

Barriers to domestic policy

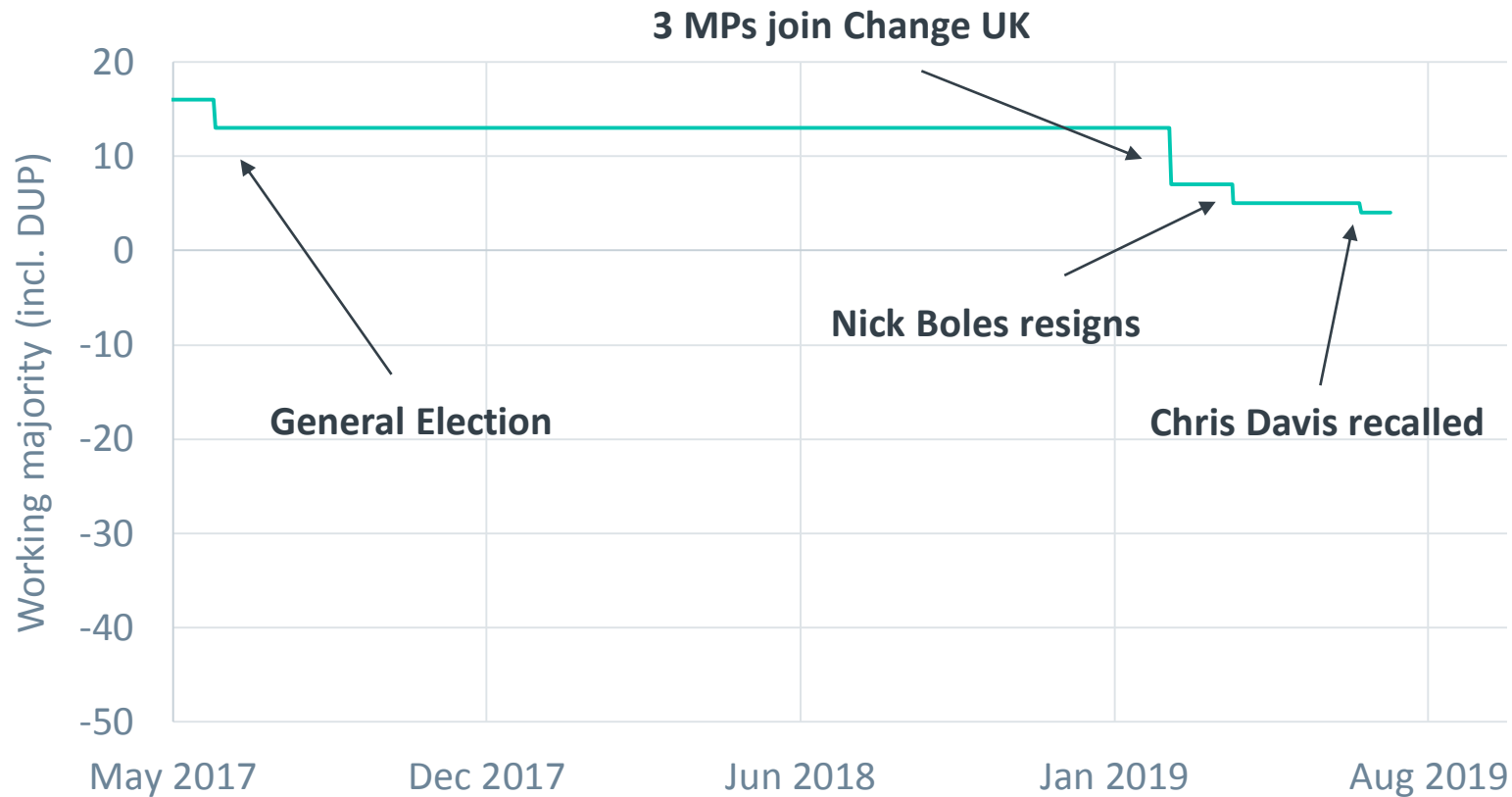
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08 OCTOBER 2019



