



Defensive Constitutional Reform



**Immediate Action to Safeguard UK
Democracy**

Defensive Constitutional Reform



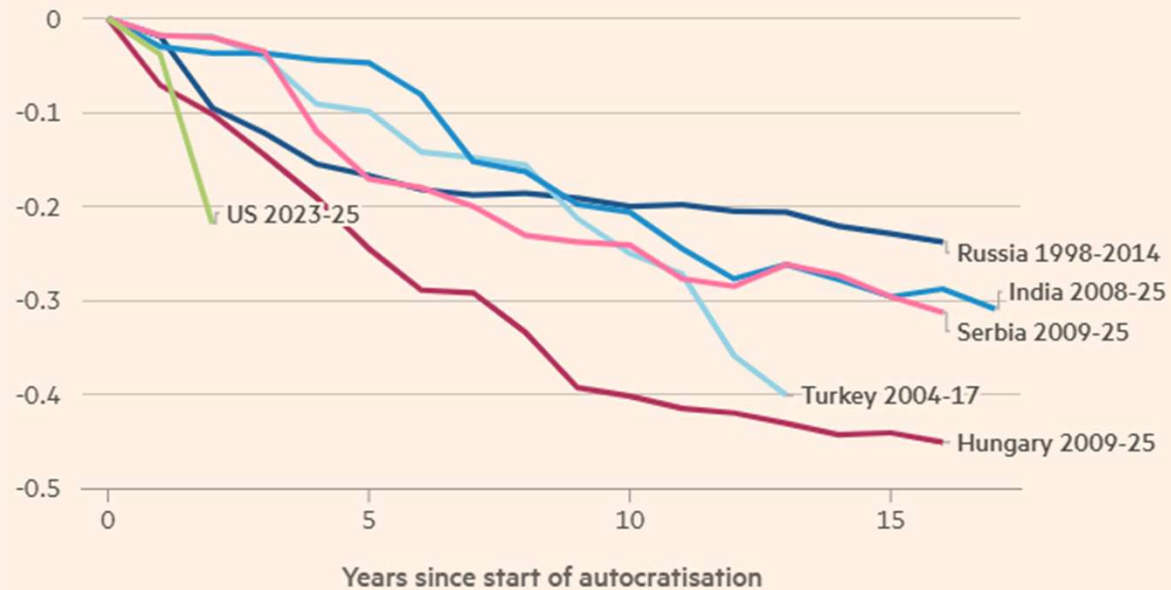
- How significant is the risk to UK democracy?
- What options for defence do we have?
- How effective would they be?
- What should policy-makers do today?



Why the US should worry us

The speed of 'autocratisation' in the US far exceeds that in other modern exemplars

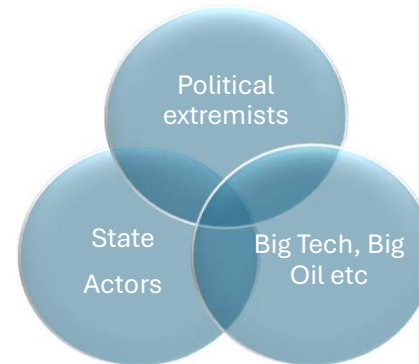
Speed of autocratisation, measured by cumulative decline in V-Dem Liberal Democracy Index (points)



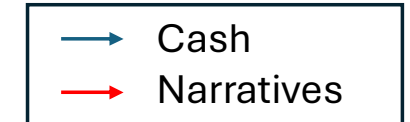
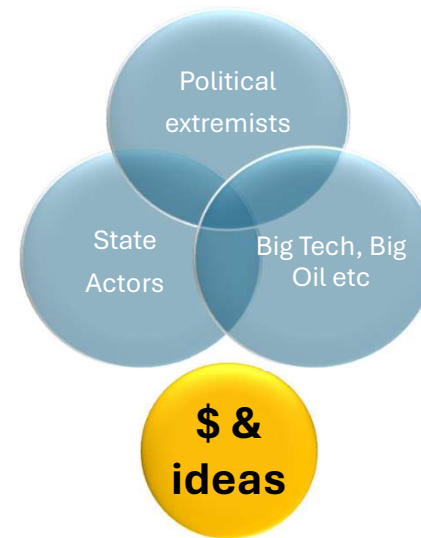
FINANCIAL TIMES

