



LSIS Brief guide

The Government reshuffle – the people, their roles and responsibilities

Introduction

1. This paper sets out the relevant information currently available on the government reshuffle. It is intended as a useful reference document.

Background

2. The Prime Minister's long-anticipated reshuffle was undertaken in the context of unprecedented crisis in the global economy. The narrative in the press was therefore largely about new measures to strengthen economic oversight and strategy. Although significant changes related to education and skills were made, only the move of Lord Adonis attracted press attention. A significant change for the learning and skills sector is the loss of Bill Rammell MP who has been an education minister since mid 2005.

Who's who?

Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS)

3. DIUS keeps John Denham as its Secretary of State. The rest of the ministerial team, however, is either new or has different responsibilities and rank.

John Denham, Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills

4. MP for Southampton Itchen. John Denham will also serve on the National Economic Council, the "war cabinet" for the economy announced alongside the reshuffle.
5. The secretary's portfolio includes:
 - overall responsibility for developing, implementing and communicating policies to promote talent, research and innovation;
 - overall responsibility for performance of the Department and the Department's Non-Departmental Public Bodies (NDPBs), including the National Apprenticeships Service; and
 - lead responsibility for the Department's response to the economic challenges facing the UK.

LSIS Brief guide

The Government reshuffle – the people, their roles and responsibilities

David Lammy, Minister of State for Higher Education and Intellectual Property

6. MP for Tottenham, a seat he has held since a 2000 by-election. David Lammy was previously a parliamentary under-secretary of state in DIUS, with responsibility for skills. His promotion includes his enrolment in the Privy Council. David trained as a lawyer at the School of African and Oriental Studies (SOAS), and has a Masters in Law from Harvard. David's ministerial career began as a Parliamentary Private Secretary (PPS) to Estelle Morris, then Education Secretary. He then served as a parliamentary under-secretary in the departments of Health (2002-03), Constitutional Affairs¹ (2003-05) and Culture, Media and Sport (2005-07), before coming to DIUS at its establishment.
7. David Lammy's portfolio includes:
 - building strong relationships across the HE sector;
 - HE teaching quality;
 - Research Assessment Exercise/Research Excellence Framework in HE;
 - ensuring Higher Education Institutions contribute fully to innovation agenda;
 - climate change campaign in HE;
 - higher-level skills;
 - voluntary giving;
 - student support policy;
 - transition to Customer First;
 - responsibility for the Student Loans Company;
 - student loans sale;
 - the Department's contribution to Government-wide counter-terrorism work; and
 - responsible for developing and implementing an intellectual property system that promotes creativity and innovation in the UK, including:
 - responsibility for the Intellectual Property Office;
 - policy on copyright and patent issues.

Paul Drayson, Lord Drayson, Minister of State for Science and Innovation

8. Paul Drayson's is a colourful biography. He attended Aston University and holds a doctorate in robotics. From 1993 to 2003, he was CEO of PowderJect Pharmaceuticals, which was then acquired by Chiron. Paul became a peer in 2004, and served as a minister in the Ministry of Defence, with responsibility for defence procurement, from 2005 to 2007, and served simultaneously as a minister in the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform for the last few months of his tenure.

¹ Now the Ministry of Justice

LSIS Brief guide

The Government reshuffle – the people, their roles and responsibilities

9. In November 2007, he resigned from the ministry to pursue his other love, auto racing, as a driver on the American Le Mans Series.
10. His portfolio includes:
 - working across Government to deliver innovation through government procurement;
 - Science and Innovation Network;
 - sponsorship of Foresight programme;
 - delivering and further developing the recommendations in the Innovation Nation White Paper and Sainsbury Report;
 - relationships with the Research Councils;
 - enhancing the profile and take-up of STEM subjects;
 - science and society; and
 - responsibility for:
 - Technology Strategy Board;
 - British National Space Centre;
 - National Weights and Measures Laboratory;
 - Design Council;
 - National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts;
 - Energy Technologies Institute; and
 - Commission for Environmental Markets and Economic Performance.
11. Paul Drayson will sit with Denham on the National Economic Council

Siôn Simon, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Further Education

