



**Evidence for  
Excellence in  
Education**

# School funding and outcomes

## The international context

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**Public**

● independent ● insights ● breadth ● connections ● outcomes

# International comparisons: Health warning

Different  
contexts

Different  
priorities

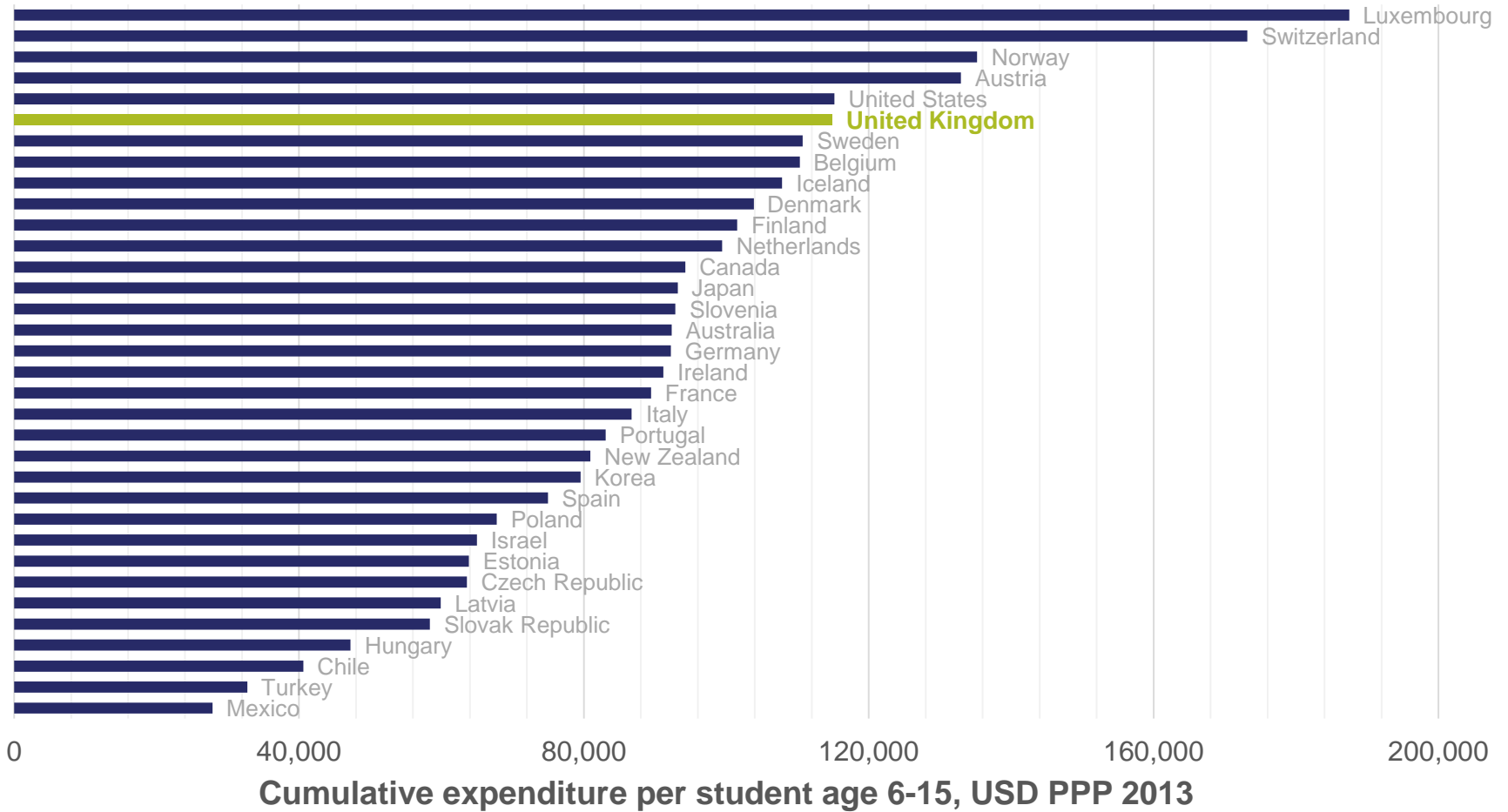


Observation  
only



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# UK education spending is comparatively high

