

## *Comparing schools spending per pupil in Wales and England*

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## ***Comparing school spending across England and Wales is important, but challenging***

***Latest empirical evidence suggests higher levels of school resources/spending can improve later life outcomes***

***Interest in comparing how policymakers across the UK have prioritised school spending in times of overall public spending cuts***

***Previous Welsh government statistics suggest spending per pupil was about £600 lower in Wales than in England in 2009-10***

***Fast pace of Academies programme in England makes updating these statistics hard***

- *Over two thirds of secondary schools in England are now Academies*
- *Academies missing from local authority outturns*

***New school funding arrangements in England from 2013-14 mean that Academies are now included within local authority plans...***

# **Outline**

***Data/methods for calculating comparable measures of spending per pupil in Wales and England over time***

***Overall trends in spending per pupil since 2008-09***

***Driving factors and implications***

***Plans for further work***

# ***Constructing a consistent measure of spending per pupil across England and Wales is not easy***

***Different statistics and definitions***

***Greater role for local authorities in Wales***

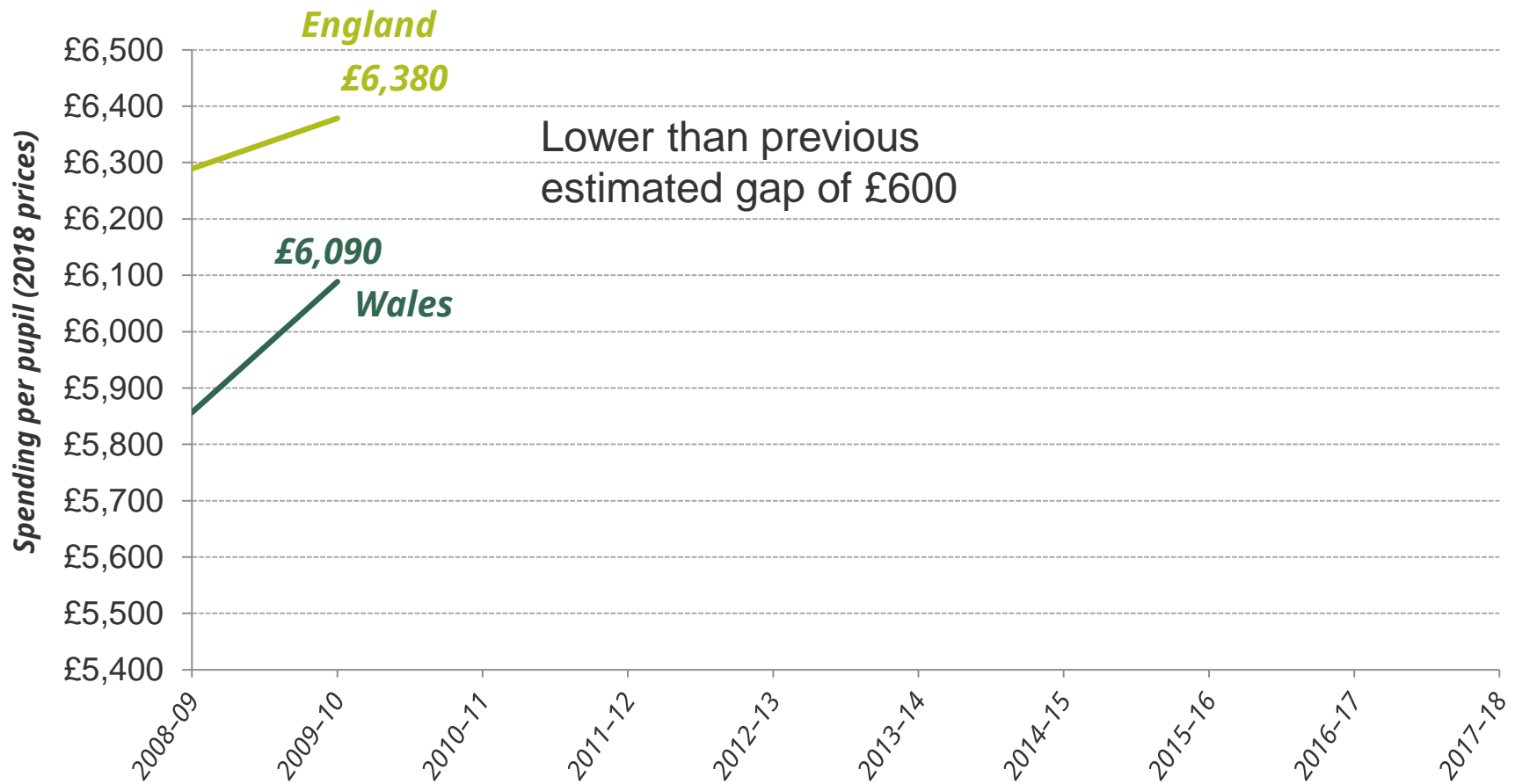
***Different funding structure for early years and post-16***

