

RESEARCH FUNDING

EPSRC funding over time

In the four years to 2018/19, annual EPSRC total funding increased at a 6% real-terms CAGR. During this time, annual mathematical sciences funding increased at a 2% real-terms CAGR, in line with the UKRI average.¹

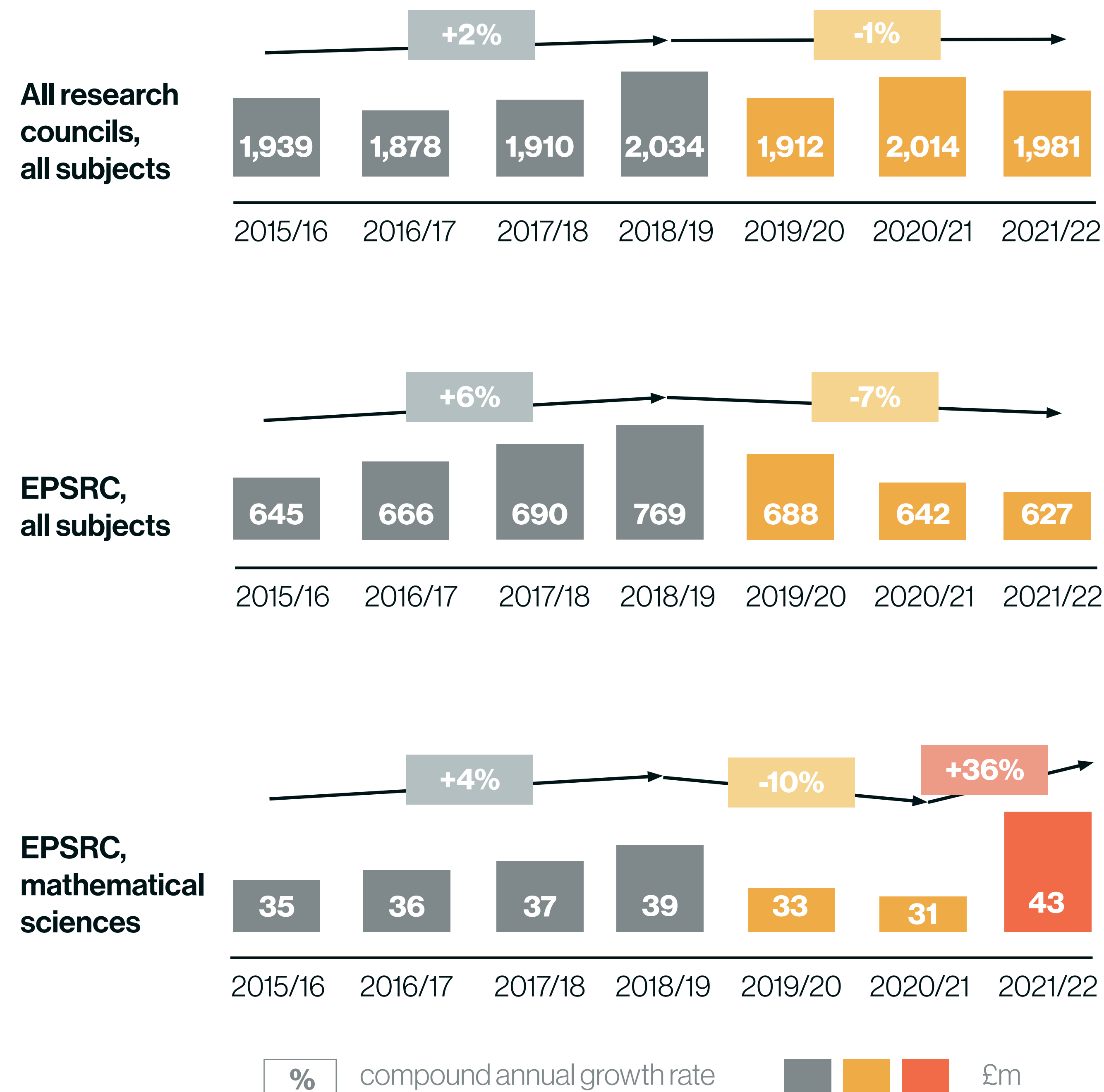
After the Covid pandemic, annual EPSRC total funding was cut significantly, with a sharp drop from £769m in 2018/19 to £642m in 2020/21. The cut in mathematical sciences funding was from £39m to £31m.

