:

- ▶ Sustainable Farming Systems
- ▶ Soil Fertility
- ▶ Nutrient Management

4 Food Processing

Emphasis is placed on meats, food ingredients, new cheese varieties, new consumer products and new technology. Research on the quality, safety and nutritional value of foods are key features of this programme. The programme covers the full spectrum of the innovative process, ranging from market studies through strategic research to technology development services and training programmes. The programme comprises the following areas:

- ▶ Dairy Products and Food Ingredients
- ▶ Meat and Fish Products
- ▶ Fresh Products (mushrooms, potatoes, fruit and vegetables)
- ▶ Safety and Nutrition

5 Dairy Production

The objective of the research programme is to improve the competitiveness of Irish dairy production while ensuring product quality and safety and reducing the seasonality of milk supply. It must also ensure that the systems of production are compatible with animal health and welfare and with the protection of the environment.

6 Beef Production

The objective of the research programme is to provide technologies to allow the profitability of Irish beef farmers to be enhanced, through improved cost efficiencies of grassland and forage production and optimal animal husbandry practices, and meeting consumer needs for quality.

7 Sheep Production

The objectives of the research programme are to improve the competitiveness of sheep production by increasing ewe productivity and improving product quality based on sustainable systems designed to reduce production costs and reduce seasonality of supply. Work on grass and clover production and utilisation for intensive grazing systems is ongoing. Studies into human resources and labour requirements for sheep farming are also underway.

8 Pig Production

The objectives of the programme are to develop an integrated pig production system and to reduce the unit cost and improve the quality of pigmeat while reducing environmental impact and improving animal welfare.

9 Crops Production

The objective of the research programme is the development of more efficient production systems designed to increase competitiveness and improve product quality, whilst reducing chemical inputs. Projects are carried on in areas such as:

- ▶ Reduced chemical and fungicide inputs for weed and pest control in winter and spring cereals;
- ▶ The development of pest and virus control strategies for cereals;
- ▶ Reduced-input winter wheat production systems.
- ▶ Analysis and testing in connection with food composition, quality and safety.

Economic and Social Research Institute	£'000 1999	£'000 2000
R&D Budget	3,538 (€4,492)	3,776 (€4,794.5)

The Economic and Social Research Institute undertakes research designed to provide knowledge relevant to solving the major economic and social problems in Ireland. An important secondary function of the Institute is to assist in the development of top quality research workers through its training and education programmes.

The current activities of the Institute include research in economic forecasting and modelling, economic growth, the international environment, regional issues, the public sector, prices and

incomes, demography and labour, social policy, values and attitudes, data and methodology. It also undertakes commissioned studies, surveys and data analysis on behalf of outside organisations and provides training in research for young graduates.

Health Research Board	£'000 1999	£'000 2000
R&D Budget	2,472 (€3,139)	3,596 (€4,566)

The main function of the Health Research Board is to allocate research funds to other organisations. It does, however, conduct some research itself.

The HRB's research activities are outlined below:

▶ **Medico-Social Research Surveys**

The Board designs and interprets surveys covering projects on for example, child health and neural tube defects, schizophrenia, drug misuse, alcoholism and evaluation of mental health services.

▶ **Research Units**

The Board will support ten units in 1999 which are researching Hepatitis C, Inflammatory Bowel Disease, Cystic Fibrosis Pulmonary Disease, Eicosanoids in Vascular Disease, Suicide, Gene Therapy for Cancer, Retinopathies Research and Cancer, Early Arthritis, Diabetic Nephropathy, and health status and health gain. It is co-funding a unit in conjunction with the Irish Heart Foundation conducting research into Vascular Disease and Homocysteine Metabolism.

Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development	£'000 1999	£'000 2000
R&D Budget	3,380 (€4,292)	3,444 (€4,373)

The Department's research activities are grouped together into three main programmes outlined below.

1 Improvement of Crops

Improving the quality of crops and crop products through the use of the highest quality varieties and seeds. The main activities leading to achievement of this objective include:

- ▶ the operation of two stations/farms at Ballinacurra in Co. Cork and Backweston in Co. Dublin, where plant varieties are evaluated
- ▶ the operation of a potato laboratory at Raphoe in Co. Donegal
- ▶ the carrying out of trials in farmers' fields throughout the country.

2 Veterinary and Meat Laboratory Services

Operation of a Central Veterinary Research Laboratory at Abbotstown, Co. Dublin, Regional Veterinary Research Laboratories at Cork, Limerick, Sligo, Athlone and a testing laboratory in Waterford.

