Barriers to domestic policy

Gemma Tetlow
Institute for Government

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Vanishing parliamentary majority

3 MPs join Change UK

- General Election
- Nick Boles resigns
- Chris Davis recalled

Source: Figure 7.1 of *The IFS Green Budget: October 2019*
Which departments have been most affected by Brexit?

Source: Figure 7.8 of The IFS Green Budget: October 2019
Some departments have had rapid ministerial turnover

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...
  o Demands of Brexit; lack of majority and breakdown of Cabinet discipline; frequent turnover of ministers

• Boris Johnson currently faces...
  o Parliamentary deadlock; continuing Brexit and fiscal challenges

• General election might break deadlock but to make progress on domestic policy post-election government should...
  o Set limited objectives and be clear about fiscal objectives
  o Enforce Cabinet discipline and minimise ministerial turnover
  o Think long-term and be clear how spending contributes to aims