Source: Marina Nord, V-Dem Institute

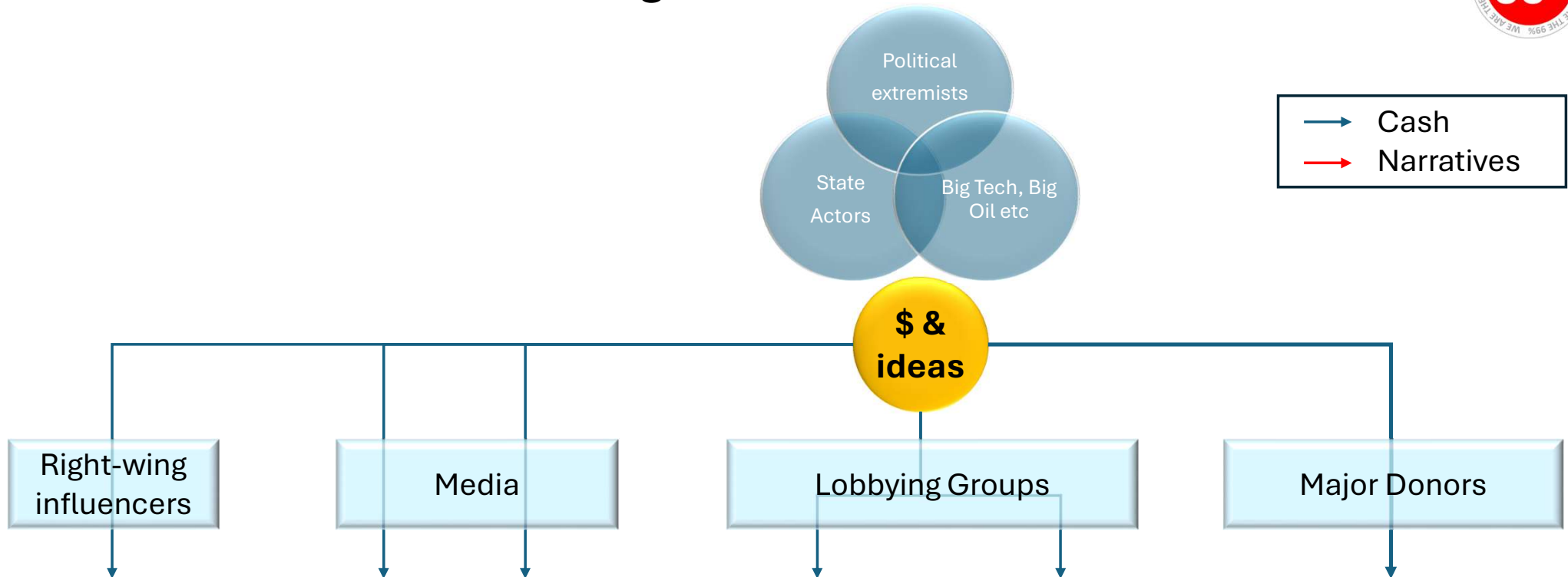
Where are the threats coming from?