Vanishing parliamentary majority

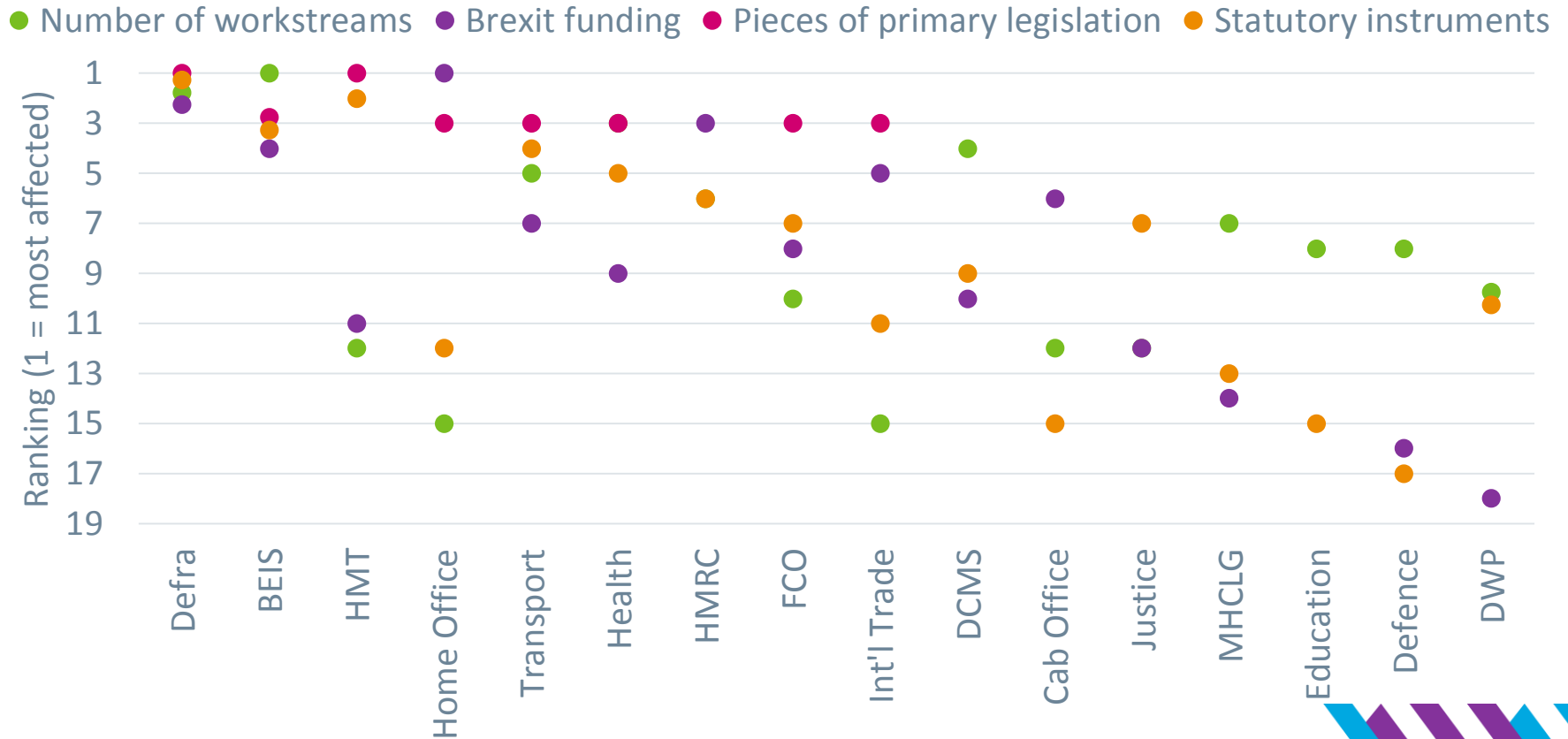
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Source: Figure 7.1 of *The IFS Green Budget: October 2019*

Which departments have been most affected by Brexit?

