



## Government Reshuffle Briefing Note – June 2009

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### **Context**

The latest Cabinet reshuffle by Prime Minister Gordon Brown comes at a time when questions over his leadership are at an all time high. Damaged by the expenses scandal and Labour’s lowest recorded poll ratings, confidence in Brown’s leadership has led to open revolt by Labour MPs.

This was exacerbated by the leaking of the news of Jacqui Smith leaving Government along with the announcement by Hazel Blears that she was stepping down, a day before the Local and European elections. The reshuffle was seen as the final roll of the dice to hold off Labour rebels intent on bringing down the Prime Minister.

Momentum was already building against the Brown as the Local and European election results, due on Friday and Monday respectively, were set to be the worst in Labour’s history. Pressure intensified after the polls had closed on Thursday night when James Purnell, the Work and Pensions Secretary, resigned from Cabinet. Purnell was the first Cabinet Member openly citing Gordon Brown’s leadership as the reason for departure.

This move led to the reshuffle being brought forward to Friday in an attempt to hold back the tide, before the election results, rather than Monday after they were known.

### **Reshuffle Details**

<b>New Jobs</b>	<b>Quitting</b>
Alan Johnson - Home secretary	John Hutton
Andy Burnham - Health	James Purnell
Yvette Cooper - Work and pensions	Jacqui Smith
Liam Byrne - Chief Secretary to the Treasury	Hazel Blears
Sir Alan Sugar - Enterprise tsar	Geoff Hoon
Glenys Kinnock - Europe	Paul Murphy
Bob Ainsworth - Defence	Caroline Flint(Minister of State)
Ben Bradshaw - Culture	Tony McNulty(Minister of State)
John Denham - Communities	Margaret Beckett(Minister of State)
Peter Hain - Welsh Office	
Lord Adonis - Transport	

### **On their way out:**

In addition to the departure of Blears, Smith and Purnell, on the day of the reshuffle it was also announced that the Defence Secretary, John Hutton, had resigned from the role that he long coveted to focus on “other projects”. The Minister for Europe Caroline Flint also resigned from Government, openly attacking Gordon Brown’s leadership.

In addition to the high profile departures from cabinet, there were a number of other exits including Ministers such as Tony McNulty and Beverly Hughes as well as Transport



Secretary Geoff Hoon, who had recently been caught up in the expenses row that has dominated headlines over the past month.

### **Staying put:**

Speculation had been growing in the run up to the election that Brown wanted to promote his long term ally Ed Balls to position of Chancellor. Speculation grew as Brown refused to publicly back the current Chancellor and referred to him in the past tense.

However, the Chancellor, who it was said refused to be moved, kept his place. His position was helped by the FT, who recently wrote an editorial in support of his Chancellorship. Ed Balls, a divisive figure, remained in position, as did Foreign Secretary David Miliband as Brown attempted to quell any potential mutiny that could come with moving them.

Long term Brown allies Jack Straw (Justice), Hilary Benn (Environment), Ed Miliband (Energy and Climate change), Douglas Alexander (International Development) all retained their positions.

### **Moving up:**

Alan Johnson, the favourite to take over from Brown if there was a leadership contest, earned a promotion to become Home Secretary. Promotions were also given to Andy Burnham, who moves to Health, John Denham, who replaces Hazel Blears at Communities and Local Government, and Lord Adonis, who takes the transport brief. Ben Bradshaw, the former Health Minister, moved up to Cabinet, taking on the Culture Media and Sport.

John Healy was also promoted to Housing Minister, replacing the departing Margaret Beckett and Bob Ainsworth received a surprise promotion to Defence Secretary, ahead of the widely tipped Shaun Woodward, who remained at Northern Ireland.

Caroline Flint will be replaced by Glenys Kinnock, the wife of former Labour Leader Lord Kinnock. While Liam Byrne, the Cabinet Office “enforcer”, gained a promotion to become Chief Secretary of the Treasury – replacing Yvette Cooper, who moves to Work and Pensions to replace James Purnell.

Olympics Minister Tessa Jowell also made a return to Cabinet as the new Cabinet Office Minister and Peter Hain, who resigned following allegations of illegal donations to his deputy leadership campaign, also made a return as Secretary of State for Wales.

Peter Mandelson, who was instrumental in holding back the rebellion after James Purnell’s resignation was rewarded with the rather glamorous title of “First Secretary of State, Lord President of the Council and Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills First Secretary of State”. The Department for Innovation University and Skills will now fall under Peter Mandelson at the newly created super-ministry the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The other notable inclusion in the reshuffle was Sir Alan, soon to be Lord, Sugar. The entrepreneur and Apprentice star has been enlisted by Gordon Brown to advise the Government on enterprise issues.