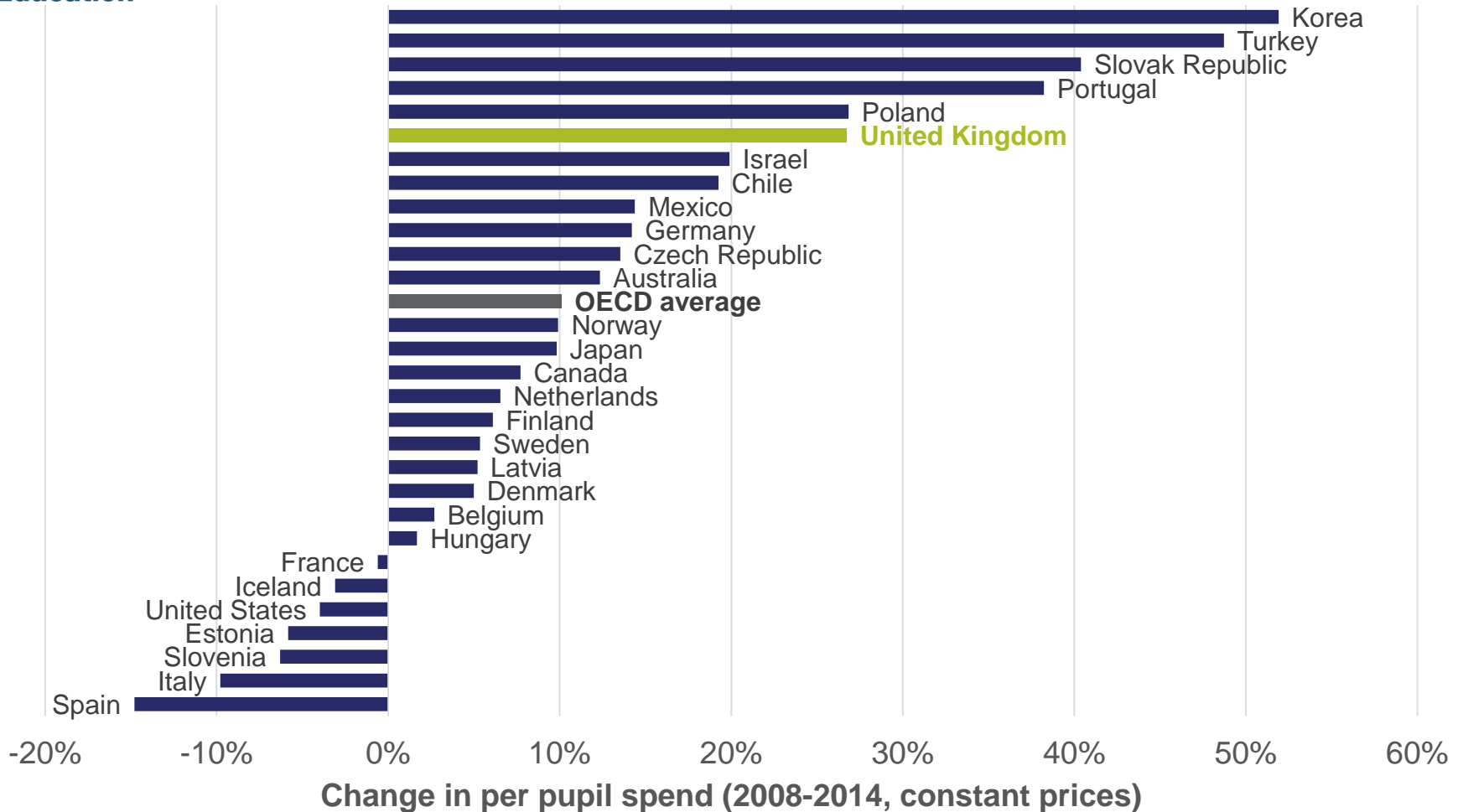


Public

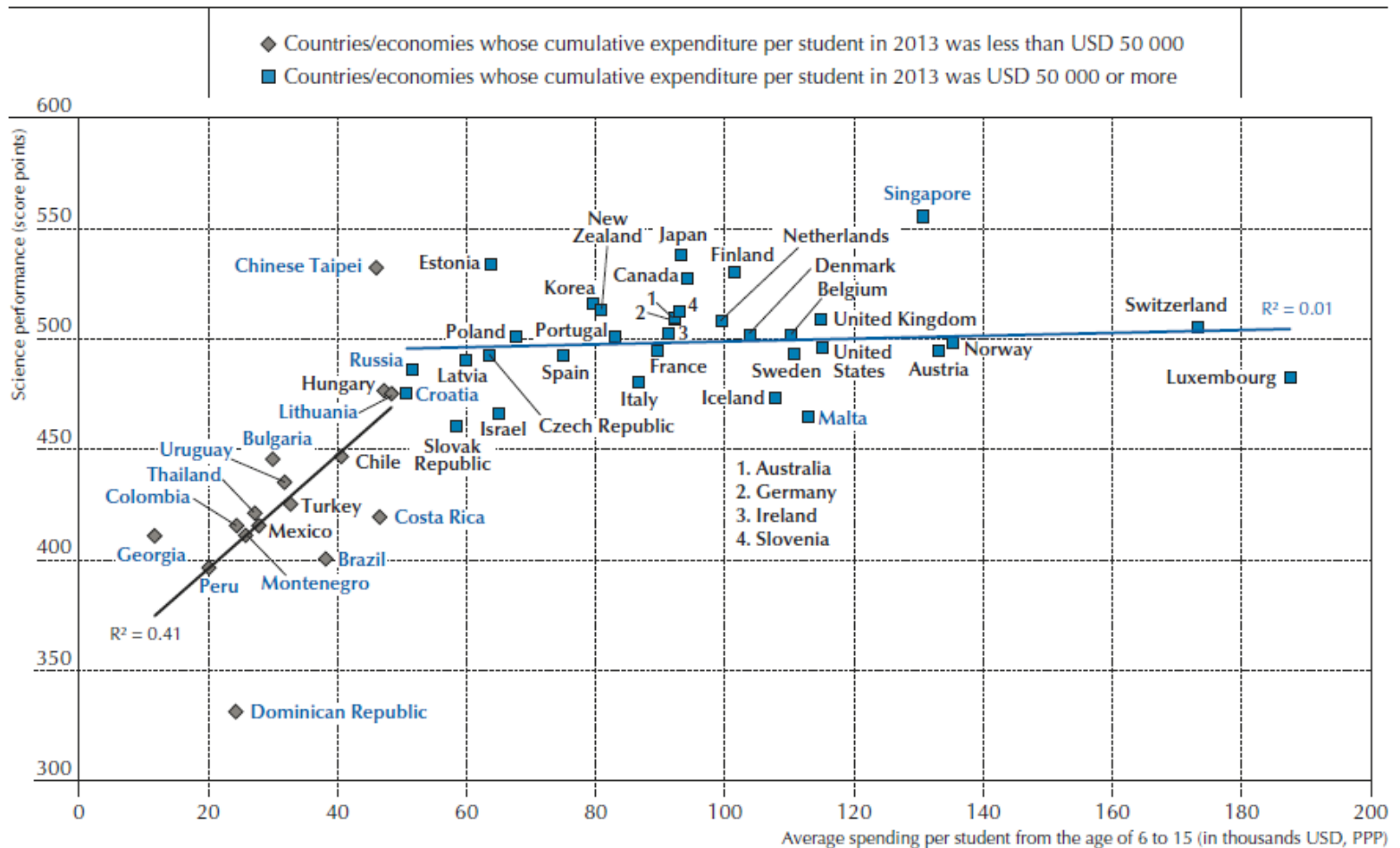
Source: OECD, PISA 2015,  
Table II.6.58

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# UK education spending has increased faster than most of the OECD