12. MP for Birmingham Erdington since the 2001 election. Siôn Simon was born in Caernarfonshire, Wales, to Welsh-speaking parents. He attended Handsworth Grammar Schools and Magdalen College, Oxford. Siôn worked as a research assistant to George Robertson (later Secretary-General of NATO and a peer), and then as a journalist. He remains an associate editor of *The Spectator*. Siôn worked for the Labour Party in various press and campaigning roles between 1992 and 1997.
13. Siôn suffers from choroideremia, a degenerative disorder of the retina which leads to blindness. He co-founded the Choroideremia Research Foundation.
14. His portfolio includes:
 - developing the FE sector;
 - sponsorship of the Learning and Skills Council (LSC);
 - LSC budgets and annual grant letter;

LSIS Brief guide

The Government reshuffle – the people, their roles and responsibilities

- transition to the Skills Funding Agency, including formation of the National Apprenticeships Service;
- next session Bill to implement the Machinery of Government changes;
- ensuring FE sector contributes fully to innovation agenda;
- Skills Accounts;
- Adult Advancement and Careers Service;
- integrating employment and skills;
- informal adult learning;
- English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL);
- Skills for Life;
- offender learning;
- quality and standards in FE;
- Improvement Service and Lifelong Learning UK;
- qualifications reform;
- regional policy for FE, including Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) and Multi-Area Agreement (MAAs); and
- migration and skills.

Tony Young, Lord Young, Parliamentary Under-secretary of State for Skills and Apprenticeships

15. Lord Young is a former trade union official: He was general secretary of the National Communications Union (NCU), and then, when it merged into the Communications Workers Union (CWU) in 1995, he became deputy general secretary of the CWU, a post he still held in 2004, when he became a peer, Lord Young of Norwood Green². He is also an assistant whip in the Lords.
16. His portfolio includes:
 - engaging employers in Train to Gain;
 - building employer support for Apprenticeships;
 - Skills Pledge;
 - National Skills Academies;
 - Sector Skills Councils, including Sector Compacts;
 - UK Commission for Employment and Skills;
 - minister for students in Higher Education, including the Student Listening programme;

² I include his full title because there are three other Lord Youngs in the upper house.

LSIS Brief guide

The Government reshuffle – the people, their roles and responsibilities

- minister for students in Further Education; and
 - minister for corporate affairs in the Department, including sustainability.
17. Responsibility for DIUS' international agenda, which was previously with Bill Rammell, is now shared by all the department's ministers, in relation to their primary responsibilities.

Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF)

18. As at DIUS, DCSF keeps its secretary of state, Ed Balls. Schools Minister Jim Knight also remains in post. Lord Adonis, the former parliamentary under-secretary of state for schools, has been transferred to the Department of Transport.
19. The current ministerial team:

Ed Balls, Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families

20. MP for Normanton, since 2005: Prior to this, he was a close adviser to Gordon Brown during the latter's tenure at HM Treasury. Ed was himself Economic Secretary to the Treasury from 2006 to 2007. He attended Oxford and Harvard, and worked as a university teaching fellow. His wife is Yvette Cooper, the current Chief Secretary to the Treasury. The Secretary of State for DCSF is also a member of the National Economic Council.
21. His *'principal focus will be to ensure that every child gets the best possible start in life, that they are safe and healthy, that they secure the highest standards of achievements, that they enjoy their childhood and that they can make a positive contribution to society free from the effects of poverty'*.

Jim Knight, Minister of State for Schools and Learners

22. MP for South Dorset since 2001. Jim Knight attended Cambridge and worked as a theatre and arts centre director early in his career. He has been a schools minister since 2006; prior to that, he spent a year as rural affairs minister.
23. Jim's *'principal policy areas include raising schools standards, including public examinations and national tests, the national curriculum, 14-19 education and Diplomas, school funding and capital including Building Schools for the Future,³ and schools workforce issues'*.

Beverley Hughes, Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families

24. MP for Stretford and Umston since 1997. Beverley Hughes first took up her current ministerial post in 2005. She attended University of Manchester and worked as a probation officer from 1971-76; and was a lecturer and then professor of social policy at University of Manchester from 1976-97.

³ A £45 billion programme to renovate or rebuild all English secondary schools.

LSIS Brief guide

The Government reshuffle – the people, their roles and responsibilities

25. Her portfolio includes: *'leading the cross-Government agenda for children's well-being, safety, protection and care; family policy including parenting support; teenage pregnancy strategy; Sure Start, childcare and early education, the Every Child Matters agenda, and extended schools'*. She also has *'joint responsibility with other government departments for youth justice and child poverty'*.