## New Cabinet

Minister	Portfolio
The Rt Hon Gordon Brown MP	Prime Minister, First Lord of the Treasury and Minister for the Civil Service
The Rt Hon Harriet Harman QC MP	Leader of the House of Commons (deputising for Prime Minister at PMQs), Lord Privy Seal and Minister for Women and Equality
The Rt Hon The Lord Mandelson PC	First Secretary of State, Lord President of the Council and Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills
The Rt Hon Alistair Darling MP	Chancellor of the Exchequer
The Rt Hon David Miliband MP	Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
The Rt Hon Jack Straw MP	Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice
The Rt Hon Alan Johnson MP	Secretary of State for the Home Department
The Rt Hon Hilary Benn MP	Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
The Rt Hon Douglas Alexander MP	Secretary of State for International Development
The Rt Hon John Denham MP	Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government
The Rt Hon Ed Balls MP	Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families
The Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP	Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change
The Rt Hon Andrew Burnham MP	Secretary of State for Health
The Rt Hon Shaun Woodward MP	Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and Ministerial support on the coordination of Government Policy and Strategy
The Rt Hon The Baroness Royall of Blaisdon PC	Leader of the House of Lords and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
The Rt Hon Tessa Jowell MP	Minister for the Cabinet Office, Paymaster General and Minister for the Olympics
The Rt Hon Jim Murphy MP	Secretary of State for Scotland
The Rt Hon Yvette Cooper MP	Secretary of State for Work and Pensions



The Rt Hon Liam Byrne MP	Chief Secretary to the Treasury
The Rt Hon Peter Hain MP	Secretary of State for Wales
The Rt Hon Bob Ainsworth MP	Secretary of State for Defence
The Rt Hon The Lord Adonis PC	Secretary of State for Transport
The Rt Hon Ben Bradshaw MP	Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport
<b>Also attend Cabinet meetings</b>	
The Rt Hon Nick Brown MP	Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury and Chief Whip of the House of Commons
The Rt Hon The Lord Malloch-Brown KCMG PC	Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office
The Rt Hon John Healey MP	Minister of State (Housing)
The Rt Hon Pat McFadden MP	Minister of State (Business)
The Rt Hon The Lord Drayson PC	Minister of State (Science and Innovation) (unpaid)
<b>Also attending Cabinet meetings when Ministerial responsibilities are on the agenda</b>	
The Rt Hon The Baroness Scotland of Asthal PC QC	Attorney General
The Rt Hon Dawn Primarolo MP	Minister of State (Children)
The Rt Hon Jim Knight MP	Minister of State (Employment)
The Rt Hon Rosie Winterton MP	Minister of State (Regional Economic Development and Co-ordination)



## **List of New Ministerial Appointments**

### **Department for Business, Innovation and Skills**

The Rt Hon Pat McFadden MP\*\*

The Rt Hon Lord Drayson\* & \*\* (jointly with the Ministry of Defence)

The Rt Hon David Lammy MP

The Rt Hon Rosie Winterton MP\*\*\* (jointly with the Department for Communities and Local Government)

Lord Davies of Abersoch CBE\* (jointly with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office)

Kevin Brennan MP

### **HM Treasury**

Financial Secretary - The Rt Hon Stephen Timms MP

Phil Woolas MP\*\*\*\* (jointly with the Home Office)

### **Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

The Rt Hon Lord Malloch-Brown KCMG\*\*

Lord Davies of Abersoch CBE\* (jointly with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills)

Ivan Lewis MP

Glenys Kinnock

### **Ministry of Justice**

The Rt Hon Michael Wills MP

Maria Eagle MP

### **Home Office**

The Rt Hon David Hanson MP

Phil Woolas MP (jointly with HM Treasury\*\*\*\*)

### **Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**

Jim Fitzpatrick MP

### **Department for International Development**

Gareth Thomas MP

### **Department for Communities and Local Government**

The Rt Hon John Healey MP\*\*

The Rt Hon Rosie Winterton MP\*\*\* (jointly with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills)

### **Department for Children, Schools and Families**

The Rt Hon Dawn Primarolo MP\*\*\*

Vernon Coaker MP

### **Department of Energy and Climate Change**

Lord Hunt of Kings Heath OBE; and Deputy Leader of the House of Lords

Joan Ruddock MP

### **Department of Health**



Gillian Merron MP  
Mike O'Brien MP  
Phil Hope MP

## **Northern Ireland Office**

Paul Goggins MP  
Cabinet Office  
Angela E Smith MP

## **Ministry of Defence**

Bill Rammell MP  
The Rt Hon Lord Drayson\* & \*\* (jointly with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills)

## **Department for Transport**

Sadiq Khan MP\*\*\*

## **Department for Work and Pensions**

The Rt Hon Jim Knight MP\*\*  
Angela Eagle MP

\* unpaid

\*\* attends Cabinet

\*\*\* attends Cabinet when Ministerial responsibilities are on the agenda

\*\*\*\* with responsibility for revenue protection at the border