***Academies often missing from LA data in England***

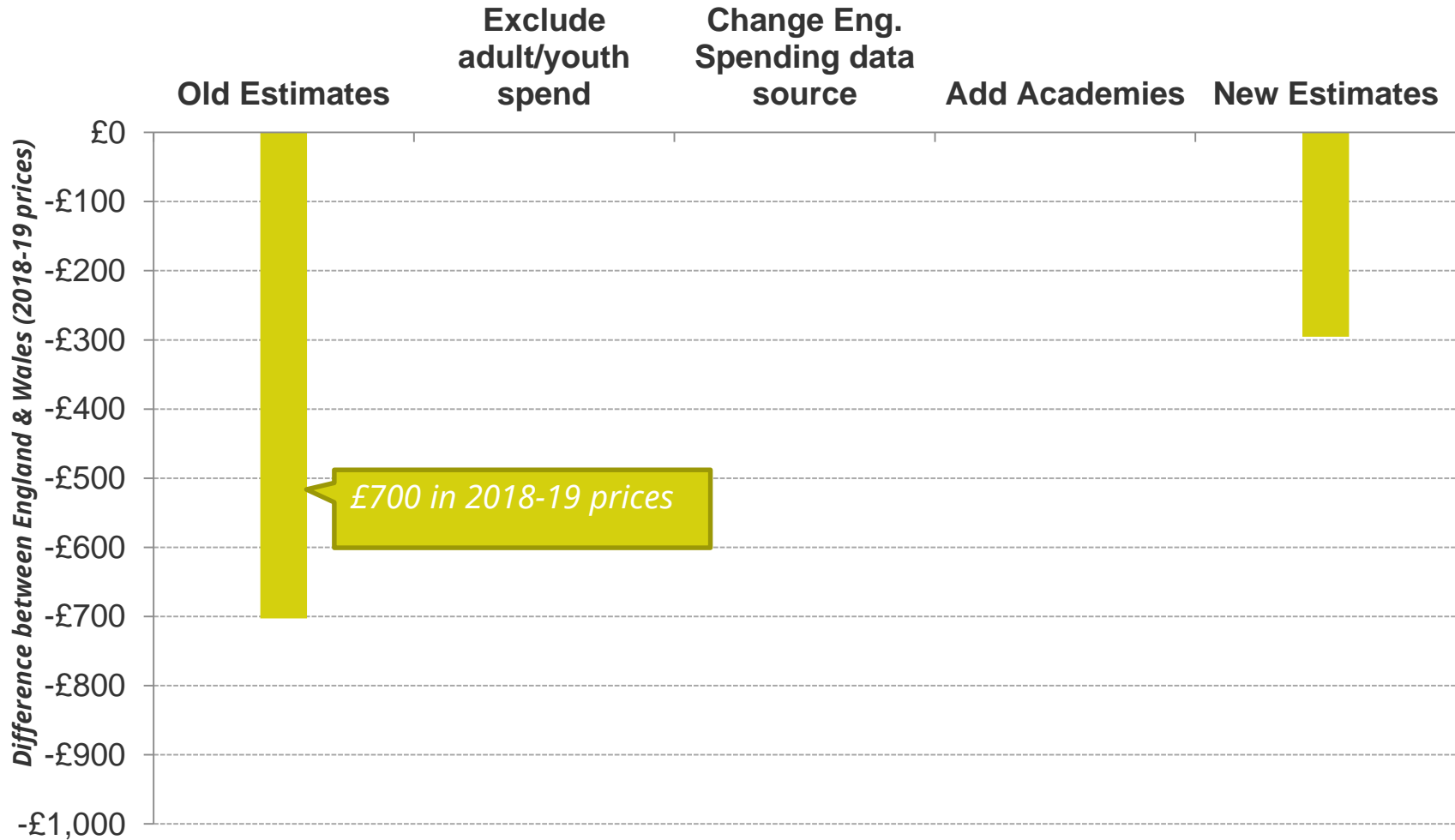
## ***Our approach:***

- *Total spending on schools from age 3-18 by schools or local authorities*
- *Consistent FTE pupil counts from ages 3-18 (spending data includes private nurseries for England; excluded for Wales)*
- *Add back in Academies for England before 2012-13*
- *Make use of England plans data from 2013-14, which includes Academies*

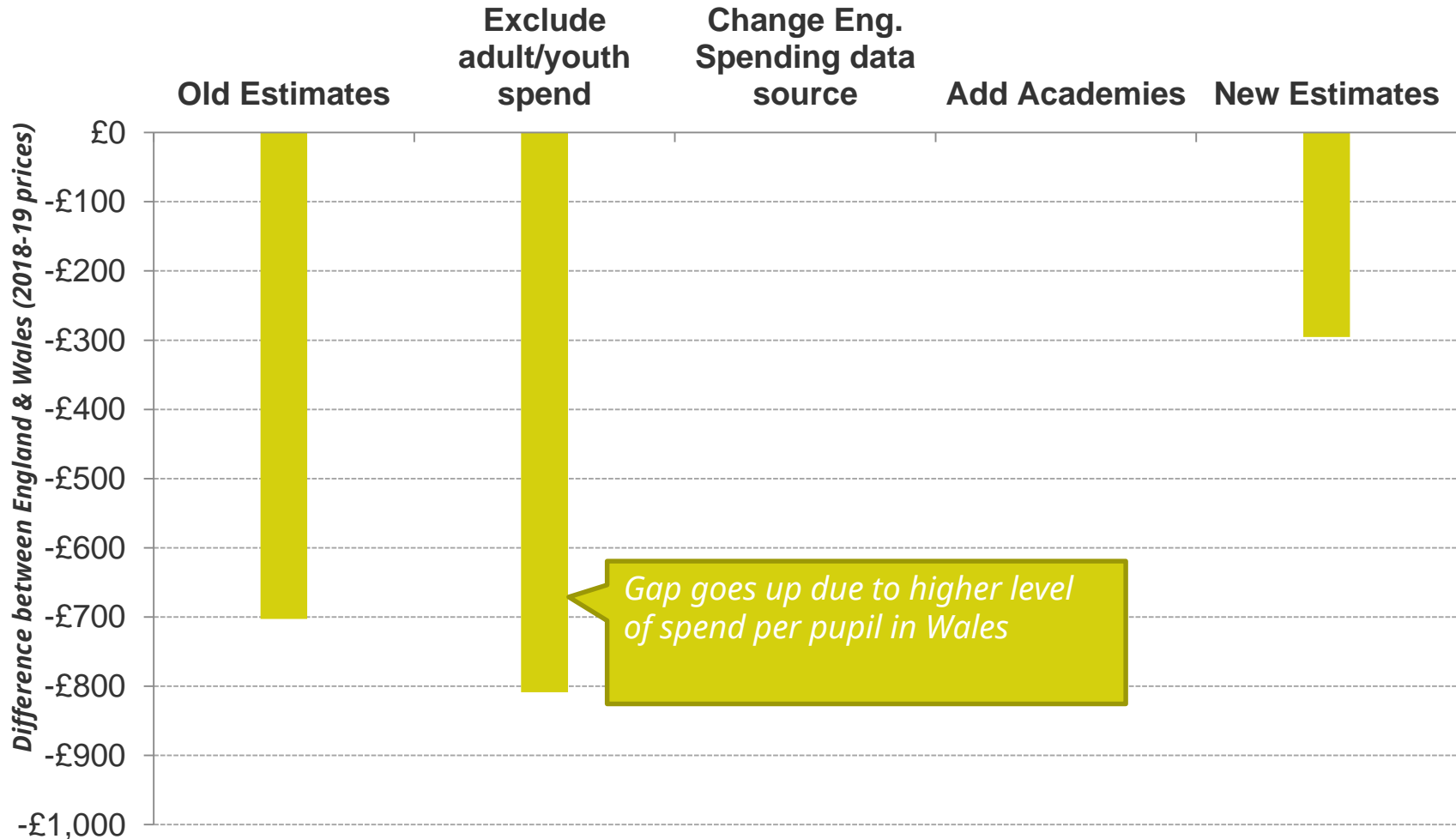
# Spending per pupil in Wales about £300 lower than in England in 2009