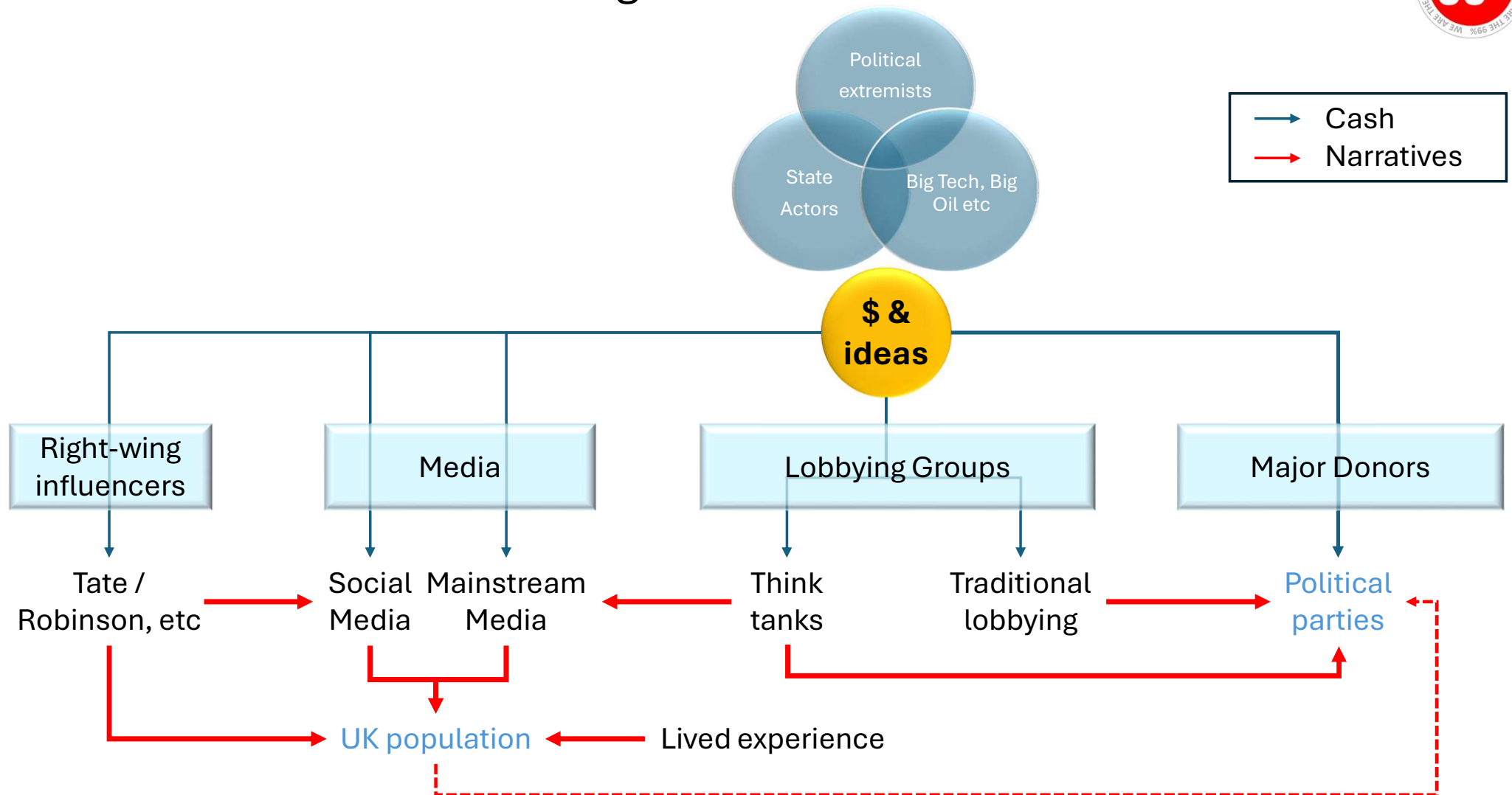
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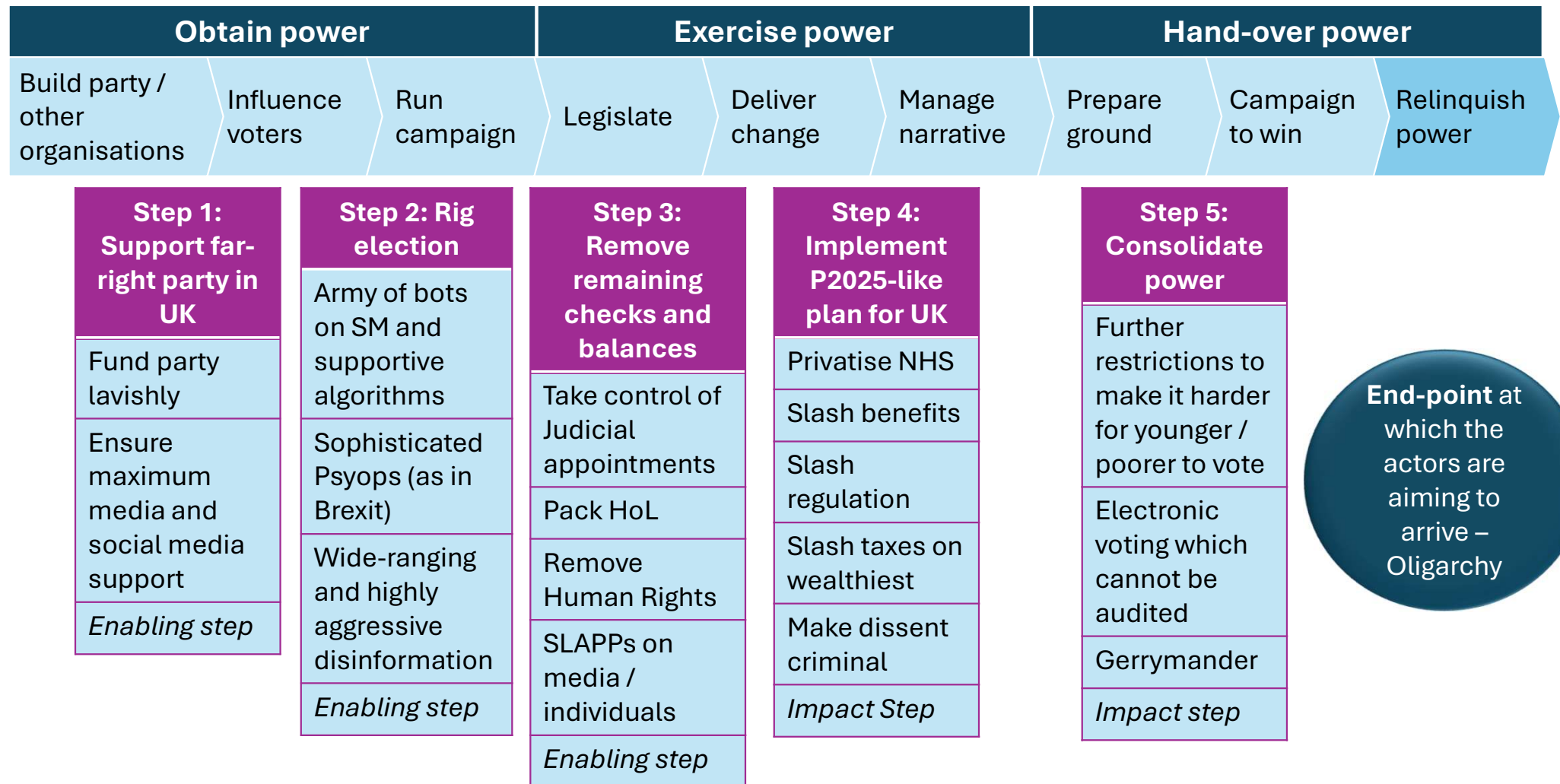


