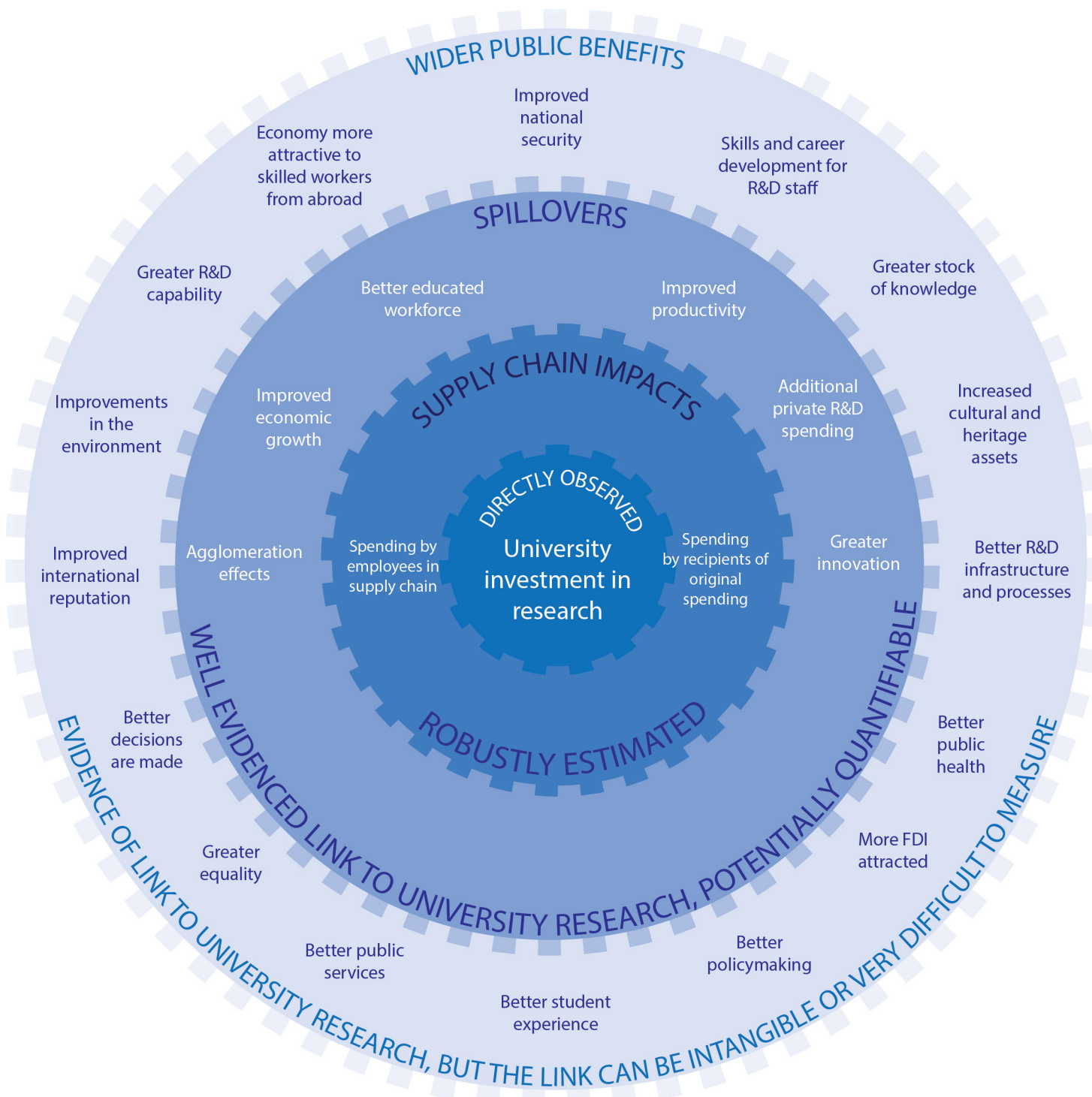


# THE VALUE OF UNIVERSITY RESEARCH

The diagram below shows the different kinds of benefits that research can generate – from the **narrow** benefits generated from spending on research in the **supply chain**, to the **more intangible** benefits to society, such as contributing to the country's international reputation, increasing the stock of knowledge, or helping to ensure better decisions are made.



The Scottish Funding Council (SFC) invested **£286m** in university research in Scotland in 2019-20



In 2019-20, in addition to SFC funds, universities received **£791m** in other income for research – the largest portion of which was from UKRI research councils (£270m)

Across the economy, including businesses, government and universities, **£2.8bn** was invested in R&D in Scotland in 2019

## SUPPLY CHAIN IMPACTS

SFC funding supported over **8,500** full-time equivalent jobs and **£400m** in GVA



All R&D spending supported nearly **60,000** FTE jobs, and **£3,225m** in GVA



Output, GVA, and employment multipliers for university research funding are **typically higher** than the average sector in Scotland



Recent literature on potential spillovers from university research in the UK indicates that an **additional 20% impact** can be generated from productivity improvements which can result from research spillovers

## SPILLOVERS

Scotland's productivity spillover effect may be **greater than the UK average**, given the type and nature of research carried out here, including:

- More impactful research in technology
- More research outputs in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) subjects
- More research council funding for medical research



## WIDER PUBLIC BENEFITS

Various social benefits to research also exist but these cannot be appropriately measured or monetised. Approaches in the literature can provide an estimate of the value of R&D spillovers to productivity and other outcomes, however will **not capture other benefits** such as international reputation, policy influence, and other less tangible impacts.

In these cases, **case studies** and consideration of intangible impacts are useful for understanding the impact of research in a given field.