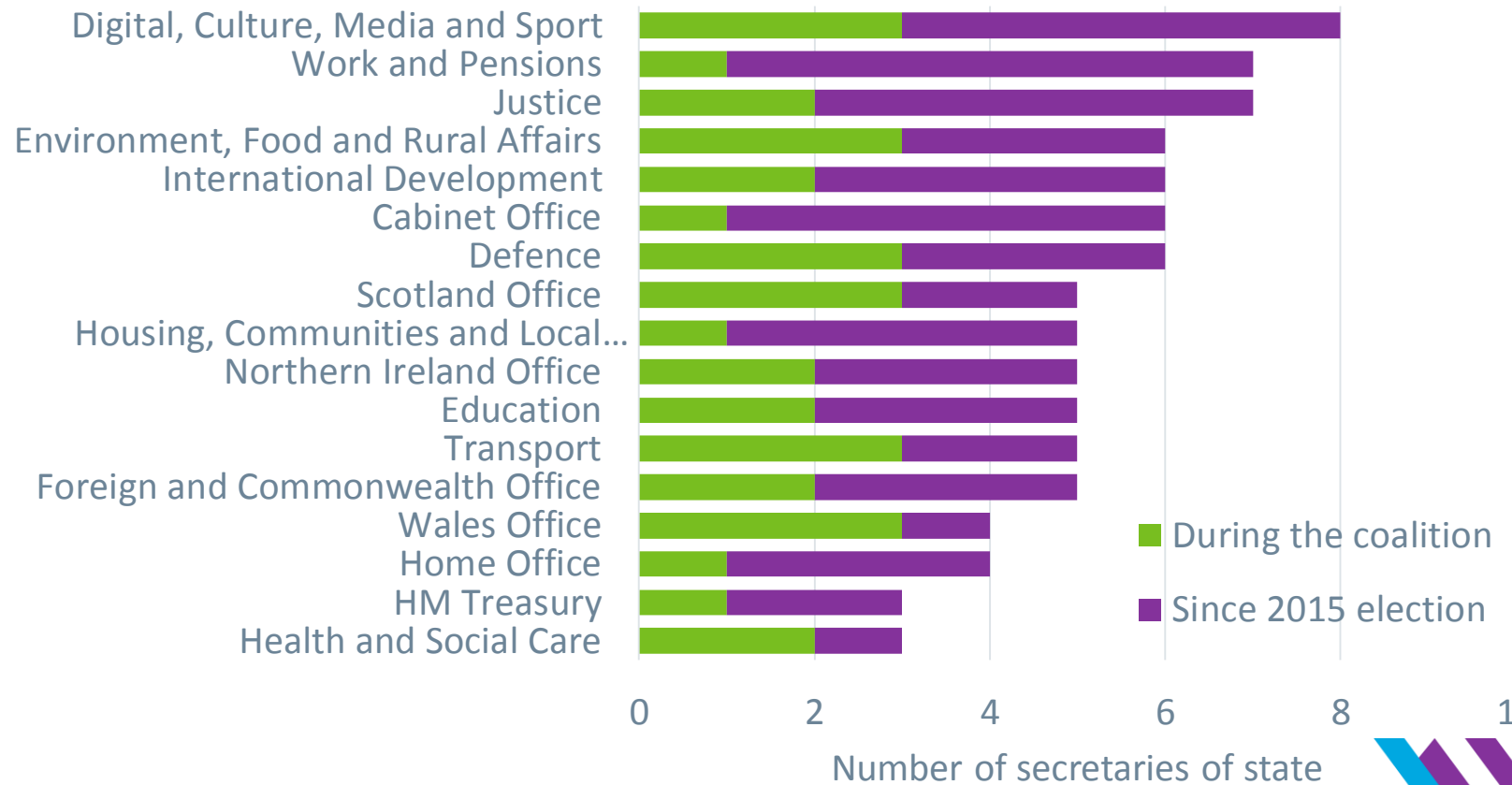
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Source: Figure 7.8 of *The IFS Green Budget: October 2019*