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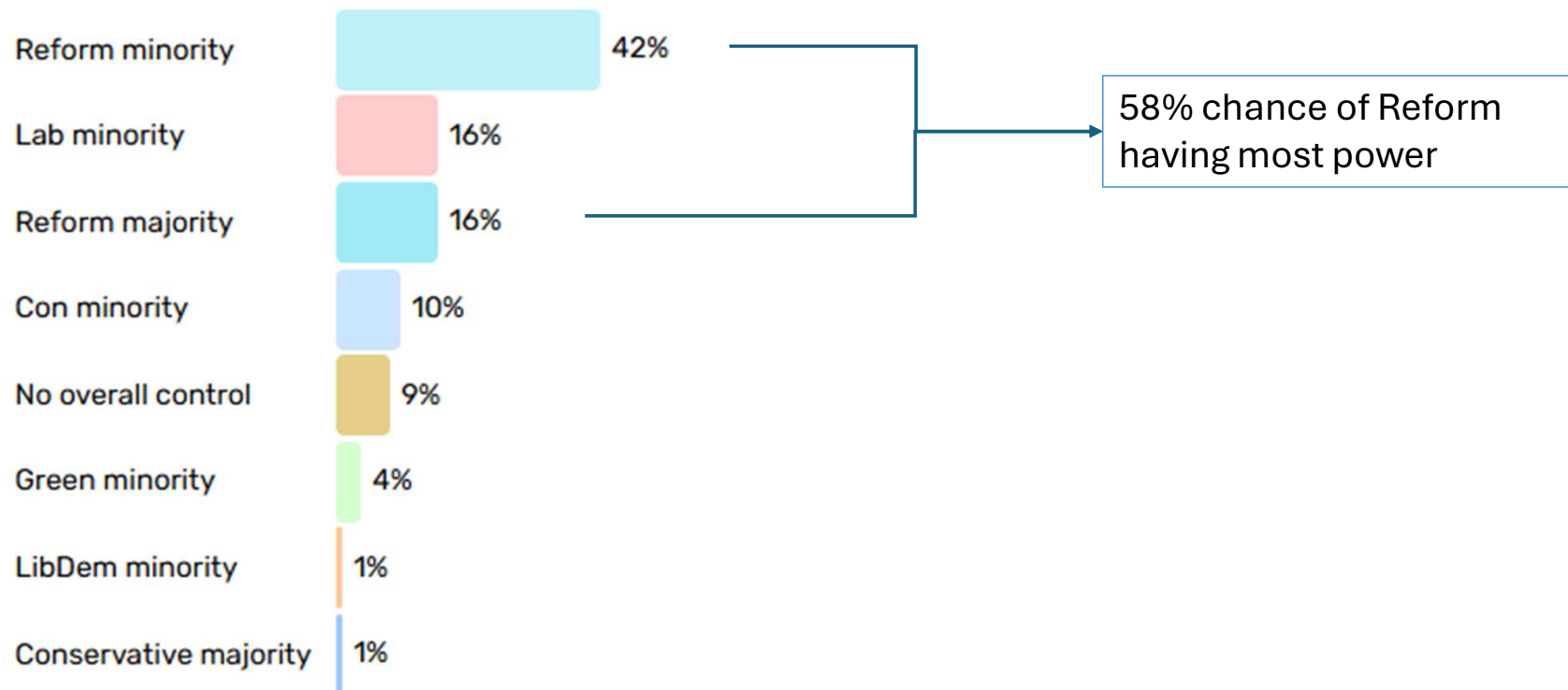
Example scenario – a series of steps with an end objective





If an election were held tomorrow ...

Probability of possible outcomes



Source: Electoral Calculus 27 April 2026



Assessing the risks

Risk = Probability x Impact

		Impact on wellbeing				
		Insignificant	Minor	Moderate	Major	Severe
		Minor (1-2%) and likely to be reversed within ten years	Material (3-5%) and unlikely to be reversed in five years OR impact on wellbeing minor (1-2%) and unlikely to be reversed in ten years	Significant (5-15%) and unlikely to be reversed in five years OR impact on wellbeing material (3-5%) and unlikely to be reversed in ten years	Very significant (greater than 15%) and unlikely to be reversed in five years OR impact is significant (5-15%) and unlikely to be reversed in ten years	Very significant (greater than 15%) and unlikely to be reversed in ten years
Probability	(Factor)	1	2	3	4	5
Likely (>50%)	5	5	10	15	20	25
Very possible (30-50%)	4	4	8	12	16	20
Possible (15-30%)	3	3	6	9	12	15
Unlikely (5-15%)	2	2	4	6	8	10
Highly unlikely (<5%)	1	1	2	3	4	5

Multi-billionaire driven scenario

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- How significant is the risk to UK democracy?

If we do nothing, we are playing Russian roulette with our democracy

- What options for defence do we have?
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Options for defence



Before the next election to prevent it being corrupted	After the next election to make anti-democratic actions harder
• Deliver the promised national renewal • Tackle dark money in politics • Tackle misinformation and disinformation • Tackle direct election interference	• Clarify and entrench constitutional rights and duties • Strengthen separation of powers • Non-constitutional changes: • Proportional representation • Constitutional Prometheanism • Establish three lines of defence