3 Improvement of Livestock

Improving the quality of livestock and livestock products through adoption of better breeding and selection practices. The main activities leading to achievement of these objectives are operation of on-farm and central testing stations; recording schemes; collaboration with and support for research in animal breeding at research institutions.

Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs	£'000 1999	£'000 2000
R&D Budget	2,369 (€3,008)	2,596 (€3,296)

The Department's research programmes in 2000 are funded entirely from exchequer funds.

The Department's main research activities are:

- ▶ the systematic review and evaluation of existing social welfare policies, programmes and schemes
- ▶ the monitoring of economic and demographic developments and their impact on social welfare;
- ▶ the formulation of new social policy developments

In addition the department has responsibility for the Combat Poverty Agency. The Agency's four main functions are policy advice, project support and innovation, research and public education. The Agency undertakes, commissions and publishes research, evaluations policy reports and other information on aspects of poverty. Approximately half of the Agency's activities can be classified as research.

Enterprise Ireland	£'000 1999	£'000 2000
R&D Budget	1,886 (€2,394)	1,828 (€2,321)

Enterprise Ireland's research activities are in the following areas:

▶ **Forest Products**

Applied research is carried-out to identify opportunities for Irish timber and to develop new applications and standards. In addition, training and assistance with new product and process development is provided to the Irish timber industry.

▶ **Materials Programme**

This programme provides a research and development support service to industry and the public sector covering a wide range of material-related research and development with a significant programme in industrial coatings and ceramics.

▶ **National Electrical Test Centre (NETC)**

NETC is involved in a number of EU-funded international research projects in advanced telecommunications systems and hardware. It is expected that the products developed from this research will contribute to the continuing upgrading of the Irish telecommunications sector.

Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies	£'000 1999	£'000 2000
R&D Budget	1,574 (€1,999)	1,603 (€2,035)

The Institute, through the constituent schools, pursues fundamental research and trains advanced students in methods of original research.

▶ **The School of Theoretical Physics**

The school pursues basic research in theoretical particle physics; classical statistical mechanics; quantum statistical mechanics and quantum electronics. The School pursues applied research in queuing theory for telecommunications which is closely related to the basic research carried out in classical statistical mechanics.

▶ **The School of Cosmic Physics**

The school conducts theoretical and experimental work in astronomy, astrophysics, space physics and geophysics.

Marine Institute	£'000 1999	£'000 2000
R&D Budget	1,407 (€1,787)	1,395 (€1,771)

The Marine Institute operates from its Headquarters in Dublin and has three regional research laboratories at Abbotstown, Galway and Newport. The Institute also operates the National Marine Data Centre and the national research vessel Celtic Voyager.

Environmental Protection Agency	£'000 1999	£'000 2000
R&D Budget	962 (€1,221)	1,300 (€1,651)

The EPA's research activities are outlined below.

▶ **Environmental Monitoring and Laboratory Services**

This programme is concerned with the investigation of eutrophication tendencies in lakes, rivers and estuarine and coastal waters; the remote sensing of algal growth in lakes; and baseline studies of toxic and persistent substances in surface waters.

▶ **Licensing and Enforcement**

Diagnostic/planning studies which deal with the practical aspects of Integrated Pollution Control (IPC) licensing and waste licensing.

5 International Comparisons on Public Sector R&D

It is useful to benchmark Ireland’s relative position in comparison to other countries in order to assess our performance to date. It must be mentioned that taking these indicators in isolation may give a false impression of the underlying research scene. Indicators only give a partial view of the reality. In addition, many indicators do not reflect the quality or efficiency of countries in particular areas. For example, a high R&D intensity does not necessarily imply that R&D inputs are efficiently used.

Table 5 shows both the performance of R&D in the public sector (excluding the higher education sector) and the funding of R&D by the Government (this would fund R&D performed not only in the public sector but also in the business sector and in the higher education sector).

Table 5: R&D Performance and Funding by the Government Sector for Selected Countries. (1999 or nearest)

	Public Sector R&D Performance (% GDP)	Government Funding of Civil R&D (% GDP)
New Zealand	0.41	0.57
Finland	0.38	1.06
Netherlands	0.37	0.79
Denmark	0.32	0.72
Norway	0.28	0.72
Portugal	0.16	0.62
Sweden	0.14	0.79
Greece	0.13	0.28
Ireland (2000)	0.07	0.29
Source: OECD		

There is a wide variation in approaches and results between the different countries. Most of the countries have a similar profile, performing a significant level of R&D in the public sector and funding still more in other sectors. Ireland has a tradition of having very little R&D performed in the public sector with the significant investment being carried out in the business and higher education sectors.

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