Sarah McCarthy-Fry, Parliamentary Under-secretary of State for Schools and Learners

26. MP for Portsmouth North since 2005. Sarah McCarthy-Fry is one of two new ministers at DCSF. She was elected to Portsmouth City Council in 1994, and thence to Parliament. She served as a PPS to John Healey (then Financial Secretary to the Treasury) from 2006 to 2007, and then as PPS to Geoff Hoon, then Chief Whip, from 2007 to her appointment to DCSF.
27. Sarah's *'principal policy areas include admissions, the National Curriculum and SEN'*.

Delyth Morgan, Lady Morgan of Drefelin⁴, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children, Young People and Families

28. Lady Morgan comes to DCSF from DIUS, where she was a parliamentary under-secretary of state with responsibilities for students, student loans and intellectual property. She joined the Lords in 2004; from 1995 to 2005, she served as chief executive of the charity Breakthrough Breast Cancer. She is also an Assistant Whip in the Lords.
29. Her current role includes *'safeguarding and child protection, drugs and alcohol, sport and healthy eating'*.

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)

30. DWP keeps its secretary of state, James Purnell, who took office earlier this year (replacing Peter Hain). However, there are new faces in the two minister of state positions.

The ministerial team:

James Purnell, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions

31. MP for Stalybridge and Hyde since 2001. He attended Oxford, and worked as a researcher to Tony Blair (1989-92), an IPPR fellow, Director of Corporate Planning at the BBC (1995-97) and special adviser on culture to Prime Minister Blair (1997-2001). James is also a member of the new National Economic Council.
32. He was PPS to Ruth Kelly and then, from 2005-2007 was parliamentary under-secretary of state at the Department of Culture, Media and Sport. From June 2007 to January 2008 he was culture secretary.

⁴ Not to be confused with Sally Morgan, who is Lady Morgan of Huyton.

LSIS Brief guide

The Government reshuffle – the people, their roles and responsibilities

Tony McNulty, Minister of State for Employment and Welfare Reform

33. MP for Harrow East since 1997. Tony is new to DWP, having been counter-terrorism minister at the Home Office from 2005 to the re-shuffle. He was educated at Stanmore Sixth Form College and the University of Liverpool, as well as Virginia Tech in the United States. He worked as a lecturer at the University of North London from 1983 to 1997, and was also Labour leader on Harrow Council.
34. Tony began his ministerial career as PPS to David Blunkett, followed by a three-year stint as a whip (1999-2002). He was a minister for neighbourhood renewal under John Prescott from 2002 to 2003, and then a minister at the Department of Transport from 2003 to 2005. He replaces Stephen Timms, who moves to the Treasury. He is also the minister for London.

Jonathan Shaw, 42, Minister for Disabled People

35. MP for Chatham and Aylesford since 1997. Jonathan attended FE institutions (West Kent College and Bromley College). He's a social worker by training, and worked in Kent initially. Jonathan is also new to DWP, replacing Anne McGuire. Prior to his DWP service, Jonathan was PPS to Ruth Kelly (when she was Education Secretary), and then fisheries minister at the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) from 2007 to the reshuffle.

Kitty Ussher, Parliamentary Under-secretary of State (Commons)

36. Kitty Ussher is MP for Burnley, a seat she's held since 2005. She is another new addition to DWP, coming from the Treasury, where she served as Economic Secretary to the Treasury from 2007 to 2008. Prior to coming to the Commons, she attended Oxford and Birkbeck and worked as an economist for think-tanks (The Economist Intelligence Unit and the Centre for European Reform). She was also a parliamentary researcher.

Bill McKenzie, Lord McKenzie, 62, Parliamentary Under-secretary of state (Lords)

37. Lord McKenzie, a graduate of the University of Bristol, is an accountant by trade. He was also a long-serving councillor in Luton (1976-92 and 1999-2005), and was leader of Luton Council until 2003. He joined the Lords in 2004, and became an under-secretary at DWP in 2007, with responsibility for health and safety.

