

LSIS Brief Guide

Government reshuffle – June 2009



Introduction

1. This paper sets out the relevant information currently available on the government reshuffle. It is intended as a useful reference document. It provides biographical information on ministers new and old, and explains their ministerial responsibilities. The reshuffle began on June 5th, and continued over the following days. It is the first reshuffle since October 2008.

Who's who?

DIUS + BERR = DBIS

2. The most profound change emanating from the reshuffle was the merger of the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR). The new merged department is called the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (DBIS). It will be headed by the former BERR secretary, Lord Mandelson. Its responsibilities are to:
 - *Advocate the needs of business across government, especially of UK small businesses;*
 - *Promote an enterprise environment that is good for business and good for consumers;*
 - *Design tailored policies for sectors of the UK economy that represent key future strengths and where government policy can add to the dynamics of the market;*
 - *Assess the changing skills needs of the UK economy, especially the intermediate and high skills vital in a global economy and design policies to meet them through public and privately funded life long training;*
 - *Invest in the development of a higher education system committed to widening participation, equipping people with the skills and knowledge to compete in a global economy and securing and enhancing Britain's existing world class research base;*
 - *Continue to invest in the UK's world class science base and develop strategies for commercialising more of that science;*
 - *Continue to invest in skills through the Further Education system to help people through the downturn and to prepare Britain for the future;*
 - *Deliver on the government's ambitious objectives to expand the number of apprenticeships;*
 - *Encourage innovation in the UK;*
 - *Defend a sound regulatory environment that encourages enterprise and skills;*
 - *Collaborate with the RDAs in building economic growth in the English regions;*

LSIS Brief Guide

Government reshuffle – June 2009

- *Work with the EU in shaping European regulation and European policies that affect the openness of the single market and the competitiveness of European and British companies*
 - *Continue to work to expand UK exports and encourage inward investment to the UK.*
3. In a letter sent to providers, DBIS said its goal *'is to bring together the strengths and capabilities of the two former Departments, BERR and DIUS, to work together more effectively to help the UK and British business to come through the recession and to compete successfully in the future world economy'*. The department adds that *'the merger is the tangible expression of our commitment, as set out in the Government's recent proposal for a more active industrial strategy – New Industry, New Jobs - to align Government policies across the board in support of UK competitiveness, productivity, growth and excellence'*.
4. In the press release announcing its formation, the Prime Minister's Office defined DBIS's responsibilities in relation to education as including duties to:
- *assess the changing skills needs of the UK economy, especially the intermediate and high skills vital in a global economy and design policies to meet them through public and privately funded life-long training;*
 - *invest in the development of a higher education system committed to widening participation, equipping people with the skills and knowledge to compete in a global economy and securing and enhancing Britain's existing world class research base;*
 - *continue to invest in the UK's world class science base and develop strategies for commercialising more of that science;*
 - *continue to invest in skills through the Further Education system to help people through the downturn and to prepare Britain for the future;*
 - *deliver on the government's ambitious objectives to expand the number of apprenticeships;*
 - *encourage innovation in the UK, and;*
 - *defend a sound regulatory environment that encourages enterprise and skills;*
5. DBIS employs 11,180 people, making it almost four times the size of DCSF (3,320) and more than twice the size of the Department for Communities and Local Government (5,410). However, there are several larger departments, including Work and Pensions (118,940), Defence (78,150) and Justice (89,400).

LSIS Brief Guide

Government reshuffle – June 2009

Lord Mandelson, First Secretary of State, Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and Lord President of the Council

6. A leading figure in New Labour for more than a decade, Peter Mandelson (a peer since 2008) has long been a notable, if sometimes controversial, figure in British politics. A member of the youth wing of the Communist Party of Great Britain during his younger days, Lord Mandelson was the Labour Party's communications director from 1985 to 1990, under Neil Kinnock. In 1992, he became MP for Hartlepool, and later a key adviser to Labour leader Tony Blair. In 1997, he was made the minister responsible for the Millennium Dome, followed by a brief stint as Trade and Industry Secretary. A minor scandal forced his resignation, but he was re-appointed to Cabinet in 1999 as Northern Ireland Secretary, a role he held until 2001, when a minor scandal forced his second resignation.
7. In 2004, Peter Mandelson was named as the UK representative on the European Commission, holding the trade portfolio. He remained in Brussels until the 2008 reshuffle, when Gordon Brown named him to the House of Lords and appointed him secretary of state for the new Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR).
8. Lord Mandelson was made First Secretary of State in the June reshuffle, an honorific title last held by John Prescott (Deputy Prime Minister under Tony Blair). He was also named Lord President of the Council, a minor post that makes him titular head of the Privy Council.
9. Lord Mandelson is honorary chair of the think-tank Policy Network, and wrote a column for *GQ* magazine after resignation as Northern Ireland Secretary. He was also president of the Central School of Speech and Drama until 2008, when he rejoined the Government.
10. Lord Mandelson's brief is '*overall responsibility for Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, and Privy Council; working part of [the] time in Cabinet Office as First Secretary of State*¹'

