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Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research

SUSTAINABLE RESEARCH EXCELLENCE IN UNIVERSITIES

(2) Indirect Costs

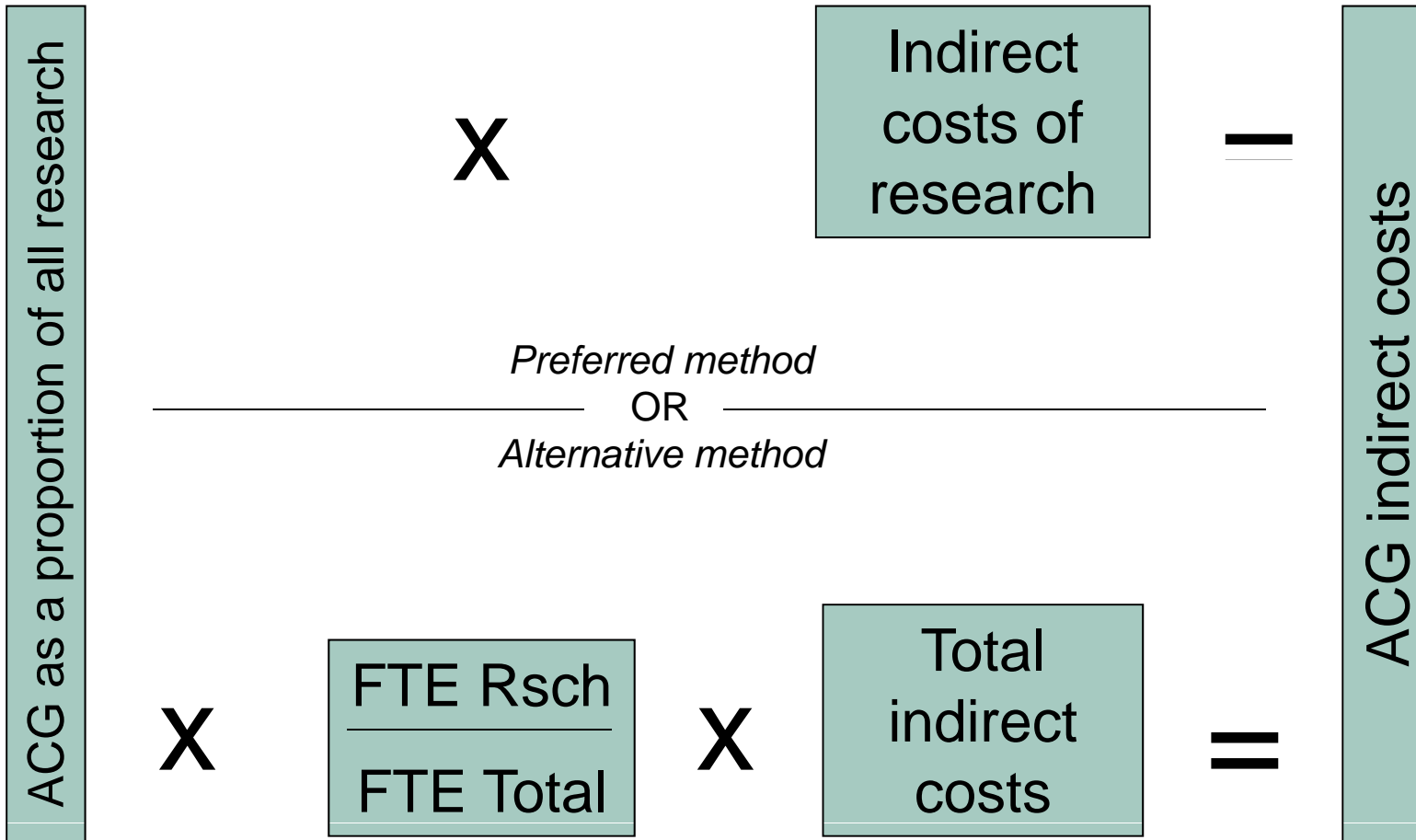
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TC – How?

SURVEY INPUT

FINANCE INPUT





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Allowable indirect costs of research

- The portion of non academic salaries and on costs related to supporting research activities
- Costs of maintaining physical infrastructure used for research including most IT
- Finance and insurance costs related to research activities
- Other costs indirectly associated with research

Note:

- In all cases, there must be a demonstrable link between the cost and a research activity.
- There may be a need to apportion some of these costs between the support of research and non-research activities





Allowable indirect costs - alternative method

- As for indirect costs of research
- But include all indirect costs
- Risk is that it is less accurate
- Predicated on the assumption that non research indirect costs are similar to those for research
 - This assumption will be tested as part of the SRE TC trials
 - If costs are found not to be similar, an adjustment may be applied as part of the treatment of indirect costs in reporting on TC





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Non allowable indirect costs