In 2020, the new Government announced an additional £300m in EPSRC mathematical sciences funding, to be deployed over five years.

The chart below shows a spike in annual EPSRC mathematical sciences funding from £31m in 2020/21 to £43m in 2021/22.

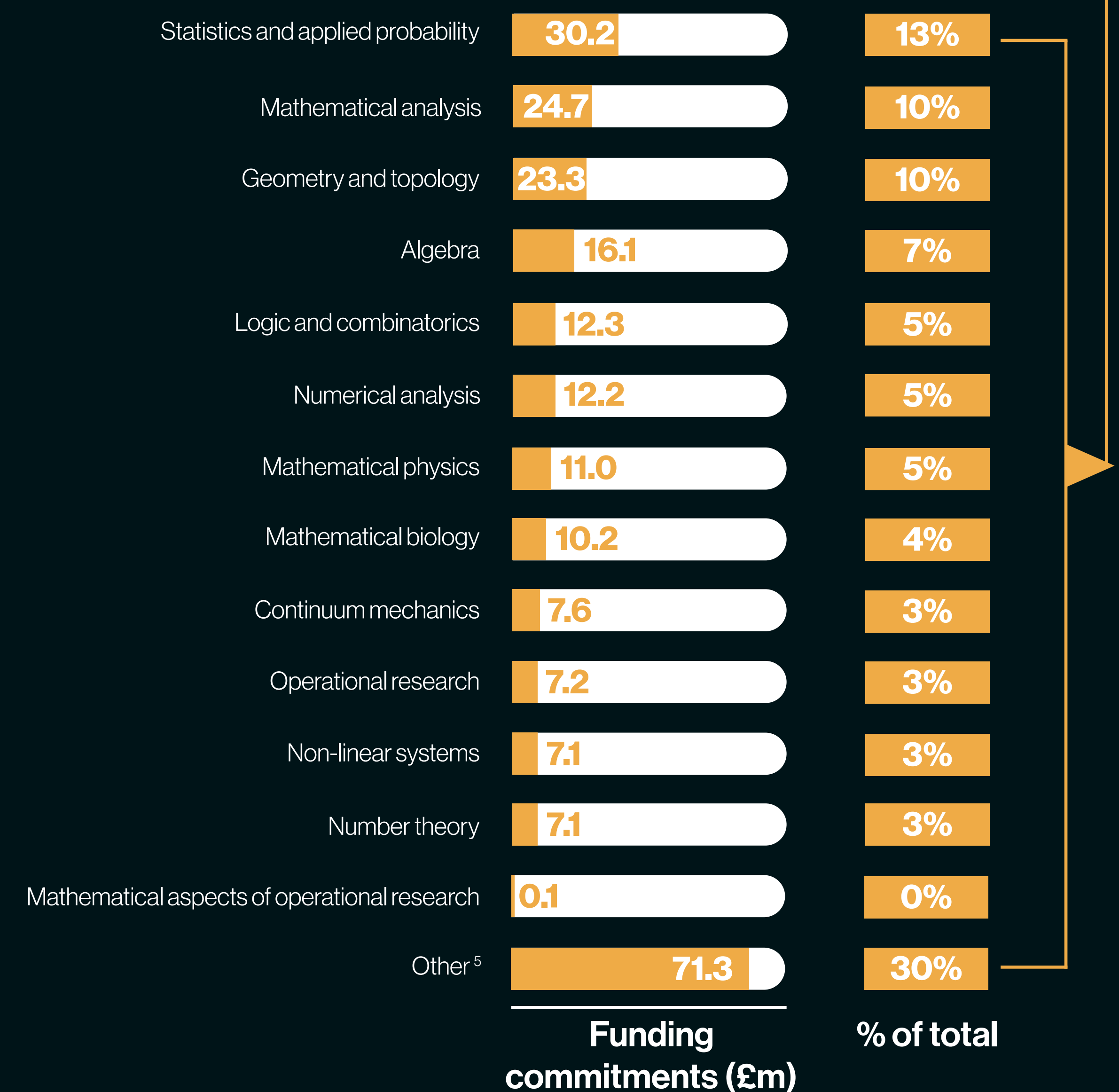
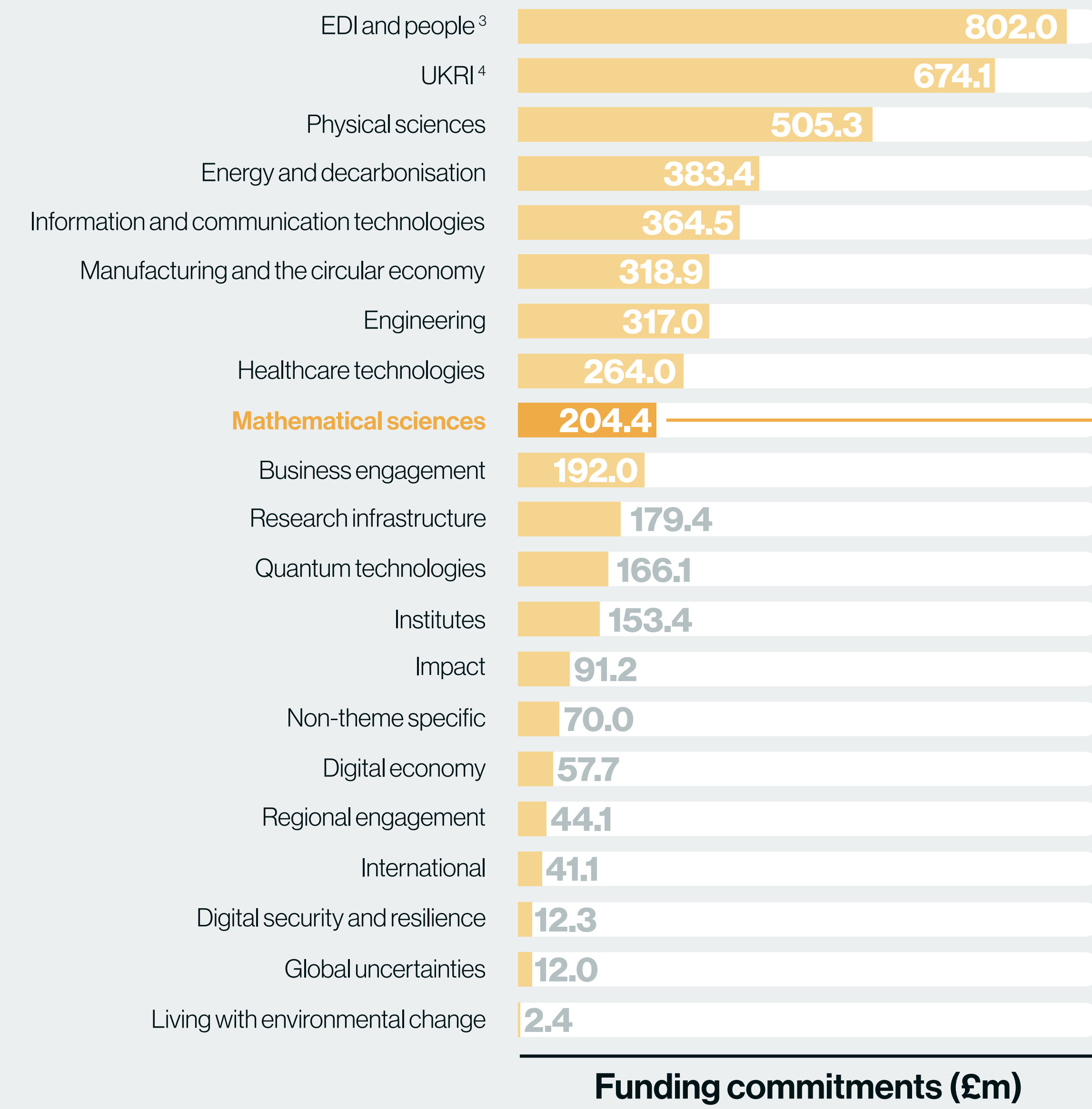
However, the Government later reneged on its commitment, having allocated only £126m of the £300m.