Defensive Constitutional Reform

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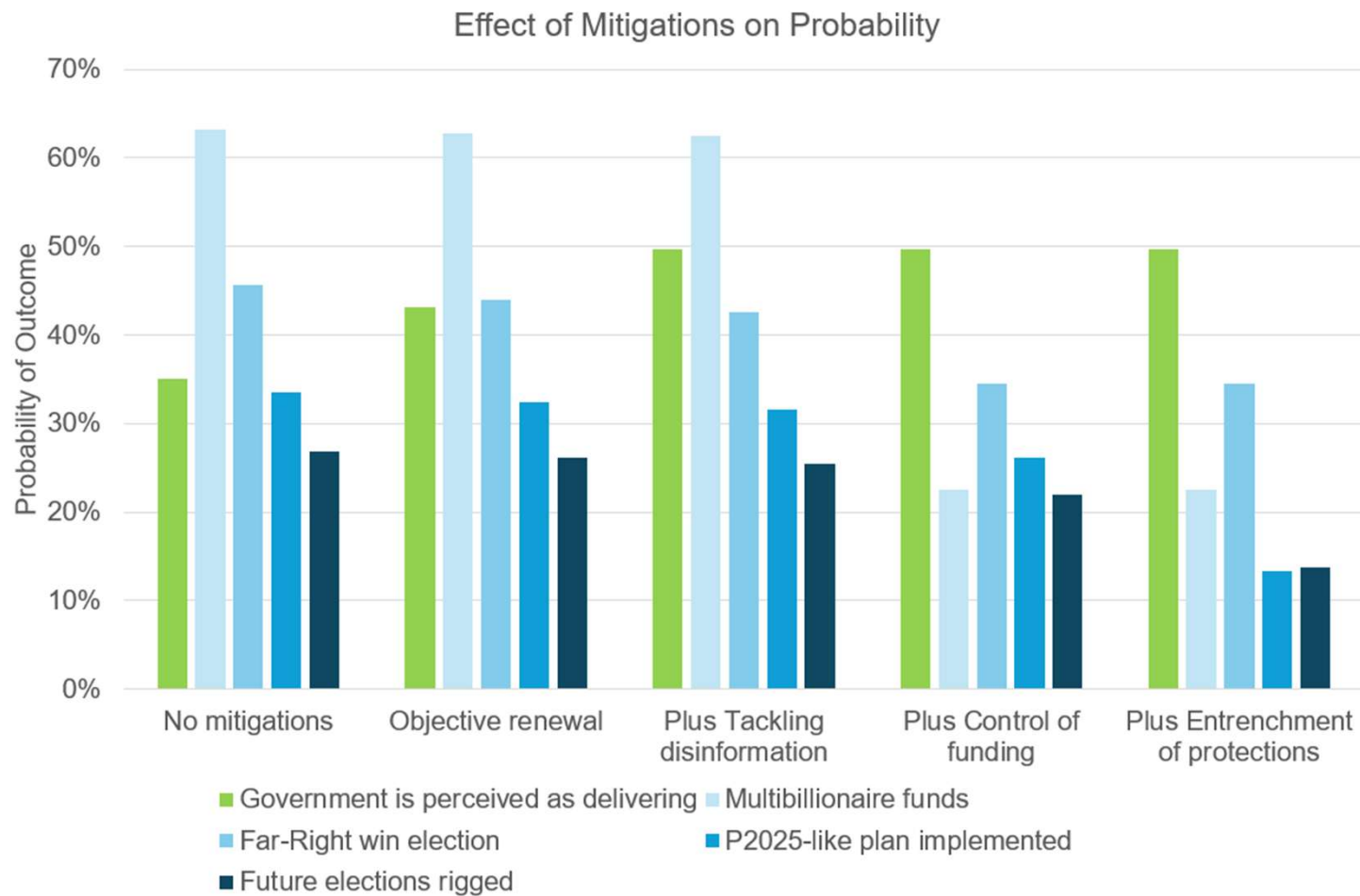
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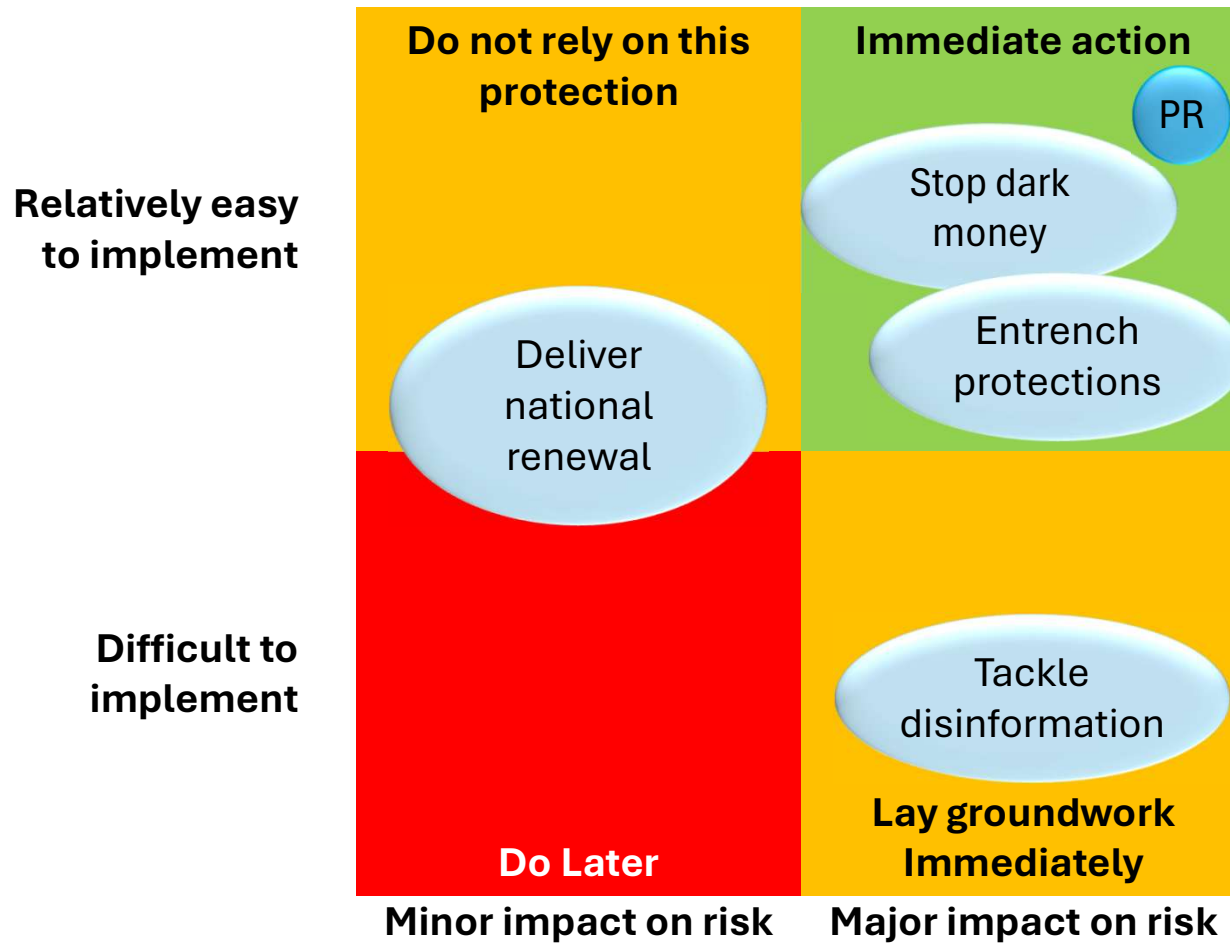
A wide range of options to consider

