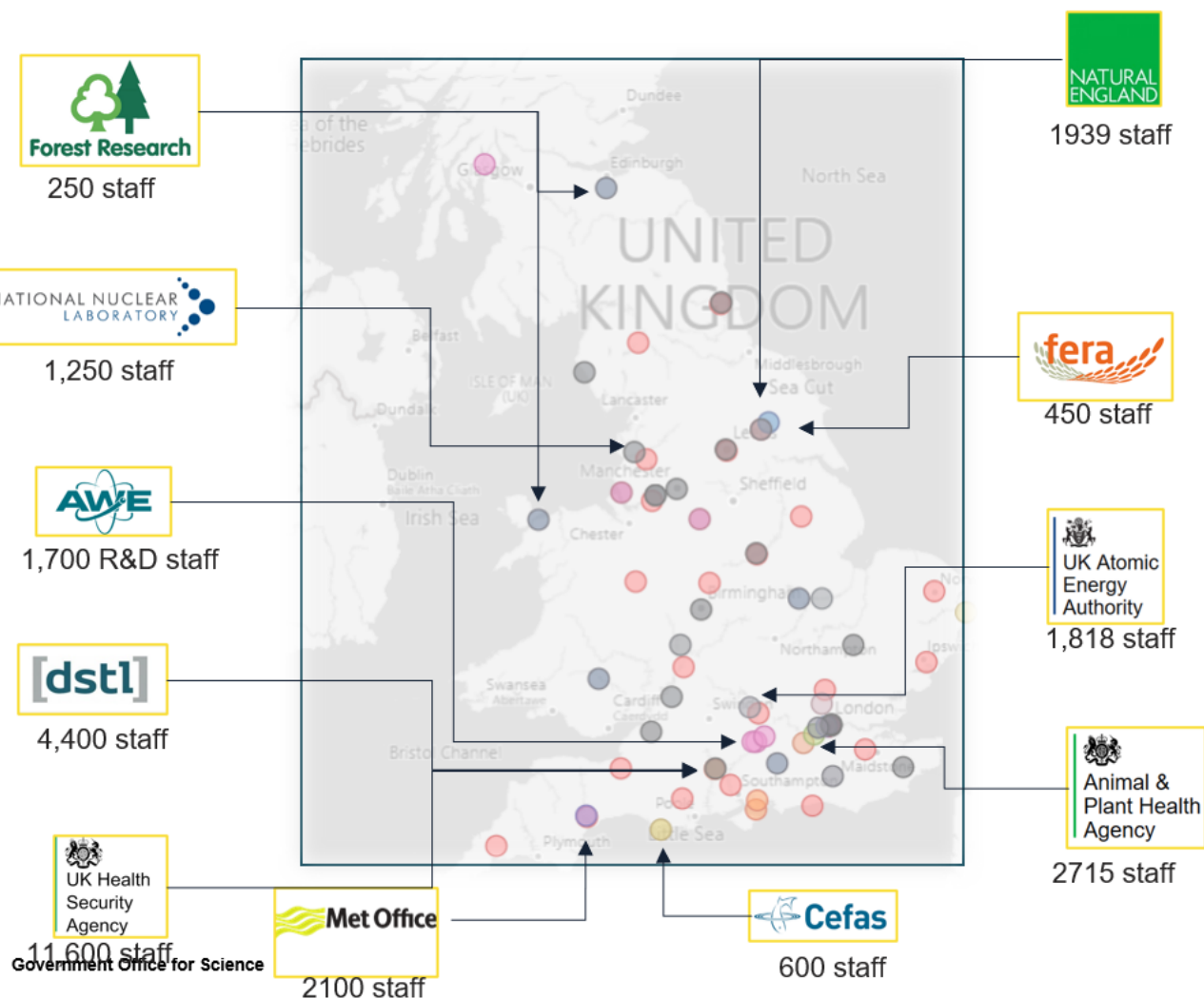


PSREs are a central part of the UK's national science capability

UK Distribution of PSRE sites



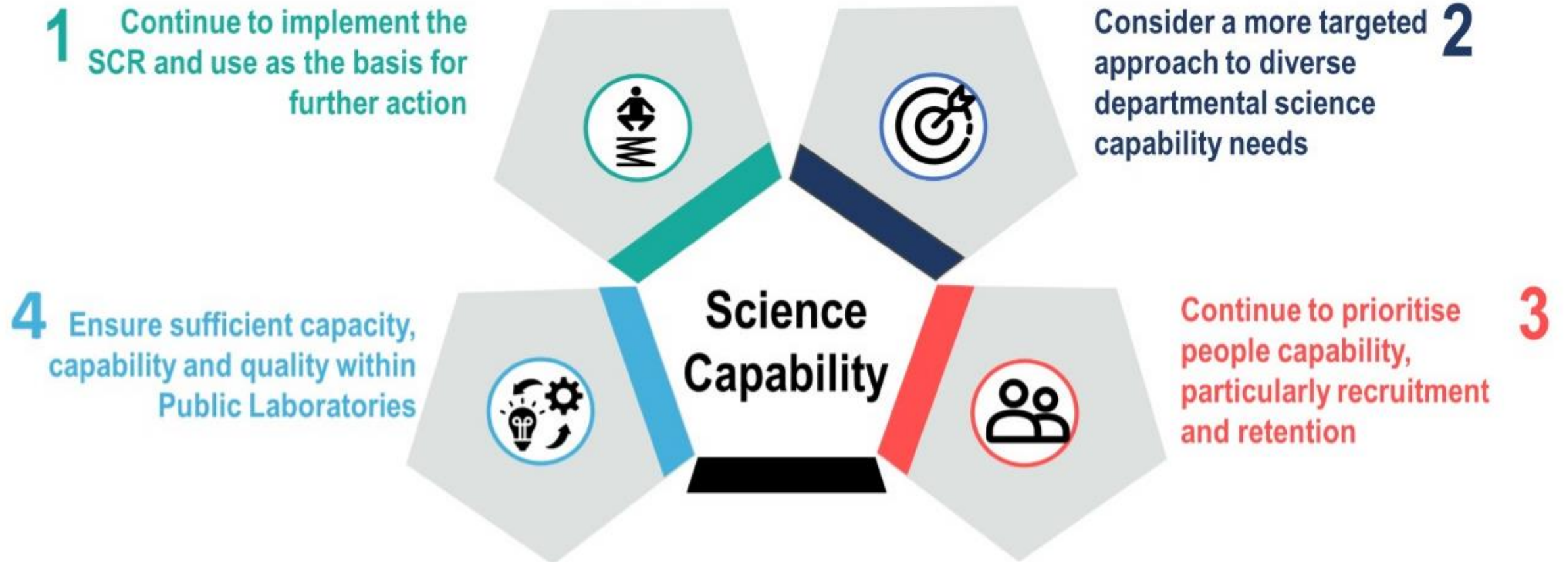
Key facts

- 50 PSREs (including cultural institutions) and 2 non-PSRE ALBs with significant R&D capability.
- 8 departments and all devolved administrations have a PSRE or ALB with R&D capability; 3 departments used to (Home Office, DLUHC, DfT)
- Diverse expertise across defence, nuclear, measurement, animal and plant health, food, environment, health
- >17,000 S&T staff

Recommendation 4 - The Government should make greater use of Public Laboratories as leaders in directed R&D programmes, and in supporting innovation through intermediate technology readiness levels. Government should give greater support to them in this role. This should include:

- a) departments ensuring that they have adequate long-term funding for the pursuit of their core missions for government;
- b) research funders opening up excellence-based competitions to Public Laboratories, where they might compete with universities and other research institutes,
- c) the creation of a specific fund geared to the work of Public Laboratories, for which they can compete for funds for innovation activities to be conducted in partnership with business, and
- d) clear processes for the protection and maintenance of intellectual property generated. BEIS as part of its 2.4% roadmap should address the role of Public Laboratories across government in supporting and enabling research and development in the private sector, and the accountability to deliver this should rest in the department in charge of that sector.

Science Capability Review Progress Update Jan 2024



A review of Government Science Capability: progress update (9 January 2024)

5 key findings:

4. Challenges remain in funding and governance of Public Sector Research Establishments (PSREs).

5. People and skills are essential, but many challenges remain in recruitment and retention.

Challenges remain in funding and governance of Public Sector Research Establishments (PSREs). Progress has been made towards better utilisation of government owned Public Laboratories and expanding eligibility for funding streams, but there are still challenges for those who cannot cross-subsidise grant funding. In addition, in many cases the science missions of Public Laboratories need to be better defined.