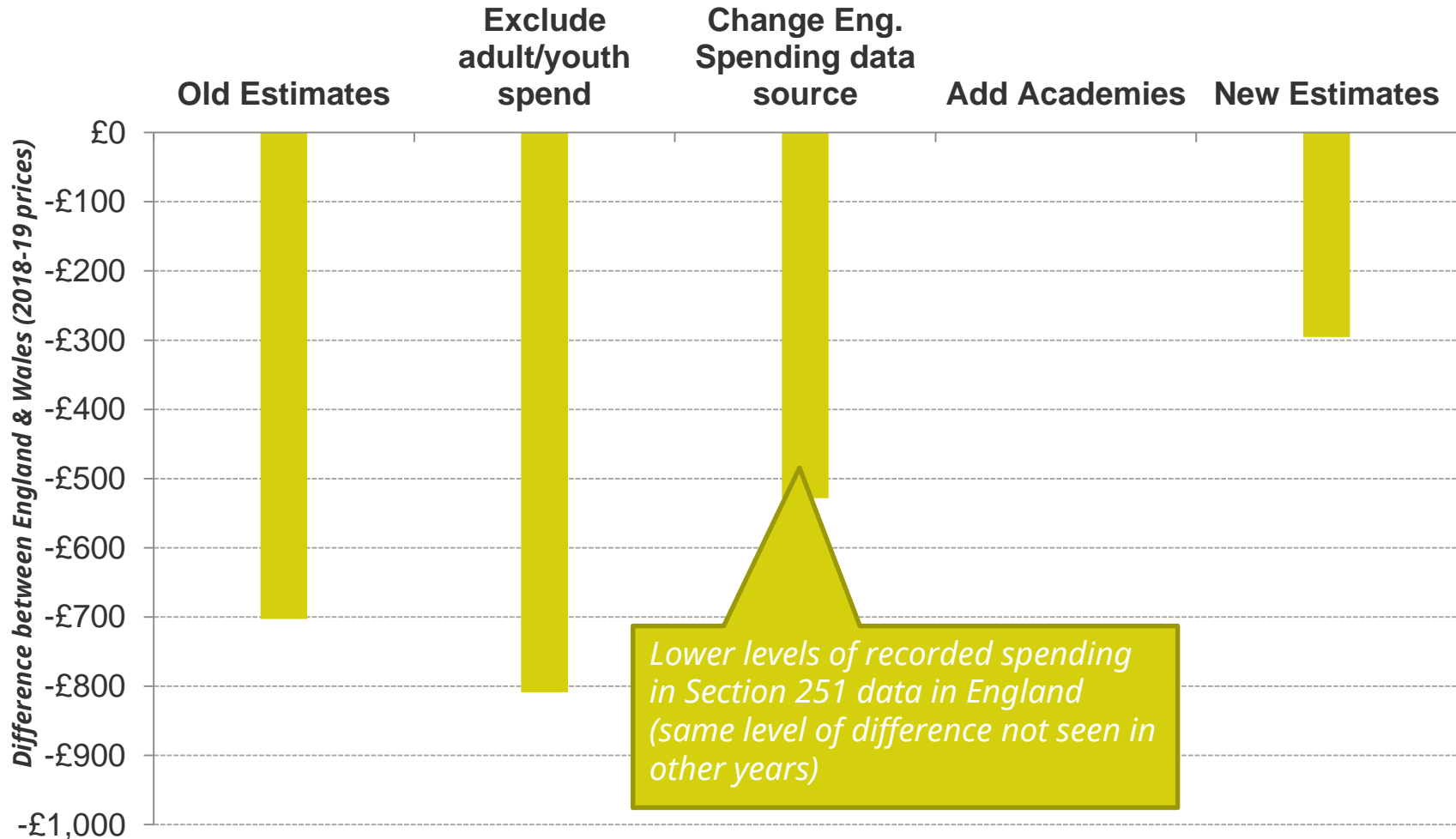
# Accounting for difference between £600 & £300 gap



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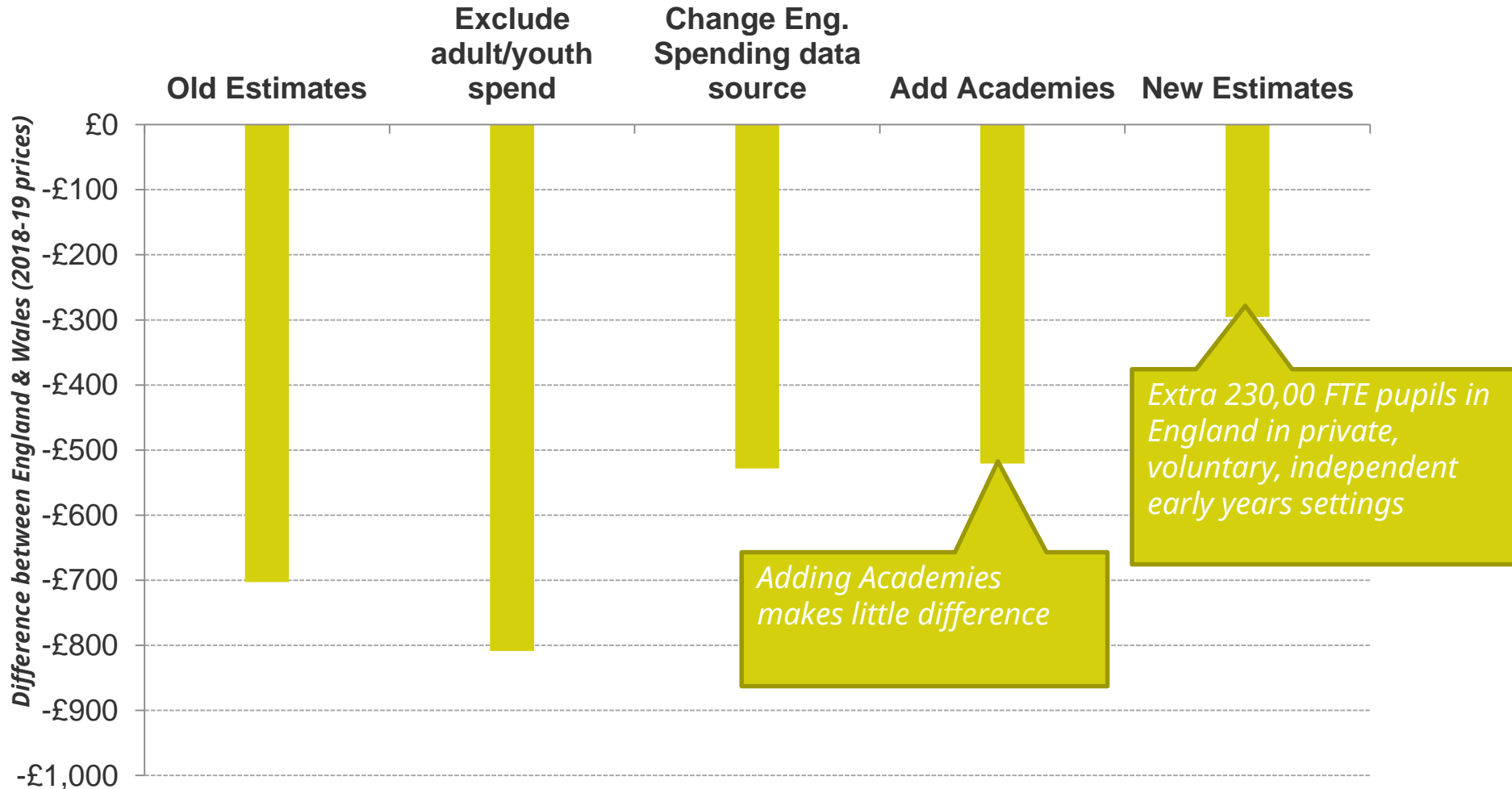