- How effective would they be?
- What should policy-makers do today?

Assessing the mitigations



What to do?





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A wide range of options to consider

- How effective would they be?

A great reduction in risk if we act now

- What should policy-makers do today?



Immediate actions for government

1. Validate risk assessment
2. Set up powerful cross-disciplinary team (Inquiry) to define mitigations
3. Build political consensus among progressive parties
4. Define and implement controls on dark money, set up Royal Commission on voting and on media regulation
5. Develop and implement powerful communications strategy
6. Entrench three lines of defence to protect actions above:
 - a) Operational defence;
 - b) Oversight and Compliance; and
 - c) Independent Assurance

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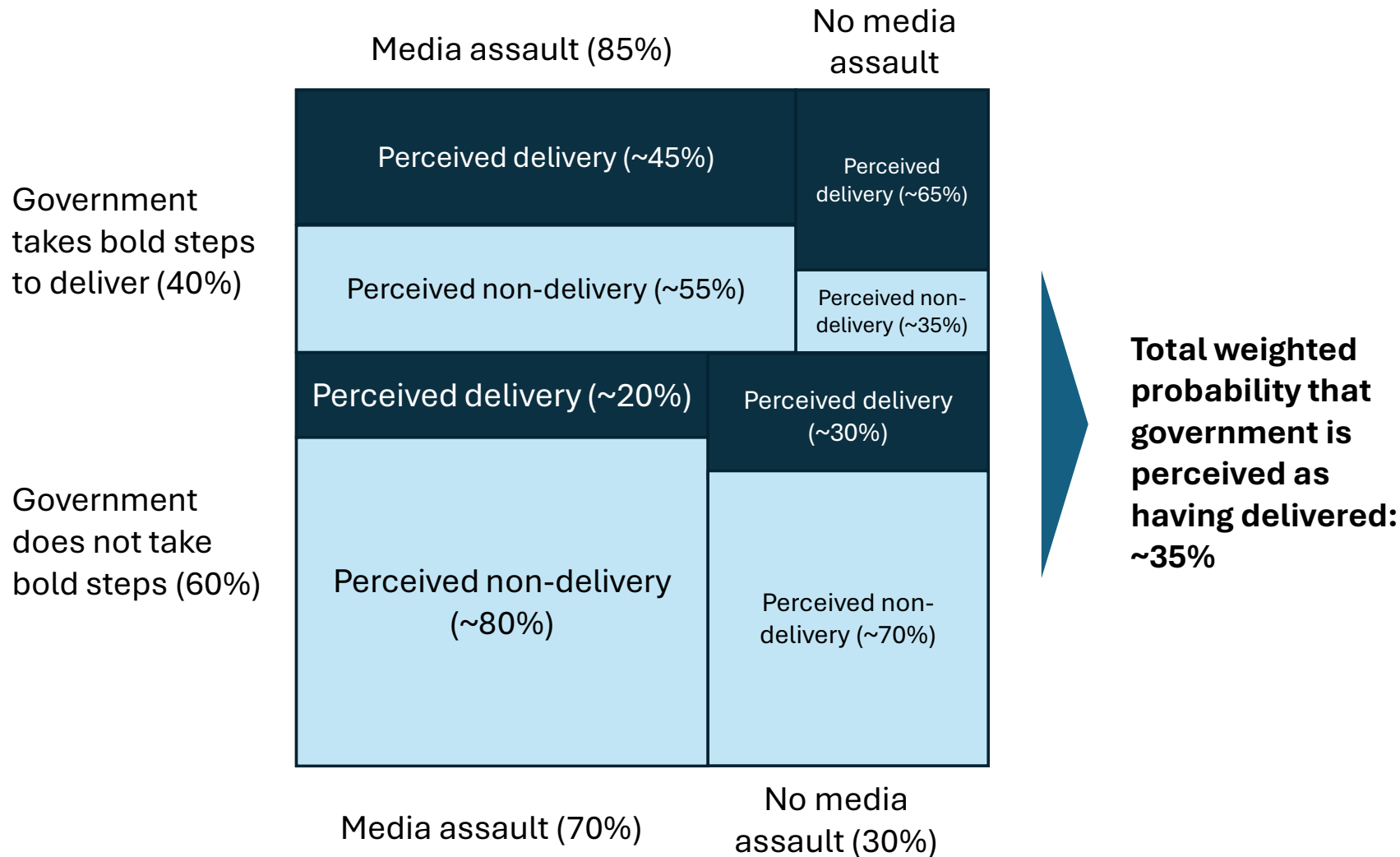
Start the process

