



Reshuffle 2015

A Cabinet for modern Britain?

2014 Reshuffle – A cabinet for modern Britain?

Labour's last year was dominated by 'the Government of all the Talents' whilst the Conservative's last year will be the 'Government of all the Women', with Cameron promoting many of the media and voter friendly females from the 2010 intake to help win the majority he craves. Cameron hopes appointing more women will solve two other issues as well, namely honouring his commitment to having one third of his cabinet as women and trying to manage the public's disillusionment with 'they're all the same' politicians. This is a problem for all parties, but the Tories are acutely aware of the UKIP effect, hence the cull of several Ministers deemed too 'male, pale and stale' to deliver an outright Conservative win next year.

Given the limited amount of parliamentary time left, there isn't really much reforming left to do, with many of those clearing their desks being able to hold their heads up high. This is an electioneering reshuffle, and from a public affairs perspective, it will be interesting to see which new Ministers will want to engage proactively with respective stakeholders and which ones will need to get their heads down and deliver.

So who's up and who's down?



Joining the Cabinet

- Nicky Morgan MP promoted from Treasury to become Education Secretary.
 - Liz Truss MP promoted from DfE Minister to become DEFRA Secretary
 - Michael Fallon MP promoted from BIS to become Defence Secretary.
- Jeremy Wright MP appointed as Attorney General.
 - Stephen Crabb MP promoted from Whip to Welsh Secretary. Also first bearded Conservative Cabinet Member for 100 years.
 - Baroness Stowell of Beeston appointed Leader of the House of Lords.
 - Matt Hancock MP becomes joint BIS, DECC and Portsmouth Minister and will attend Cabinet.
 - Esther McVey MP keeps her post, but will now attend Cabinet.



New and returning faces to Government

- Mark Harper MP returns to Government and joins DWP as a Minister.
- Nick Gibb MP returns to Government as a Minister in the DfE.
- George Freeman MP enters Government as the Minister for Life Sciences at BIS and Department of Health.
- Robert Buckland MP appointed as Solicitor General.
- Priti Patel MP joins the Government as Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury.
- Penny Mordaunt MP follows up her well received Loyal Address with her first role in Government, becoming Parliamentary Under Secretary at DCLG.
- Alun Cairns MP joins the Government Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Wales.
- Julian Brazier MP joins the Government as Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the MoD.
- Four new Whips have been appointed; Therese Coffey MP, Damian Hinds, Mel Stride MP and Ben Wallace MP.

Promotions

- David Gauke MP promoted to Financial Secretary to the Treasury.
- Desmond Swayne MO promoted to Minister at DFID
- Brandon Lewis MP promoted to Minister at DCLG.
- Ed Vaizey MP promoted to Minister at DCMS and BIS, getting new responsibilities as Minister for Digital Industries.
- Anna Sobury MP promoted to Minister in the MoD.
- Claire Perry MP promoted from Assistant Whip to Parliamentary Under Secretary of State DfT.
- Amber Rudd MP promoted to Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at DECC.



- William Hague MP steps down as Foreign Secretary prior to leaving Parliament at the next election. In the meantime he will become Leader of the House to manage the legislative agenda before parliament dissolves in March. This isn't a full demotion however, as it seems Hague has had full control over his fate and retains his 'First Secretary of State' position.
- Michael Gove will be given a higher profile media and campaigning role, perhaps to soften the blow of his 'sideways' step from Education Secretary to Chief Whip. It is an interesting time to be Chief Whip as there will be an increased need for party discipline on issues like ending the coalition in the run up to polling day.



- Andrew Lansley MP has had to make way for Hague, and with Lord Hill becoming our man in Brussels, he could be out in the cold. It is unlikely that the former Health Secretary will accept a demotion to junior Ministerial position.
- Kenneth Clarke leaves his Minister without portfolio position.
- Owen Paterson MP sacked as DEFRA Secretary.
- David Jones MP sacked as Wales Secretary.
- Sir George Young MP sacked as Chief Whip.
- Stephen Hammond MP sacked as Rail Minister.
- Dominic Grieve MP is no longer Attorney General, and whilst considered competent, his opposition to HS2 has been noted by Number 10.
- Damian Greene MP leaves the Home Office.
- David Willetts MP leaves Government and will stand down as an MP.
- Nick Hurd MP leaves the Cabinet Office, architect of the 'Big Society'.
- Alan Duncan MP leaves DFID.
- Andrew Robathan MP leaves Northern Ireland Office.
- Gregory Barker MP leaves DECC.
- Hugh Robertson MP leaves the FCO.
- Oliver Heald MP dropped as Solicitor General.



- Philip Hammond MP becomes Foreign Secretary, though many wonder why his project management credentials weren't used to fix the issues at DWP.
- Nick Boles MP leaves DCLG to become a joint Minister at the DfE and BIS (most likely replacing Hancock).
- Greg Clark MP moves sideways to become Minister for Universities and Science.
- Mike Penning MP to move from Northern Ireland Office to joint Home Office and MOJ brief.
- John Hayes MP becomes Transport Minister, whilst retaining his Cabinet Office brief.
- Oliver Letwin MP adds Lord Privy Seal to his Cabinet Office role.
- Brooks Newmark moves across to Cabinet Office as Minister for Civil Society.
- Andrew Murrison moves from the MoD to the Northern Ireland Office.

Live tweeting

Almost as interesting as the announcements themselves is the way the Number 10 chose to release the information, with the Prime Minister's personal twitter account making the announcements and the BBC showing the PM's twitter page on the telly. In the past, the likes of Alistair Campbell simply listed all the names in press release and did some behind the scenes briefings but nowadays a different approach is required to set the media agenda and perhaps to deflect attention away



from Data Retention and Investigatory Powers Bill which is being pushed through the Commons today.

Lord Hill off on the Eurostar

Very interestingly, the current Conservative Leader of the Lords, Lord Hill, is Cameron's nominee for UK Commissioner. This is significant, as whilst Tory backbenchers would have loved a more Eurosceptic voice in Brussels, Cameron needs someone who'll be accepted by the European Parliament and can make deals and quickly build consensus to help deliver a successful renegotiation. Given the way the more independently minded Lords works, with discussion over technical amendments, Hill is equipped to do this.