Pat McFadden, Minister for Business, Innovation and Skills

11. The MP for Wolverhampton South East, Pat McFadden was born to Irish parents in Paisley and raised in Glasgow. An alumnus of the University of Edinburgh, he worked for Donald Dewar (later the first First Minister of Scotland) and John Smith (Labour leader from 1992 to 1994). He was political secretary to Prime Minister Tony Blair from 2002 to 2005, when he was elected to the Commons.
12. Mr. McFadden served as postal minister in the old BERR from 2007. Prior to this, he was social exclusion minister at the Cabinet Office from 2006 to 2007.
13. His role includes:
 - Deputising for Secretary of State on departmental business

¹ This is an honorary title, which carries no specific responsibilities. John Prescott was First Secretary of State from 2001 to 2007. Barbara Castle also once held the title.

LSIS Brief Guide

Government reshuffle – June 2009

- Particular focus on Industrial Activism - New Industry, New Jobs

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

14. David Lammy, the MP for Tottenham, retains his portfolio as higher education minister within the new DBIS. He has held Tottenham since a 2000 by-election. Mr. Lammy was previously a parliamentary under-secretary of state in DIUS, with responsibility for skills. He trained as a lawyer at the School of African and Oriental Studies (SOAS), and has a Masters in Law from Harvard. Lammy'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 Affairs (2003-05) and Culture, Media and Sport (2005-07), before coming to DIUS at its establishment.
15. Mr. Lammy's portfolio includes:
 - Building strong relationships across the HE sector
 - HE teaching quality
 - Higher Education Strategy
 - Research Assessment Exercise/Research Excellence Framework in HE
 - Climate change campaign in HE
 - High Level Skills; seeking to increase significantly the number of people qualified to Level 4 (or university level skills) and above
 - Voluntary giving; universities raising independent revenue from donors
 - Student support policy; student grants and loans
 - All student loans issues
 - Sponsorship of HE Funding Council for England and Student Loans Company.
 - Intellectual Property issues and the Intellectual Property Office

Kevin Brennan, Minister of State for Further Education, Skills, Apprenticeships and Consumer Affairs

16. MP for Cardiff West since 2001, succeeding Rhodri Morgan (the First Minister of Wales). An Oxford graduate and former president of the Oxford Union, Mr. Brennan worked for almost ten years as a teacher at Radyr Comprehensive School. He was later a city councillor in Cardiff, and a special adviser to Rhodri Morgan, the First Minister of Wales, from 2000 to 2001. Cardiff West is Mr. Morgan's old seat.
17. Mr. Brennan was a Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at DCSF from 2007 to 2008, when he was transferred to the Cabinet Office. As a minister there, he was responsible for relations with the third sector (charities and voluntary groups). He transfers from the Cabinet Office to DBIS, where he succeeds fellow Welshman Siôn Simon, who moves to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS).
18. Mr. Brennan is the chairman and a founding member of the cross-party parliamentary group on muscular dystrophy. He is also a member of the parliamentary rock band MP4 (he plays guitar).

LSIS Brief Guide

Government reshuffle – June 2009

19. Mr. Brennan's portfolio includes:
- Further Education
 - Apprenticeships (joint with DCSF)
 - Adult Skills Agenda
 - Engaging employers in skills including train to Gain
 - National Skills Academies
 - Sector Skills Councils
 - UK Commission for Employment and Skills
 - LSC Sponsorship
 - Skills Funding Agency Set-up
 - Competition policy
 - Consumer affairs
20. Brennan works jointly with DCSF in this portfolio.