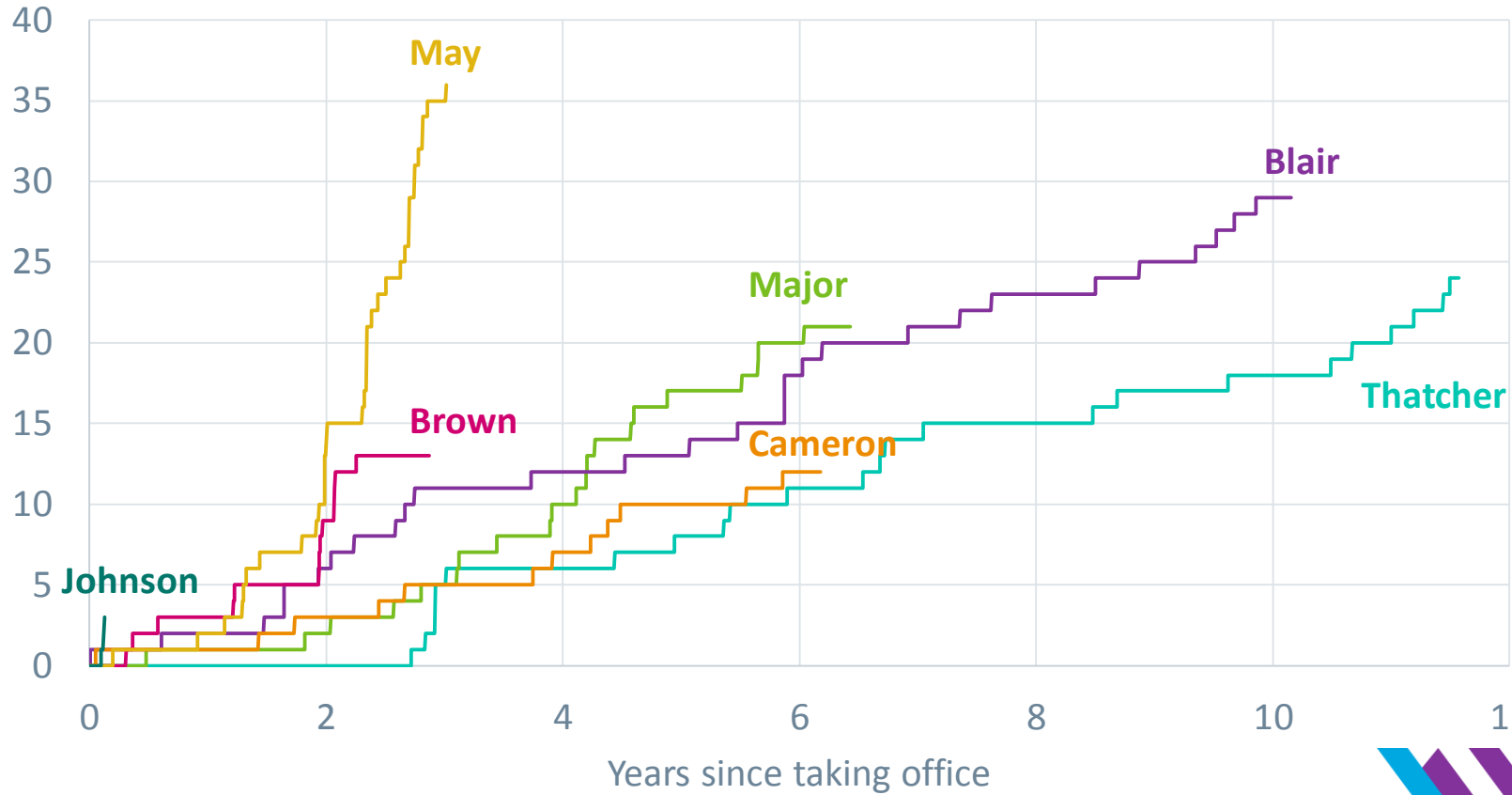
Some departments have had rapid ministerial turnover