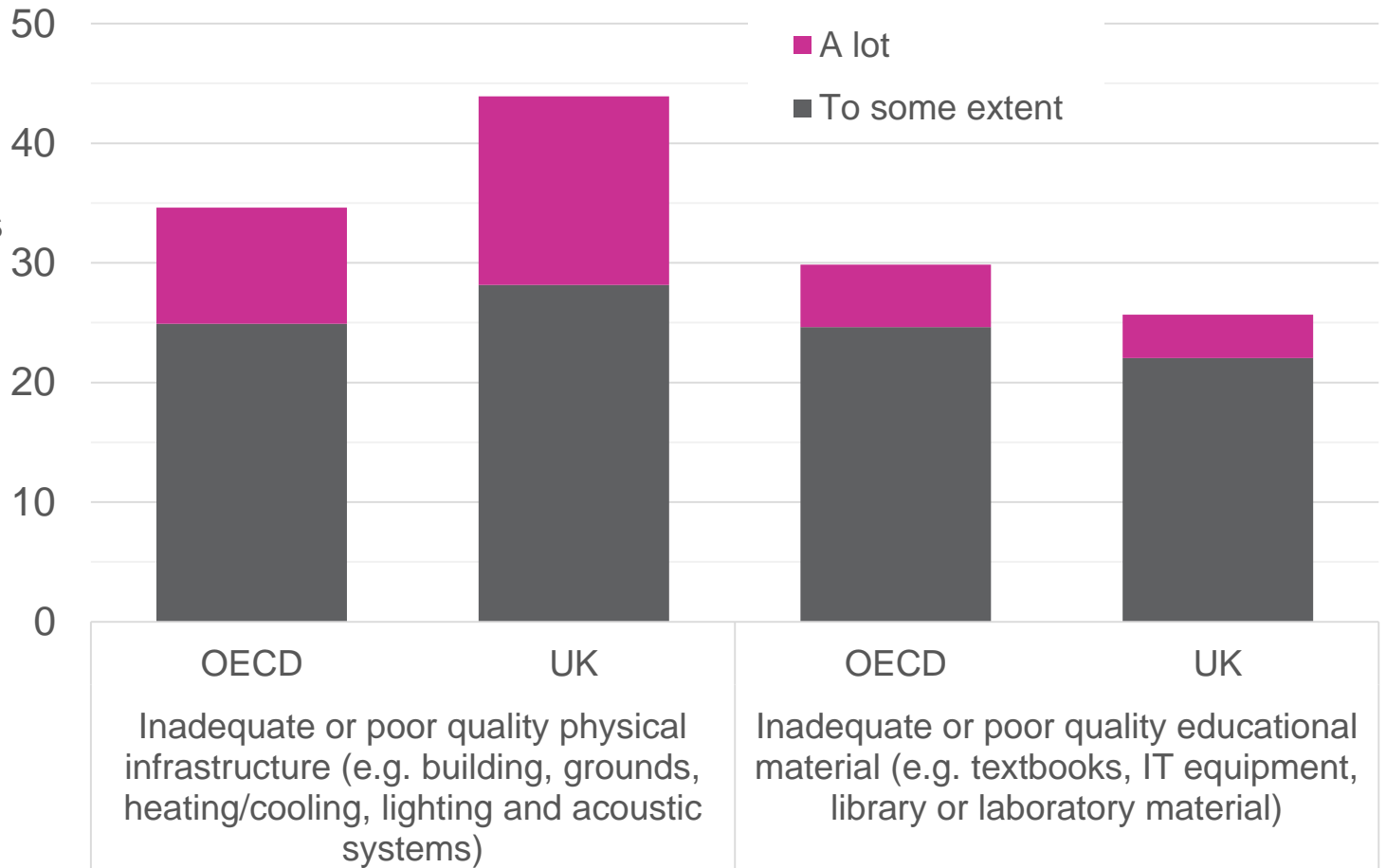


# It's what you do with it that counts



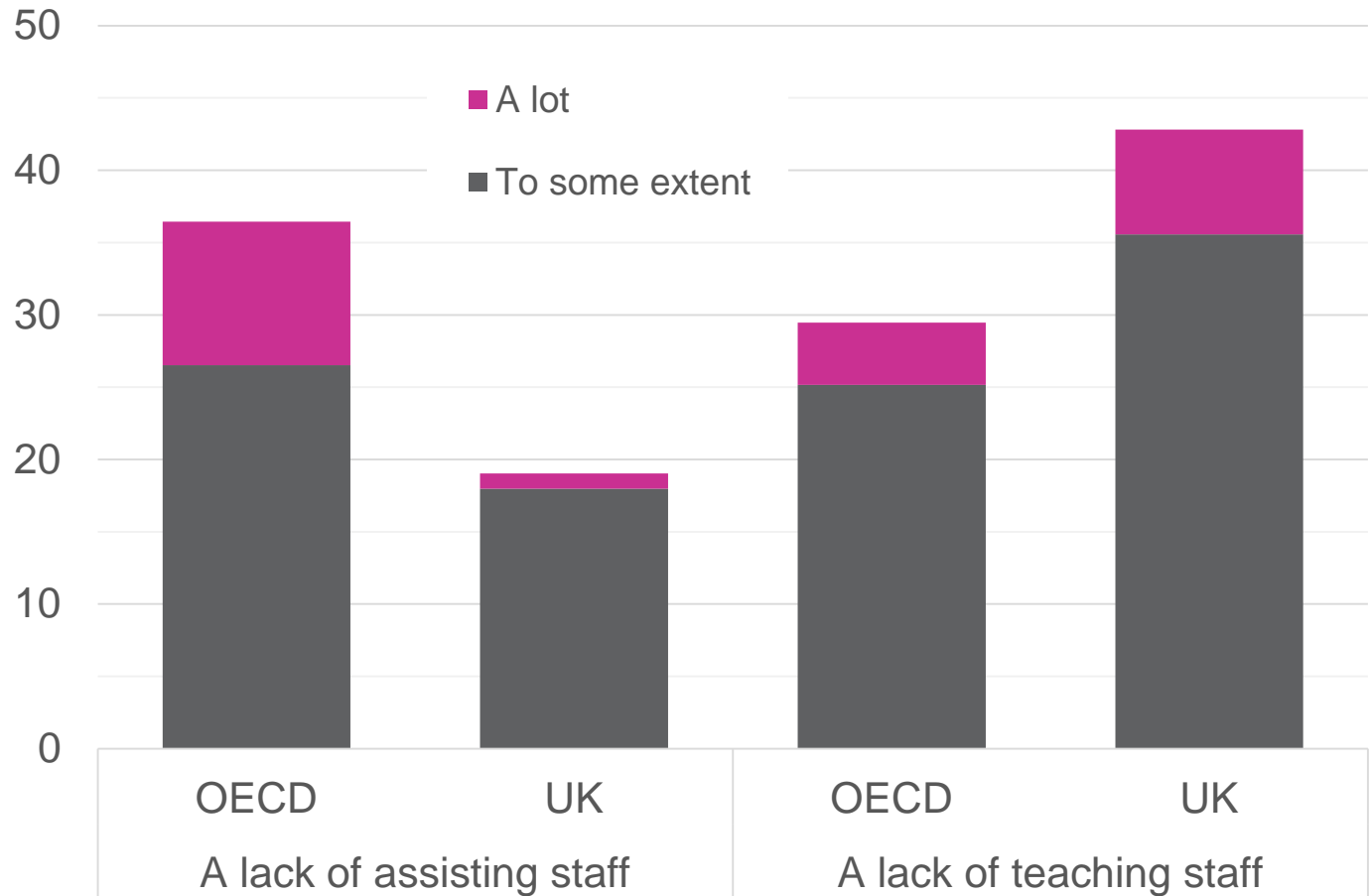
# Some headteachers say that (lack of) resource is a hindrance

Percentage of  
students taught  
by headteachers  
responding...

