

Creation of new economic councils

12. During his October 2008 Cabinet reshuffle¹, Gordon Brown also created new government bodies to help combat the crisis. Chief among these is the National Economic Council (NEC), a committee of the Cabinet which examines:
- *the implications of the ongoing challenges in the financial markets for the wider economy globally and nationally;*
 - *the latest developments in global commodity markets and their impact on the UK economy;*
 - *our objective to promote sustainable and secure energy supplies;*
 - *the impact of global economic developments on the skills and employment that the UK needs;*
 - *the remaining barriers to entrepreneurship, innovation, and the opportunities for small business growth;*
 - *our housing and planning needs; and*
 - *the impact across every part of the UK.*
13. The NEC is chaired by the Prime Minister, with Alistair Darling, Chancellor of the Exchequer as deputy chair. Other members include:
- The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband);
 - The Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (Lord Mandelson);
 - The Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (John Denham);
 - The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls);
 - The Secretary of State of Energy and Climate Change (Ed Miliband);
 - The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn);
 - The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (James Purnell);
 - The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Hazel Blears);
 - The Secretaries of State for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (Jim Murphy, Paul Murphy and Shaun Woodward, respectively);
 - The Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Yvette Cooper);
 - The Minister for Housing (Margaret Beckett);

¹ See the LSIS Brief Guide to the reshuffle at:
<http://www.lsis.org.uk/Libraries/Documents/BGGovernmentReshuffle.sflb>

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- The Minister for Science (Lord Drayson);
 - The Financial Services Secretary to the Treasury²; (Lord Myners)
 - The Minister for Economic Competitiveness and Small Business (Lady Vadera), and;
 - The Minister for Communications, Technology and Broadcasting (Lord Carter).
14. The Cabinet Secretary, the head of the domestic Civil Service, and the Permanent Secretary to the Treasury are the secretaries to the NEC.
 15. The reshuffle also created a Regional Economic Council, co-chaired by the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform. The council includes ministers from several Government departments, representatives of the Regional Development Agencies (RDAs), the Government ministers for each English region³, and representatives from business and the trade unions. As of January 2009, it had met twice.

² This post was originally titled Minister for the City.

³ These are Tony McNulty (London), Ben Bradshaw (South West England), Jonathan Shaw (South East England), Rosie Winterton (Yorkshire and the Humber), Beverley Hughes (North West England), Barbara Follett (East of England), Ian Austin (West Midlands) and Phil Hope (East Midlands).