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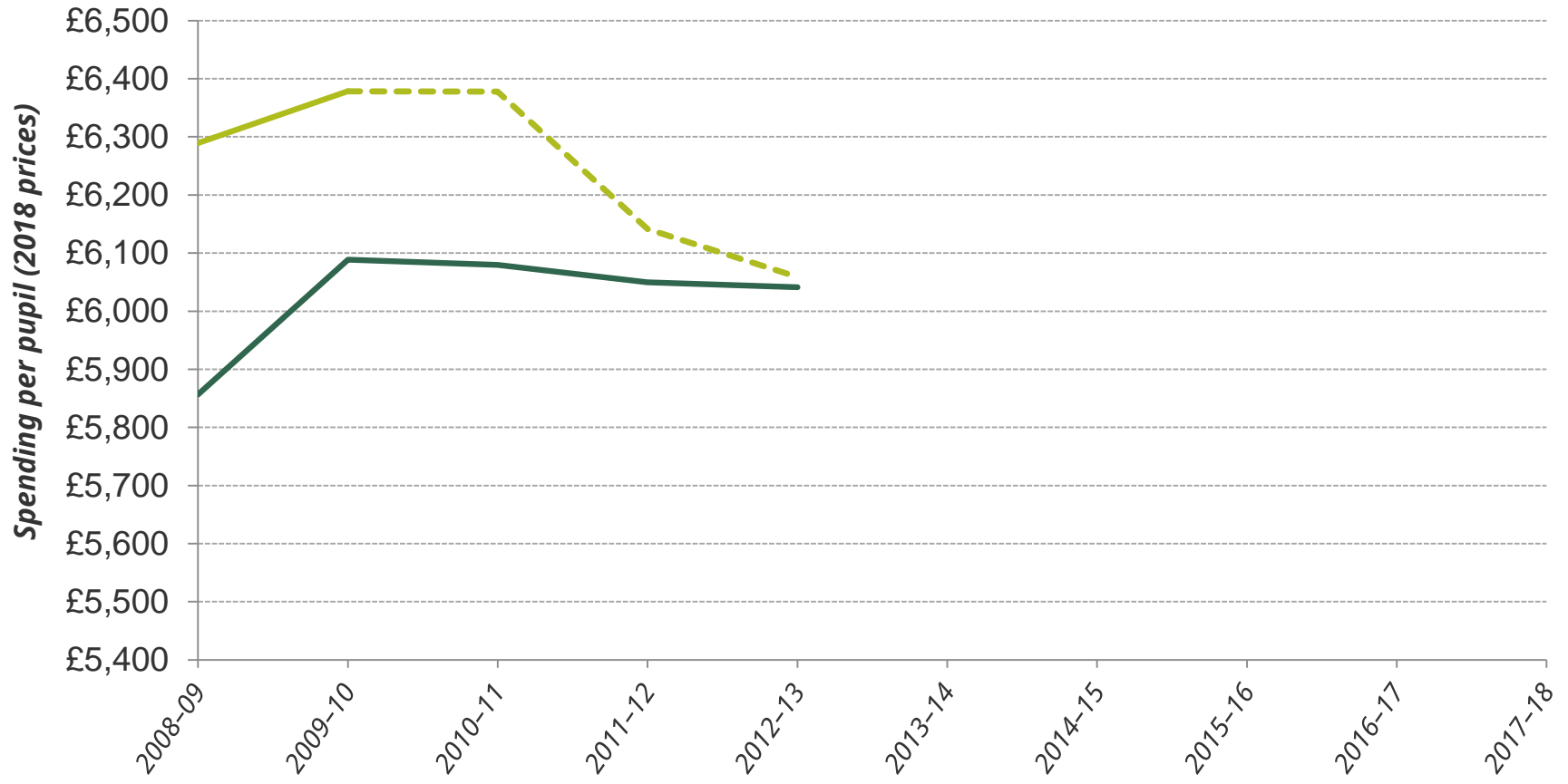




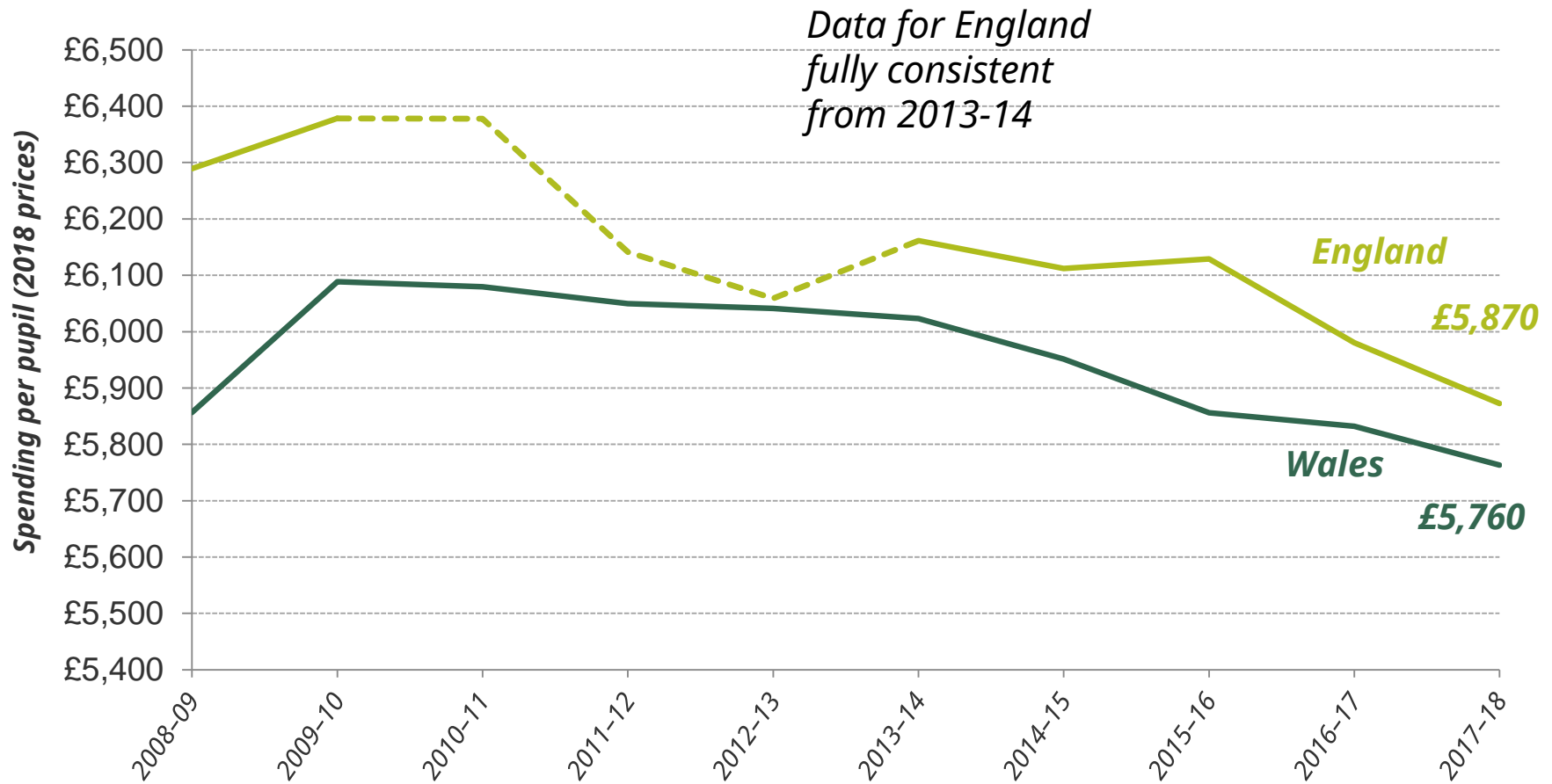
# Accounting for difference between £600 & £300 gap