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

21. Lord Drayson 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. He 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.
22. In November 2007, he resigned from the ministry to pursue his other love, auto racing, as a driver on the American Le Mans Series.
23. Lord Drayson's portfolio includes:
- Innovation
 - Technology Strategy Board
 - Science policy and wealth creation from science
 - Research Councils
 - Foresight programme; Science and Society issues
 - Space
 - National Weights and Measures Laboratory
 - Design Council
 - National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA)
 - Energy Technologies Institute
 - Commission for Environmental Markets and Economic Performance
 - BSI (British Standards Institution)
 - UKAS (UK Accreditation Service)
 - Life sciences including Office for Life Sciences and pharmaceutical sector
 - Low carbon economy

LSIS Brief Guide

Government reshuffle – June 2009

Tony Young, Lord Young, Minister for Postal Affairs and Employer Relations

24. 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. He is also an assistant whip in the Lords. He served in DIUS as Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Skills and Apprenticeships (2008-09).
25. His remit includes:
 - Postal Affairs: Royal Mail and Post Office Ltd
 - Encouraging employer support for Apprenticeships
 - Student Issues
 - Employment relations
 - The Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS)

Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF)

1. DCSF keeps its secretary of state, Ed Balls. Schools Minister Jim Knight has been transferred to the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), where he becomes employment minister.

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

2. MP for Normanton, since 2005; prior to this, he was a close adviser to Gordon Brown during the latter's tenure at HM Treasury. He was Economic Secretary to the Treasury from 2006 to 2007. Mr. Balls attended Oxford and Harvard, and worked as a university teaching fellow. He is married to Yvette Cooper, the current Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (more on her below).
3. Mr. Balls's *'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'*

Vernon Coaker, Minister of State for Schools and Learners

4. Vernon Coaker, a former teacher and deputy headmaster, was elected to Parliament for Gedling (in Nottinghamshire) in 1997. He was the Minister of State for Security, Counter-Terrorism, Crime and Policing from 2008 until he was transferred to DCSF. Before that, he was a Government whip from 2005 to 2008.
5. Mr. Coaker is a member of the National Union of Teachers (NUT) and the Socialist Education Association. These organisations oppose the academies programme. However, Mr. Coaker released a statement on June 9th reaffirming his support for academies.

LSIS Brief Guide

Government reshuffle – June 2009

6. Mr. Coaker's remit includes:
 - Raising school 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
 - Schools workforce issues.

Dawn Primarolo, Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families

7. Dawn Primarolo, MP for Bristol South, has been a junior minister in various positions since Labour took power in 1997. She served as Financial Secretary to the Treasury in the first two years of the new government, then as Paymaster General from 1999 to 2007, where she was in charge of the state's accounts at the Bank of England. Upon Gordon Brown's ascension to the premiership, she became Minister of State for Public Health, a job she held until the current reshuffle.
8. Ms. Primarolo was first elected in 1987, and was once considered on the left of the party, earning the nickname 'Red Dawn'². She has since moved to the centre politically. She is an alumna of the University of Bristol.

Iain Wright, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for 14-19 Reform and Apprenticeships

9. Iain Wright is the MP for Hartlepool, winning the seat in a 2004 by-election occasioned by Peter Mandelson's appointment to the European Commission. An accountant by profession, Mr. Wright was a Hartlepool council and local cabinet member from 2002 to 2004. He was a parliamentary under-secretary of state in the Department for Communities and Local Government from 2007 to the current reshuffle. He is also chairman of Labour Friends of Israel.
10. Mr. Wright's remit includes:
 - Apprenticeships
 - 14-19 qualifications strategy
 - 16-19 funding
 - Work-based learning
 - Young people not in education, employment of training (NEETs)
 - The Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) and the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA)

² Possibly in reference to the 1984 film about a Soviet invasion of the United States.

LSIS Brief Guide

Government reshuffle – June 2009

Diana Johnson, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools

11. The daughter of an electrician, Diana Johnson is a barrister by training. She sat in the London Assembly from 2003 to 2005 before winning her current seat in the House of Commons – she sits for Hull North. She was an assistant Government whip prior from 2007 to the reshuffle.
12. Her responsibilities include:
 - Admissions
 - The National Curriculum, and
 - Special educational needs (SEN)

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

13. Lady Morgan continues in her role as Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children, Young People and Families, which she first took up in the 2008 reshuffle. She was previously in DIUS, where she was a parliamentary under-secretary of state with responsibilities for students, student loans and intellectual property. She was first raised to 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.
14. Her current role includes '*safeguarding and child protection, drugs and alcohol, sport and healthy eating*'.

Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG)

15. Hazel Blears, the previous Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government since 2007, resigned just prior to the reshuffle. She was replaced by John Denham, the Secretary of State for DIUS from 2007 to 2009 (indeed, the only ever DIUS Secretary). Her subordinate, Housing Minister Margaret Beckett, was replaced by John Healey, previous Minister of State for Local Government.

John Denham, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government

16. The MP for Southampton Itchen, John Denham entered Parliament in 1992 on his third attempt. He was previously a local councillor in Hampshire and Southampton. Prior to entering politics, he worked for the British Council and for several charities, including War on Want and Oxfam.
17. Mr. Denham held several junior ministerial posts between 1997 and 2003, ending this phase of his career as a minister of state in the Home Office. He resigned from the Government to protest at Britain's entry into the Iraq War. He served on the Select Committee for Home Affairs before returning to Government as DIUS Secretary in 2007. He also a member of the board of the Fabian Society.

LSIS Brief Guide

Government reshuffle – June 2009

Rosie Winterton, Minister of State for Regional Development and Co-operation

18. Rosie Winterton has served as MP for Doncaster Central since 1997. She served as an assistant to John Prescott from 1980 to 1986, and then as his Head of Office during his first three years as Labour's deputy leader (1994-97).
19. Ms. Winterton became a junior minister at the Lord Chancellor's Department in 2001, before moving to Health as a minister of state in 2003. From 2006, she was health services minister. In 2007, she was moved to the Department of Transport, before becoming Minister of State for Pensions in 2008. She was also named Minister for Yorkshire and the Humber.
20. Her current role is jointly attached to both CLG and DBIS.
21. Her responsibilities include:
 - Strengthening regional economies (including Grants for Business Investment)
 - Regional Development Agencies and sub-national implementation
 - Solutions for Business (business support simplification)
22. She is not related to either Nicholas or Ann Winterton, who are Conservative MPs.

Shahid Malik, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities

23. The MP for Dewsbury since 2005, Shahid Malik was born in Burnley. He worked in business development for the East Lancashire Training and Enterprise Council, and was later chief executive of the Pakistan Muslim Centre (PMC) in Sheffield and later chief executive of the regeneration agency in the London Borough of Haringey. He was elected to the Labour Party's National Executive Committee in 2000, the first non-white person to sit on the committee. He was beaten and arrested by police during the 2001 race riots in his native Burnley, where his father had been mayor.
24. In government, Mr. Malik served as Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department for International Development (DFID) from 2007 to 2008, and then as a Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State in the Ministry of Justice from 2008 to 2009. He was implicated in the expenses scandal in May 2009 and forced to resign from the Government, but was later cleared by a Labour Party committee, and was re-appointed to Government in the reshuffle.
25. His duties include:
 - Fire
 - Cohesion (including race) and Migration
 - Prevent
 - Thames Gateway and Olympics legacy

LSIS Brief Guide

Government reshuffle – June 2009

Sarah McCarthy-Fry, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State

26. MP for Portsmouth North since 2005. 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, where she served as Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools from 2008 to 2009.
27. Her remit includes:
 - Local government finance
 - Empowerment and local democracy
 - Procurement - maximising the value we get and promoting innovation
 - QEII Conference Centre

Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)

28. DWP's secretary of state, James Purnell, resigned just before the reshuffle, calling on Gordon Brown to stand down as prime minister. He was replaced by Yvette Cooper, formerly the Chief Secretary to the Treasury. The employment minister, Tony McNulty, also resigned, and was replaced by Jim Knight, previously the skills minister.
29. At the time of writing, the detailed responsibilities of DWP ministers are not available. Details will be added to the web version of the paper.

Yvette Cooper, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions

30. The MP for Pontefract and Castleford, Yvette Cooper first entered the House of Commons in 1997, as one of Labour's record contingent of female MPs. She worked on the staffs of John Smith and Harriet Harman during the early 1990s, when Labour was still in opposition, and also worked on Bill Clinton's 1992 presidential campaign.
31. Ms. Cooper served on the Education and Employment Select Committee from 1997 to 1999, when she became a junior minister at the Department of Health. She later moved to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (an ancestor of the current Department for Communities and Local Government). When Gordon Brown took office, she became Minister of State for Housing, before being named Chief Secretary to the Treasury in the 2008 reshuffle.