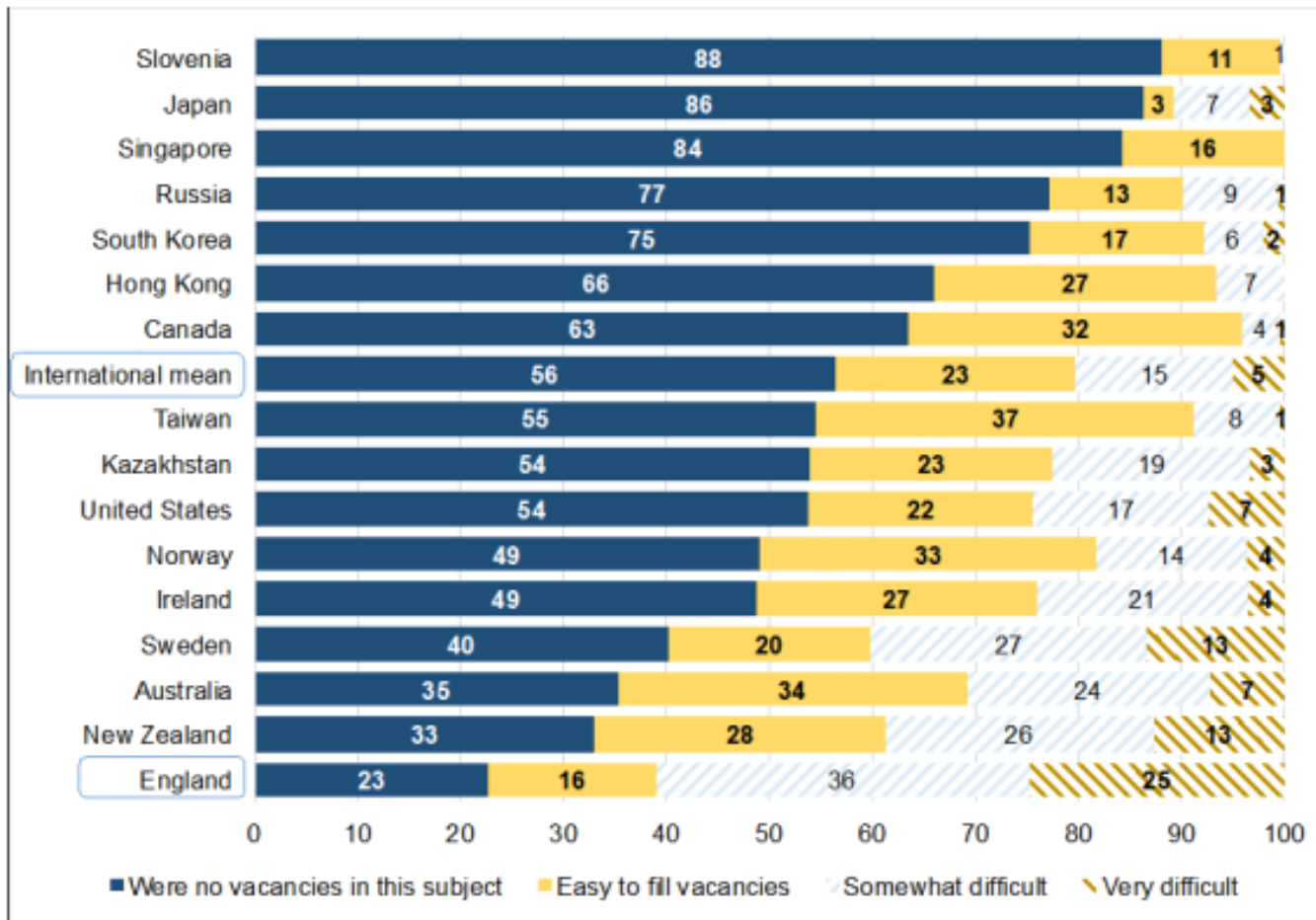


# Lack of teachers (but not teaching assistants) is also a hindrance

Percentage of students taught by headteachers responding...



# Most headteachers in England report recruitment difficulties



Percentages of year 9 pupils taught in schools according to the level of difficulty in filling maths vacancies



# In conclusion

Use international comparisons with care

UK schools have received comparatively and increasingly high levels of funding in recent years

For high-income countries, there is no 'macro' relationship between school funding and PISA scores

Despite high funding levels, there is evidence that UK schools face particular resource challenges

Funding by itself is not enough: outcomes depend on spending choices at the system and school levels



**NFER provides evidence for excellence through its independence and insights, the breadth of its work, its connections, and a focus on outcomes.**

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