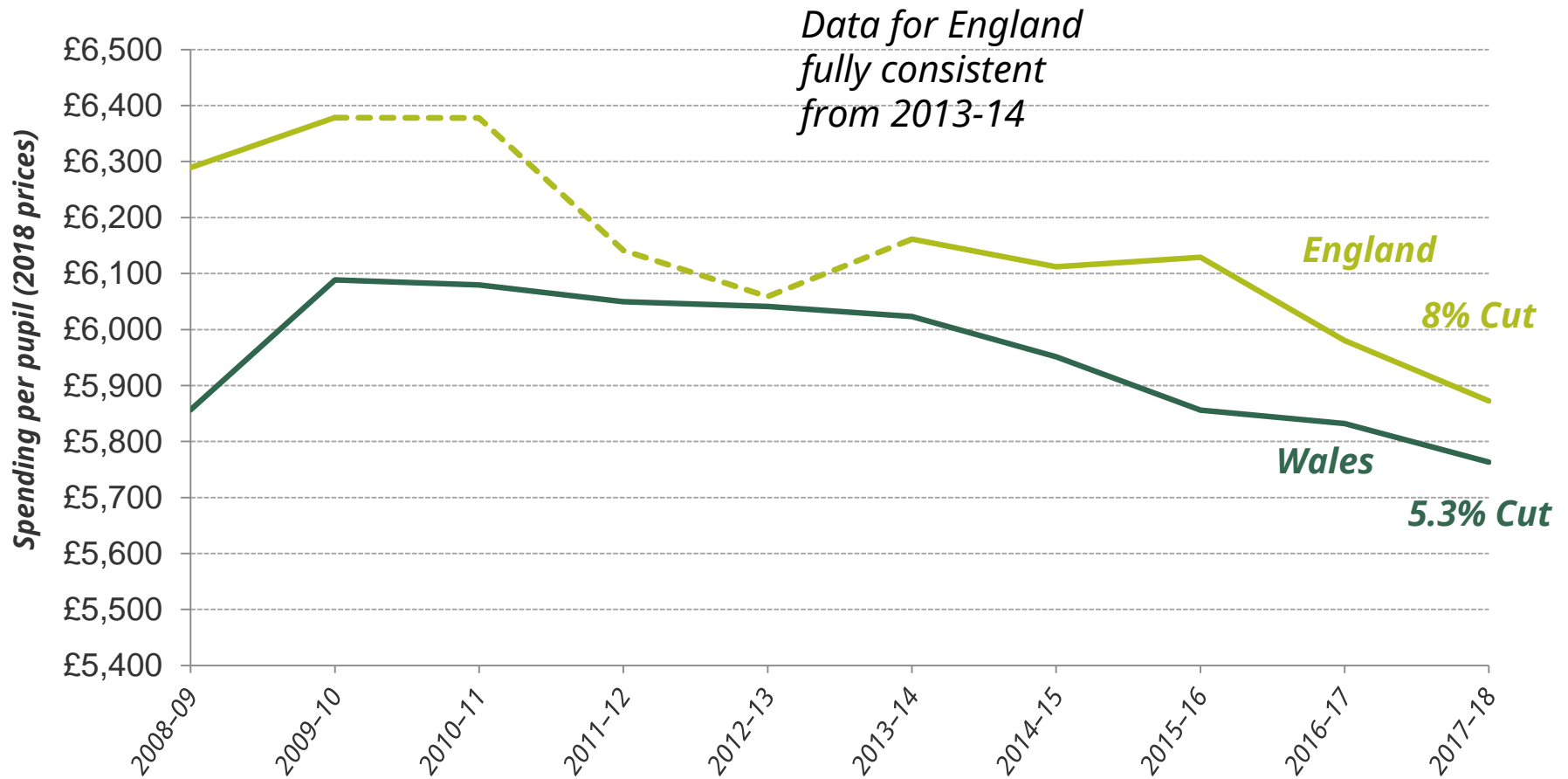
# Not clear we can fully trust Academies data from 2010-11 to 2012-13 in England



# Gap falls to just over £100 or about 2% by 2017



# Driven by faster cuts to spend per pupil in England between 2009-10 and 2017-18



# Summary of changes in spending per pupil

## **Gap in spending per pupil down from £300 in 2009-10 to about £100 in 2017-18**

- *Smaller estimated gap in 2009 due to different data sources and inclusion of additional early years pupils in England*
- *If we could exclude London, gap would probably be closer to zero.*

## **Faster cuts in spending per pupil in England (8%) than in Wales (5%)**

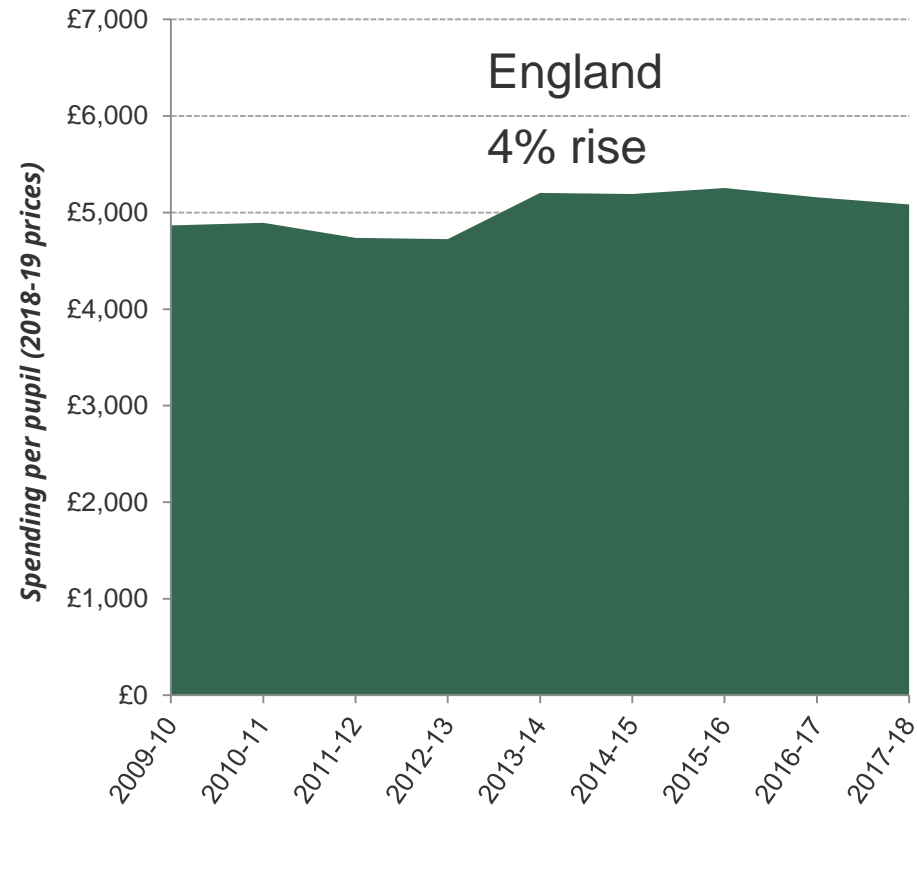
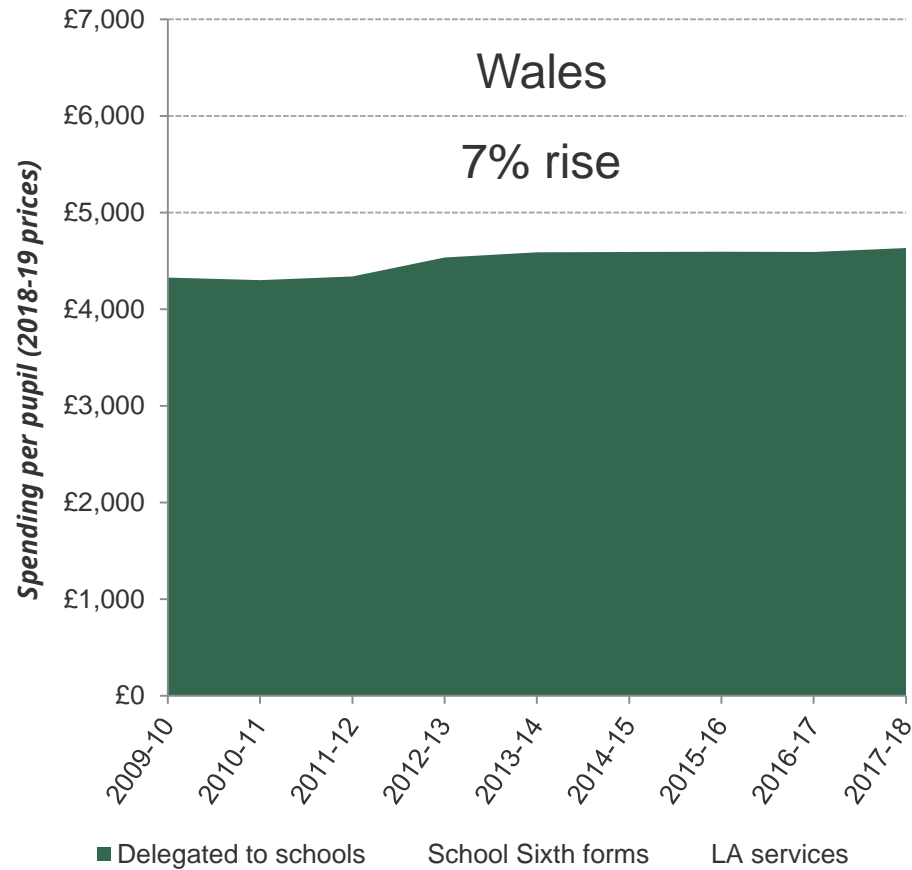
- *Actual cut probably smaller for Wales as includes effect of moving Flying Start out of education budget in 2015-16*