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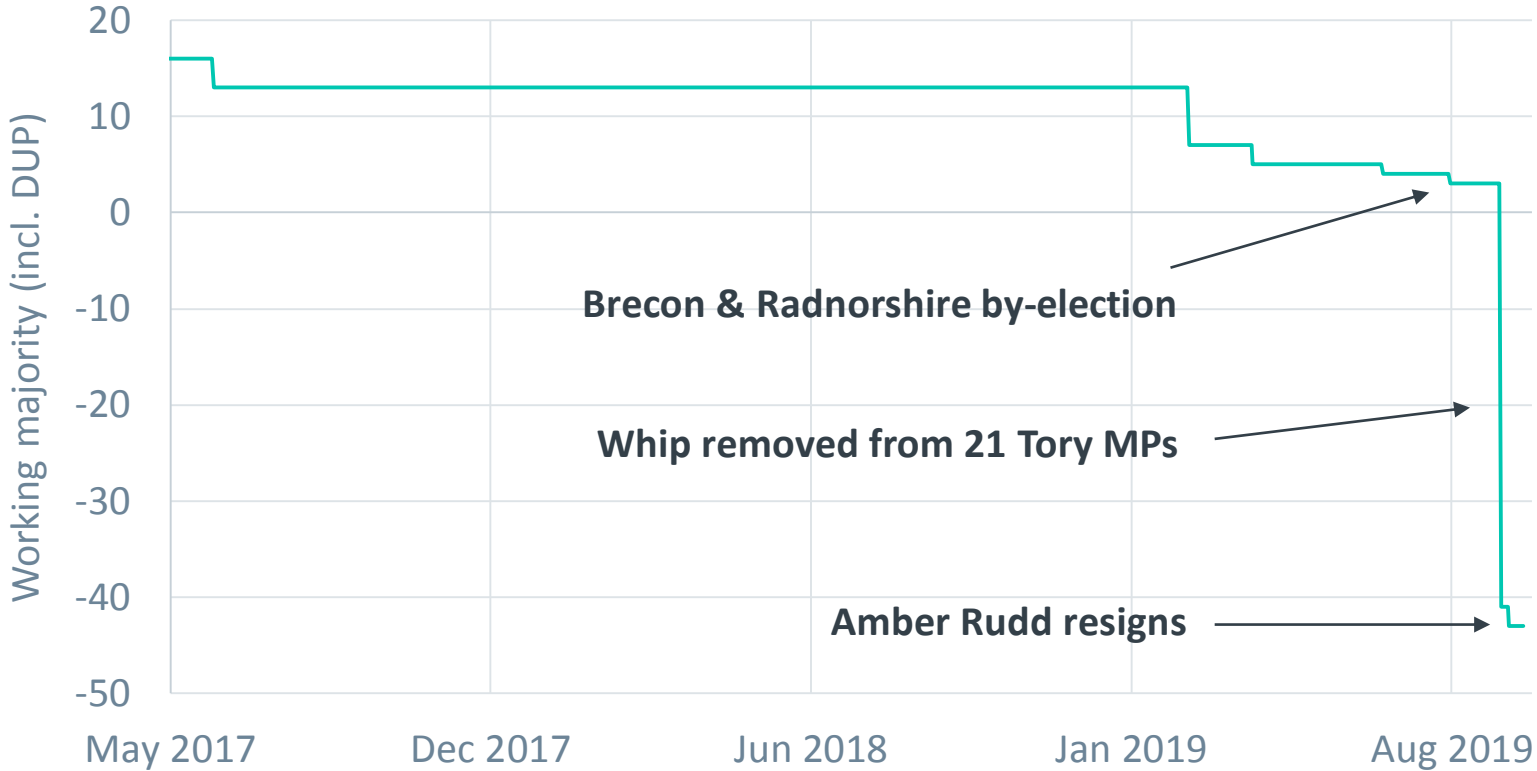
Source: Figure 7.4 of *The IFS Green Budget: October 2019*

Ministerial resignations outside reshuffles



Source: Figure 7.3 of *The IFS Green Budget: October 2019*

Vanishing parliamentary majority



Source: Figure 7.1 of *The IFS Green Budget: October 2019*

Barriers to domestic policy remain and some have worsened

- Constraints that Theresa May faced remain
 - Brexit will continue to occupy civil servants' and ministers' time
 - Tight public finances
- Parliamentary gridlock limits Boris Johnson's scope for policy change



How can the barriers be overcome?

- Parliamentary deadlock could be broken by a general election
- To maximise progress on domestic policy, prime minister should...
 - Set clear and limited priorities
 - Enforce Cabinet discipline and avoid frequent ministerial reshuffles
 - Be clear about fiscal objectives
 - Be clear about how spending or other levers will help deliver objectives
 - Make space for long-term thinking



Summary

- Domestic policy under Theresa May was hampered by...
 - Demands of Brexit; lack of majority and breakdown of Cabinet discipline; frequent turnover of ministers
- Boris Johnson currently faces...
 - Parliamentary deadlock; continuing Brexit and fiscal challenges
- General election might break deadlock but to make progress on domestic policy post-election government should...
 - Set limited objectives and be clear about fiscal objectives
 - Enforce Cabinet discipline and minimise ministerial turnover
 - Think long-term and be clear how spending contributes to aims