Questions and Answers





Assessing Probability: perception of delivery





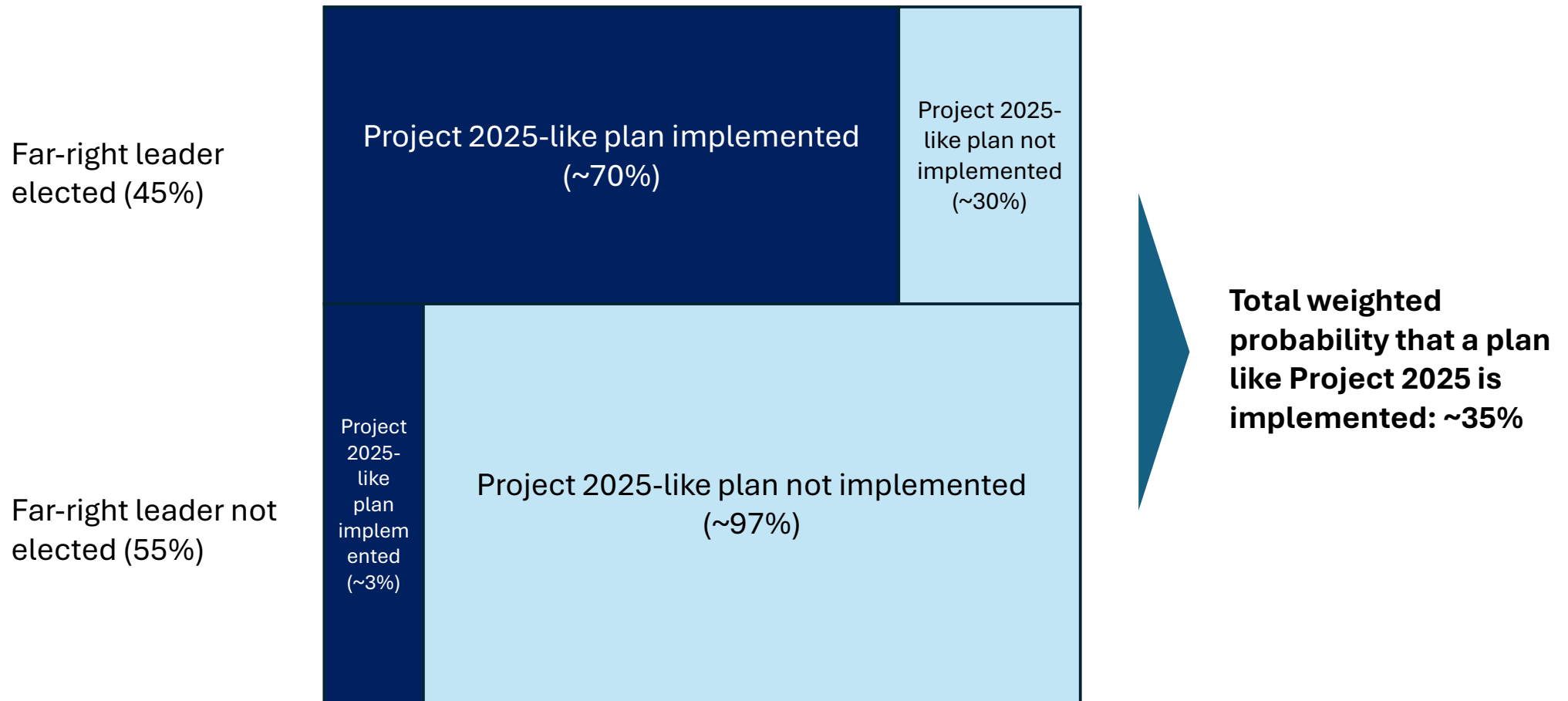
Assessing Probability: far-right leader elected

		Multi-billionaire Funds (60%)	Multi-billionaire does not Fund (40%)		
Voters feel Government delivers (35%)	Far-right leader elected (~40%)			Far-right leader elected (~20%)	
	Far-right leader not elected (~60%)			Far-right leader not elected (~80%)	
Voters feel Government does not deliver (65%)	Far-right leader elected (~60%)			Far-right leader elected (~40%)	
	Far-right leader not elected (~40%)			Far-right leader not elected (~60%)	
		Multi-billionaire Funds (65%)	Multi-billionaire does not Fund (35%)		