Jim Knight, Minister of State for Employment and Welfare Reform

32. MP for South Dorset since 2001. Knight attended Cambridge and worked as a theatre and arts centre director early in his career. He had been schools minister since 2006; prior to that, he spent a year as rural affairs minister. According to reports in *The Guardian*, he was popular with the press and staff at DCSF – he left the department to a serenade of "Until We Meet Again".

LSIS Brief Guide

Government reshuffle – June 2009

Jonathan Shaw, Minister for Disabled People

33. Mr. Shaw remains in post as Minister for Disabled People. MP for Chatham and Aylesford since 1997. Shaw attended FE institutions (West Kent College and Bromley College). A social worker by training, he worked in Kent initially. Prior to his DWP service, Mr. Shaw 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.

Cabinet Office

34. Liam Byrne, previously the Minister for the Cabinet Office, was moved to the Treasury, where he becomes Chief Secretary to the Treasury (the department's second-ranking post). He is succeeded by Tessa Jowell.

Tessa Jowell, Minister of State for the Cabinet Office, the Olympics and Paymaster General

35. Tessa Jowell has a long record in Cabinet. A former social worker and administrator of the charity Mind, she was elected for Dulwich and West Norwood in 1992. She was a minister at the Department of Health from 1997 to 1999, and then at the Department for Education and Employment from 1999 to 2001. From 2001 to 2007, she was a member of Cabinet as Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport. She's held the Olympics portfolio continuously from 2005, and was minister for women from 2005 to 2006.
36. In 2007, Brown demoted her from full Cabinet status, but she remained Olympics Minister and also Minister for London. She keeps these roles as she returns to the Cabinet.

Angela E. Smith, Parliamentary Secretary to the Cabinet Office and Minister for the Third Sector

37. Angela E. Smith, the MP for Basildon, was first elected in 1997. Prior to entering public life, she worked as a political researcher and as head of political and public relations for The League Against Cruel Sports. She is an alumna of Leicester Polytechnic.
38. First named to Government as a whip in 1999, she became a junior minister at the Northern Ireland Office in 2002. In 2006, she was transferred to CLG, where she served as minister for the fire services. In June 2007, she became parliamentary private secretary to the Prime Minister, a role she held until her appointment to her current Cabinet Office post.
39. She is not to be confused with Angela C. Smith, the MP for Sheffield Hillsborough and parliamentary private secretary to Yvette Cooper.

LSIS Brief Guide

Government reshuffle – June 2009

Implications

40. The most obvious effect of the reshuffle is the absorption of the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) into a much-expanded business department. Such a move is not inconsistent with previous Government policies – the Leitch agenda calls for a ‘demand-led’, business-facing skills sector, providing is a logic to uniting the management of FE and skills with business and commerce.
41. The merger also lends the sector an enormously powerful voice in Cabinet. Lord Mandelson has become *‘deputy prime minister in all but name’*, considered by some to be second in power only to Gordon Brown himself. This gives the whole tertiary education sector more weight in Government deliberations. Also, DWP and DCSF, both intimately involved in the sector, are headed by close allies of the prime minister – Ed Balls was his chief adviser at HM Treasury for several years, and Yvette Cooper is also considered close to Gordon Brown.
42. However, it also means that FE is simply one agenda item among many in a large department. This could herald less government attention to the management of the sector, and it might also make it harder for the sector’s voice to be heard in the halls of power, as it will be competing not only with HE, but also with massively powerful institutions such as the Confederation of British Industry (CBI).
43. The Conservatives have condemned the merger as wasteful and politically motivated, and have refused to reshuffle their Shadow Cabinet to create a comparable shadow secretary. Thus, David Willetts continues as shadow DIUS secretary, even though there is no DIUS. And the Conservatives have signalled they would abolish DBIS should they win the next election, with Mr. Willetts himself saying, *‘We would keep universities and colleges separate from the super-ministry.* It is unclear whether they would recreate a separate department for tertiary education or re-create a single education department.

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LSIS Brief Guide

Government reshuffle – June 2009

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