## **What accounts for faster pace of cuts in England ?**

- *Spending allocated directly to schools*
- *Wider local authority services*
- *School Sixth Forms*

# What has driven faster cuts in England?

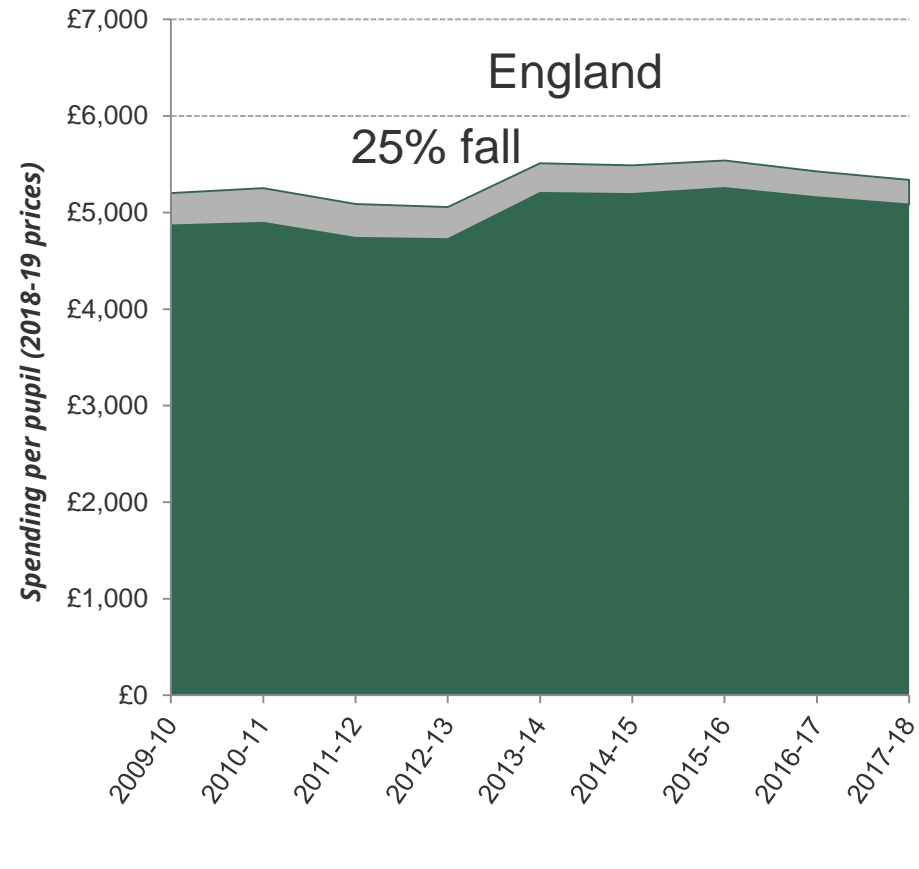
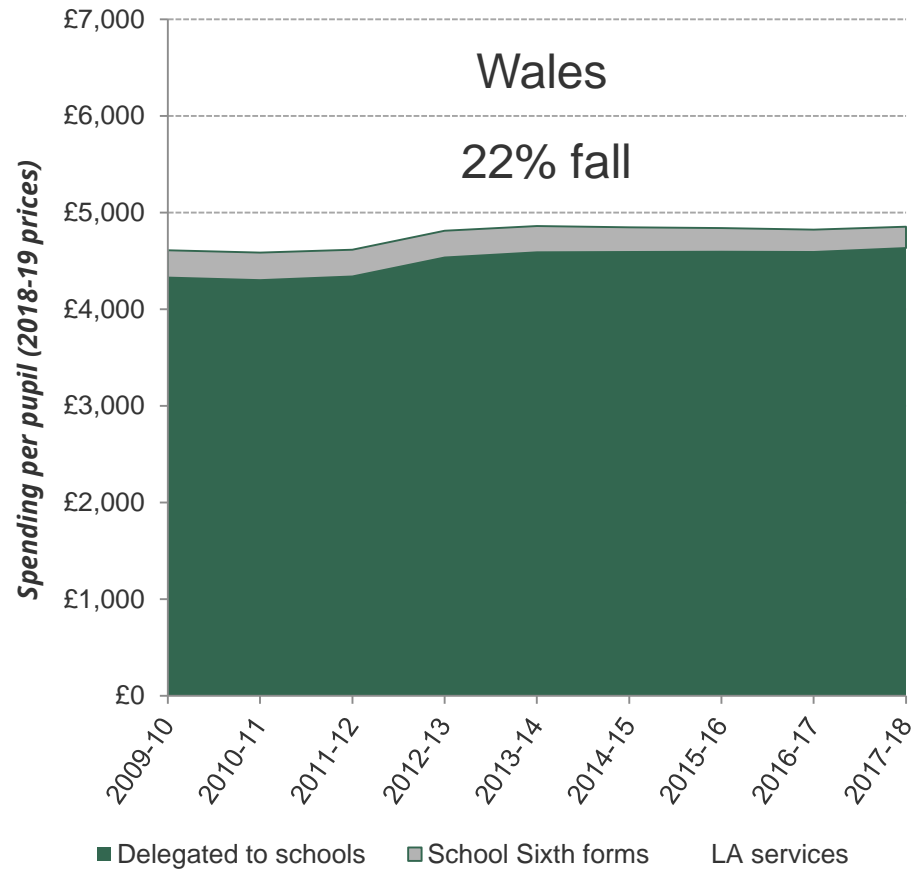
## Greater protection for funds delegated to schools in Wales