Cabinet Office

38. The Cabinet Office has a new minister, Liam Byrne, replacing Ed Miliband, who becomes secretary of state for energy and climate change. There is also a new minister for the third sector. Relevant new Cabinet Office ministers:

LSIS Brief guide

The Government reshuffle – the people, their roles and responsibilities

Liam Byrne, 38, Minister for the Cabinet Office and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

39. MP for Birmingham Hodge Hill since 2004. Liam attended the University of Manchester and Harvard Business School, and was formerly an adviser to Tony Blair. He founded a consultancy, e-Government Solutions, which consulted on IT, and has worked at Accenture and N M Rothschild and Sons. He is also a research fellow at the Social Market Foundation. He is also a member of the Fabian Society and has authored several books.
40. Liam was immigration minister in the Home Office from 2006 to the reshuffle, after a two-week stint at Communities and Local Government (in community safety). He was an under-secretary for care services at the Department of Health from 2005 to 2006.

Kevin Brennan, 49, Parliamentary Secretary (Minister for the Third Sector)

41. MP for Cardiff West since 2001, succeeding Rhodri Morgan (who had become, and still is, the First Minister of Wales). An Oxford graduate, Kevin worked for almost ten years as a teacher at Radyr Comprehensive School. He comes to the Cabinet Office from DCSF, where was under-secretary for children (his job was taken by Lady Morgan).
42. Kevin was a researcher and special adviser to Rhodri Morgan while he was an MP and then as first minister, before taking over his boss's old seat. Ministerially, he was PPS to Alan Milburn (2004-05) and then an assistant whip.

Tom Watson, 41, Parliamentary Secretary (Minister for Transformational Government)

43. MP for West Bromwich East, since 2001. An alumnus of the University of Hull, he was president of its students' union and chair of the National Organisation of Labour Students (1992-3). He worked for Labour and for a trade union (the Amalgamated Electrical and Engineering Union) before entering Parliament.
44. '*Transformational government*' appears to include using technology to deliver the broader public-service reform agenda (more personalised, professional)⁵. This is apposite for Tom: he was Parliament's first blogger, and has a keen interest in technology
45. Tom served as veterans' minister for part of 2006, and has also served as a whip. He joined the Cabinet Office in January 2008.

National Economic Council

46. The Government re-shuffle occurred against the backdrop of the ongoing global financial crisis, and preceded by only a few days the announcement of a £500 billion support package for the British banking sector. Thus, the re-shuffle itself was in large part concerned with economic issues, and among the most prominent manifestations of this was the establishment of a National Economic Council, which includes a number of ministers relevant to FE.

⁵See: <http://www.cio.gov.uk/documents/pdf/transgov/strategy-workfile.pdf>

LSIS Brief guide

The Government reshuffle – the people, their roles and responsibilities

47. The National Economic Council is a committee of the Cabinet which *'will work to help people and businesses to deal with the current economic uncertainties'* and *'coordinate efforts to help families deal with higher food and energy prices as we work with our International partners in managing the world's scarce natural resources, and provide the forum on how to equip the country for the future by making the right investments in education, skills, science and infrastructure'*.
48. The membership of the Council totals 19, and comprises the following:
- Prime Minister (Chair) (Gordon Brown);
 - Chancellor of the Exchequer (Deputy Chair) (Alistair Darling);
 - Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband);
 - Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (Peter Mandelson, Lord Mandelson);
 - Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (John Denham);
 - Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls);
 - Secretary of State of Energy and Climate Change (Ed Miliband);
 - Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn);
 - Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (James Purnell)
 - Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Hazel Blears);
 - Secretaries of State for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (Jim Murphy, Paul Murphy and Shaun Woodward, respectively);
 - Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Yvette Cooper);
 - Minister for Housing (Margaret Beckett)⁶;
 - Minister for Science (Paul Drayson, Lord Drayson);
 - Minister for the City (Paul Myners);⁷
 - Minister for Economic Competitiveness and Small Business (Shriti Vadera, Lady Vadera);
 - Minister for Communications, Technology and Broadcasting (Stephen Carter, Lord Carter)⁸.
49. The Cabinet Secretary (Sir Gus O'Donnell) and the Permanent Secretary to the Treasury (Nick MacPherson) will act as joint secretaries to the Council.

⁶ This post is in the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG), under Blears.

⁷ This post is in the Treasury, and Myners is listed in the official roster of HM Government as Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury. See: <http://www.parliament.uk/directories/hciolists/hmg.cfm#101>

⁸ Both Vadera and Carter are in the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR). Both were former advisers to Gordon Brown.

LSIS Brief guide

The Government reshuffle – the people, their roles and responsibilities

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