Trends in annual real-terms EPSRC funding (£m)



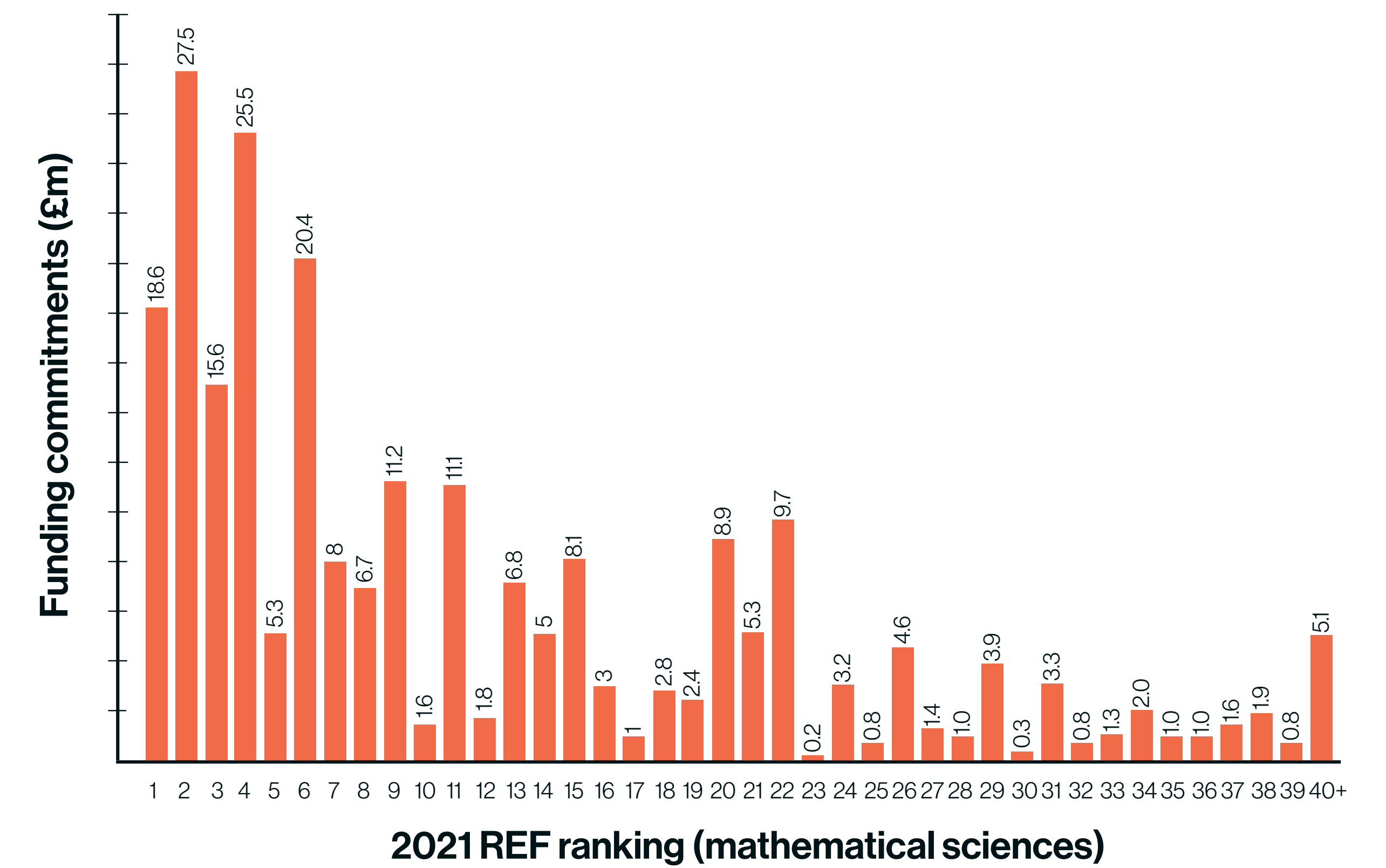
Current EPSRC mathematical sciences funding commitments, by research area

5% of EPSRC's current £4.9bn portfolio is for mathematical sciences. Within this, the highest funded research areas are statistics and applied probability (13%), geometry and topology (10%) and mathematical analysis (10%).²



Current EPSRC mathematical sciences funding commitments, by institution

EPSRC mathematical sciences funding is highly correlated with REF rankings in the subject. Over 50% of current funding goes to five HEIs (REF rank #1, #2, #3, #4, #6). The remaining funding is split between a further 34 HEIs.



Note: '40+' bar accounts for 20 universities with either a REF ranking below 39 or no REF ranking in 2021.

Current EPSRC mathematical sciences funding by geography

EPSRC funding for mathematical sciences is nationwide, but is concentrated in London, the East of England, the South West and Scotland.⁶