Notes: Figure are per pupil aged 3-19

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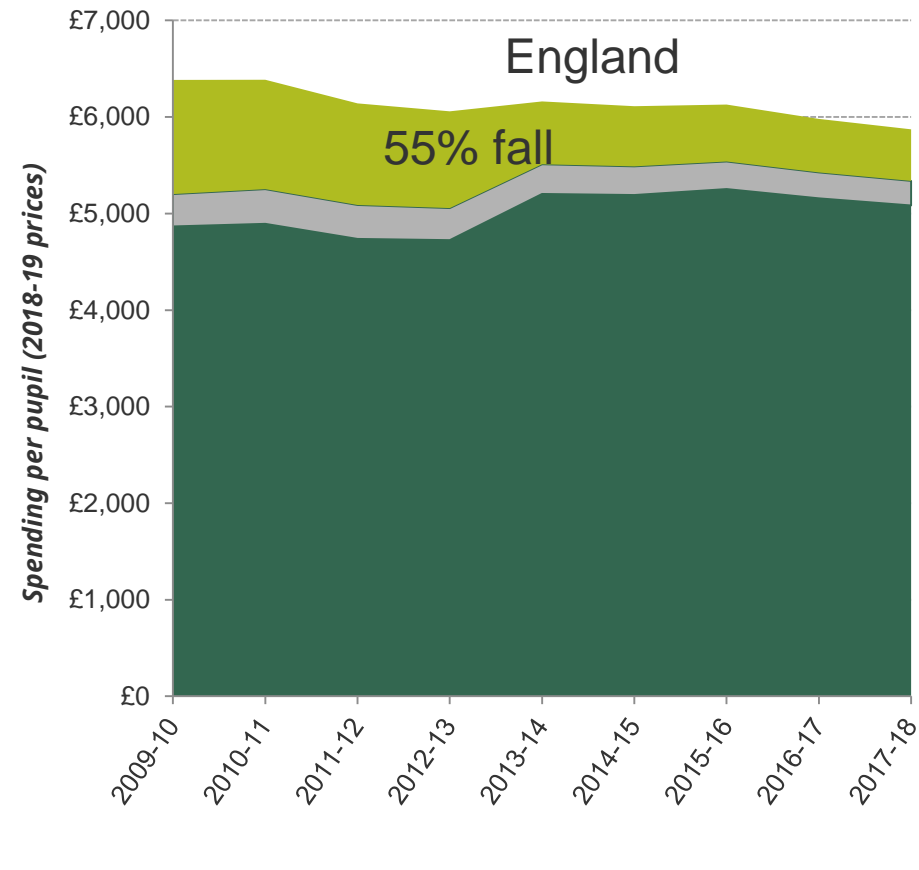
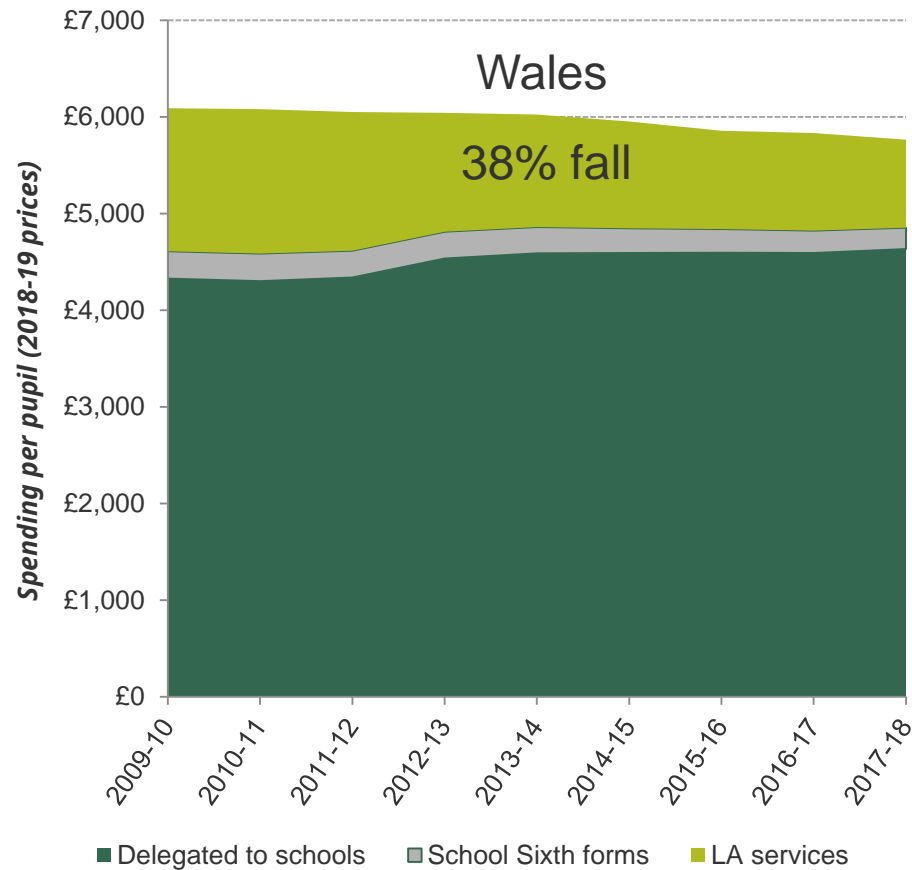
Both have cut school sixth form spending, slightly more in England