Applies to both methods

- Depreciation and borrowing costs
- Costs of acquiring research animals
- Commercial activities
- E-research/ high performance computing costs
- Joint ventures and controlled entities
- Academic salaries





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(3) Staff Survey

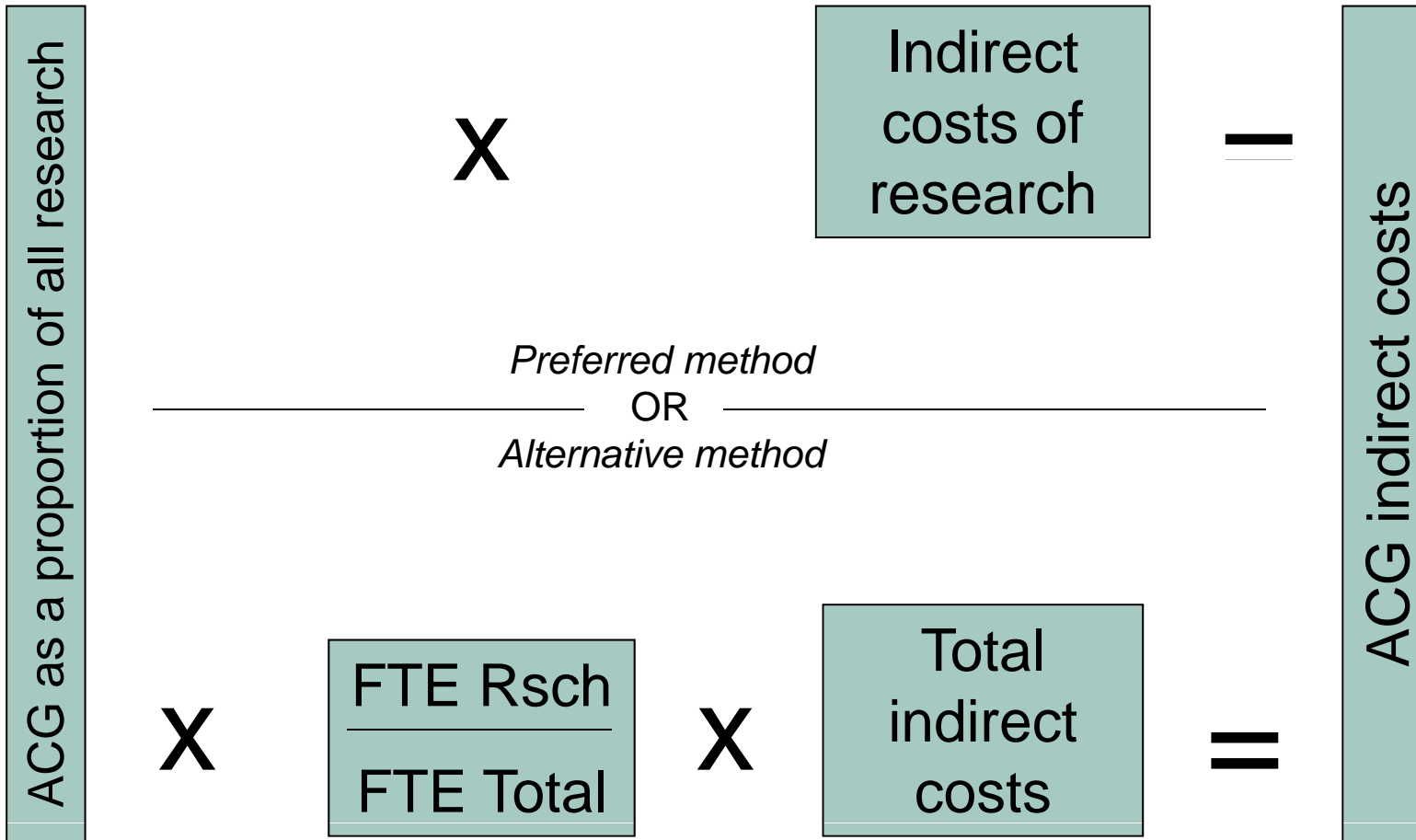
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Staff Survey – Why?

To gather data on proportion of staff time (hours) spent on:

- ACG research
- Total research
- Total effort
- Generates the “ACG as a proportion of all research” component of the calculation
- See [web FAQs for guidance](#)
- Return Survey 1 data by [30 April](#)





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Staff Survey - who to survey?

- Staff that do, or may, **undertake research¹** (as distinct from support)
- Employed directly by the university
- Staff that do not undertake research do not need to be surveyed

1. *“Research and experimental development comprises creative work undertaken on a systematic basis in order to increase the stock of knowledge.”*





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Staff Survey - who to survey?

What if we're not sure about some staff?

- Remember the principles of SRE
 - **Reasonableness** - Are they conducting or directly involved in research, as distinct from supporting those who are?
 - **Materiality** - don't need to chase every last one. If their research effort is minimal - then their contribution to the driver will be too.





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