**Total weighted
probability that
Far-right leader is
elected: ~45%**

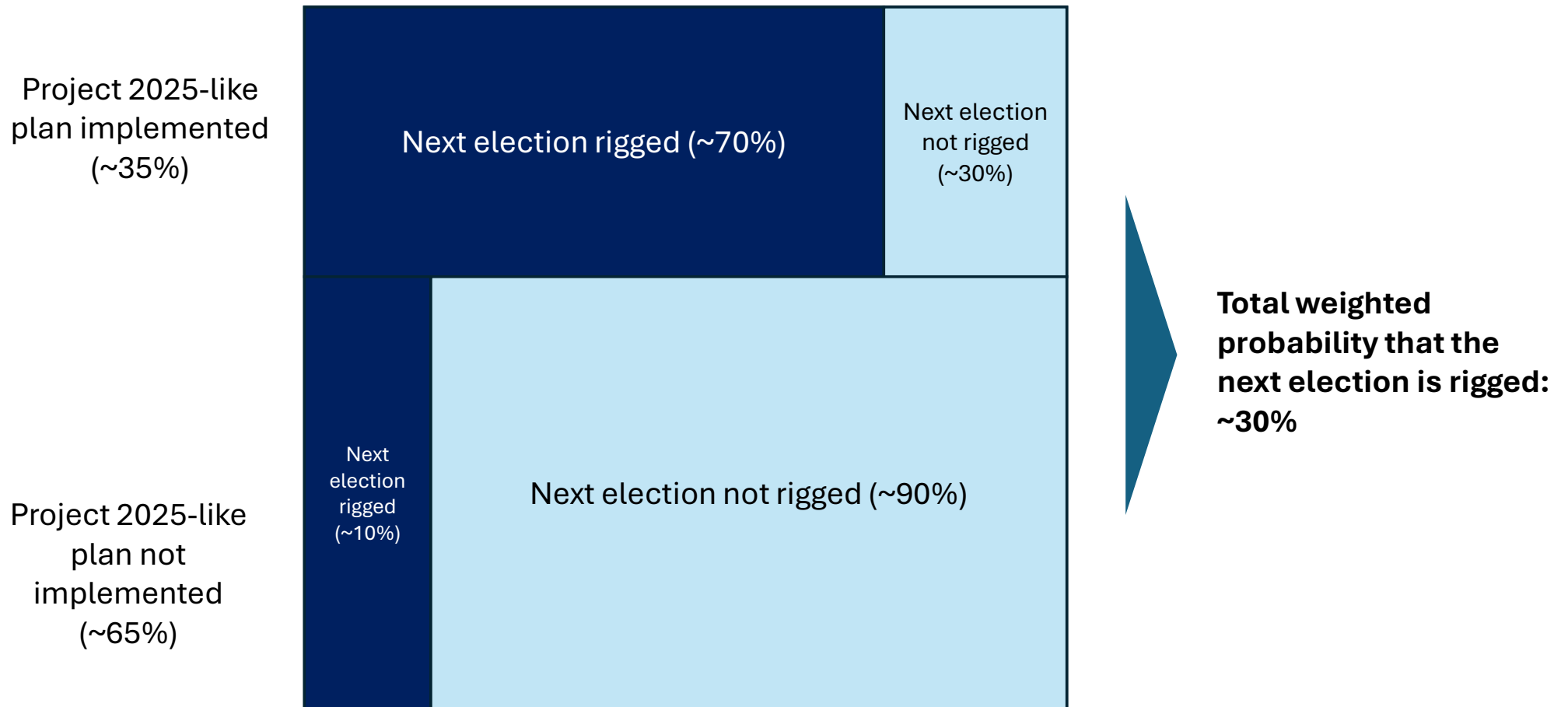


Assessing Probability: Project 2025 equivalent implemented





Assessing Probability: future elections rigged

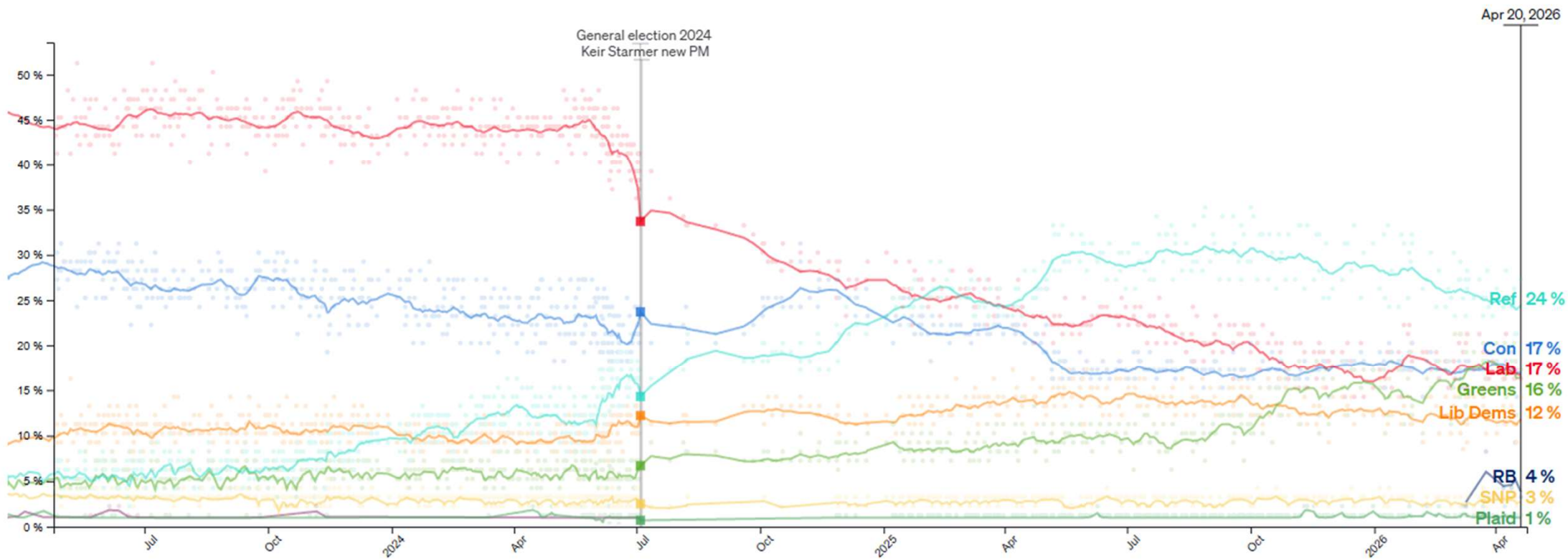


Polling of UK parties



ALL **3 YEARS** 2 YEARS 1 YEAR 6 MONTHS

SMOOTH KALMAN



Source: Politico poll of polls