Notes: Figure are per pupil aged 3-19

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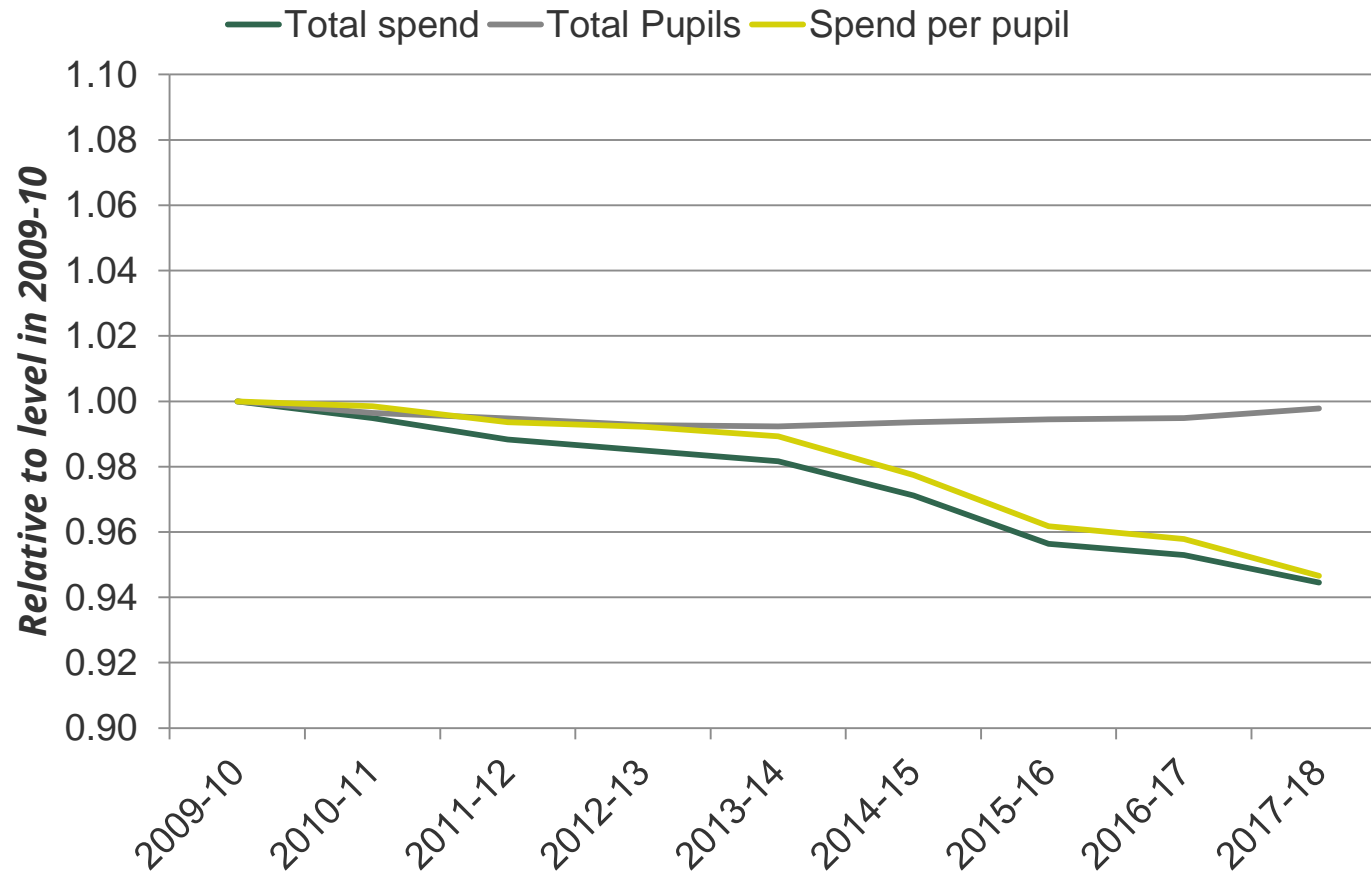
## Faster reductions in LA spending in England



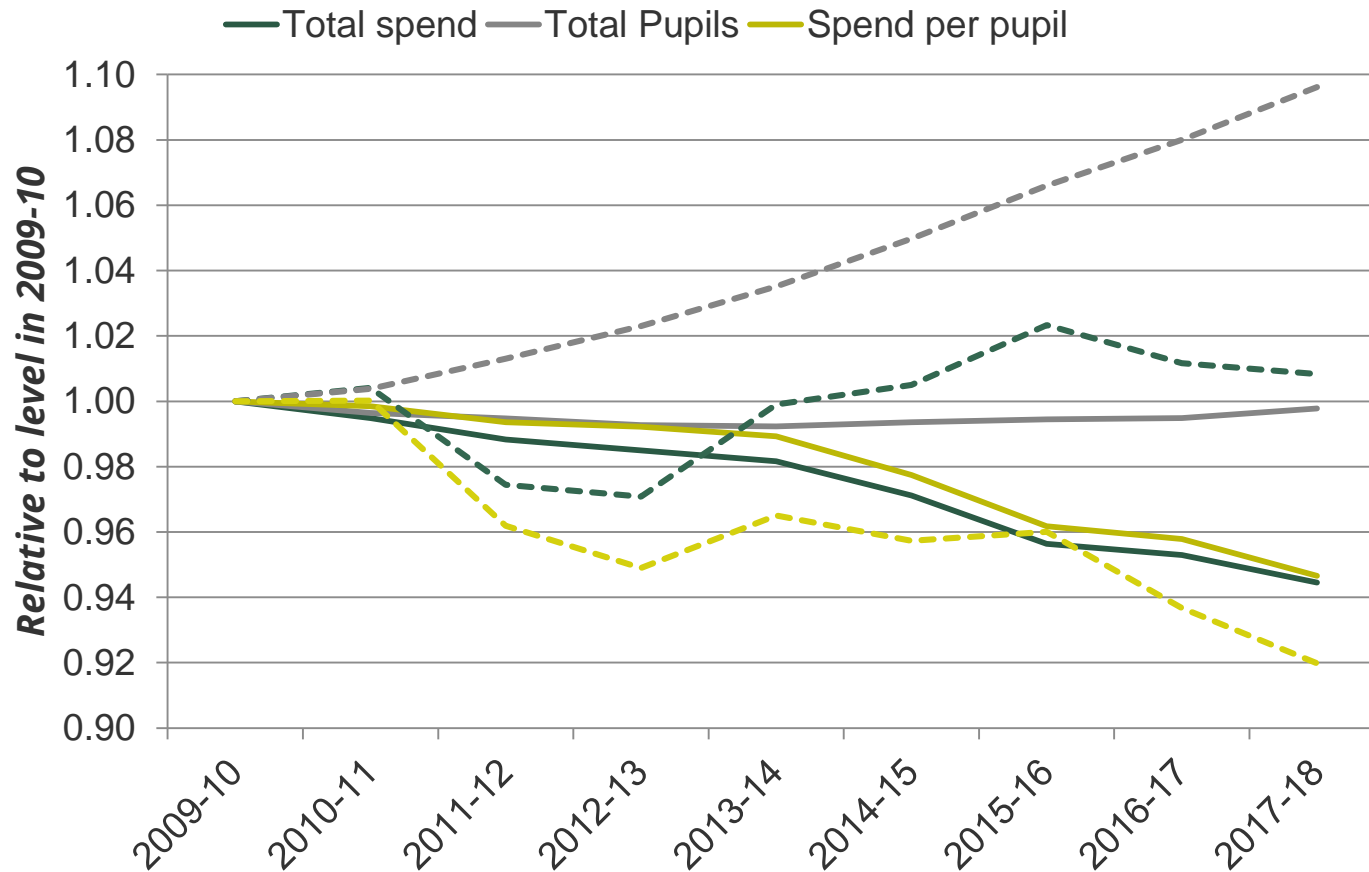
Notes: Figure are per pupil aged 3-19



# Spending per pupil cuts in Wales driven by falling total spending and static pupil numbers



# Falls in England driven by static total spending and nearly 10% rise in pupil population



# Summary and future research questions

## **£100 difference in spending per pupil between England & Wales in 2017**

- Lower than in 2009, when it was £300
- Lower than previous estimates of £600 due to refined pupil number estimates and different data sources

## **Faster pace of cuts in England (8%) than in Wales (5%)**

- Both countries have protected spending per pupil directly allocated to schools
- Faster cuts in sixth forms and wider local authority services in England
- 10% rise in pupil numbers in England, steady in Wales

## **Large differences in role of local authorities across England and Wales**

- Trading off additional choice for schools against economies of scale and coordination from local authorities
- What has this translated to in terms of actual inputs / spending patterns?

## **What are the differences across 'similar' schools in England and Wales?**