NHS Providers

New government and Prime Minister – August 2019

This briefing sets out an overview of the government appointments made by the new Prime Minister, Boris Johnson. Full profiles of the new ministerial team for health and social care are set out below, along with those for other key Cabinet appointments. This briefing also covers the election of the new Leader of the Liberal Democrats, Jo Swinson.

Introduction

In May 2019, Theresa May announced her intention to resign as Prime Minister and leader of the Conservative Party. Boris Johnson and Jeremy Hunt were the two leadership candidates chosen by Conservative MPs to be put to a ballot of their party membership. Boris Johnson received the largest number of nominations from Conservative MPs and 66% of the vote of party members. Theresa May officially resigned on Wednesday 24 July, with Boris Johnson becoming Prime Minister shortly afterwards. Boris Johnson made significant changes to the government, with less than half of Theresa May's Cabinet remaining in post. Johnson did not maintain May's approach of balancing those who voted leave and those who voted remain, instead promoting leading Brexit supporting figures to senior cabinet positions. A full list of Cabinet appointments is contained in Appendix 1.

Matt Hancock remains in post as the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, with Caroline Dinenage and Baroness Blackwood also continuing in his ministerial team. They are joined by Chris Skidmore, Jo Churchill and Nadine Dorries.

The Liberal Democrats also announced a new leader, Jo Swinson, on 22 July 2019. Swinson, previously the party's deputy leader who held ministerial roles in the business and education departments under the Coalition government, takes over from former Business Secretary, Sir Vince Cable, who led the party for two years. Swinson received nearly 48,000 votes from the party's 106,000 members. Her opponent, the former Energy and Climate Change Secretary, Sir Ed Davey, received 28,000 votes. Following her election as leader, Swinson said she was "ready to take my party into a general election and win it" and would do "whatever it takes to stop Brexit".

1. Department of Health and Social Care ministerial team

Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

Chris Skidmore MP
Minister of State for Health

Caroline Dinenage MP
Minister of State for Care

Jo Churchill MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

Nadine Dorries MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

Baroness Blackwood
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Lords)

There were a number of changes to the ministerial team at the Department of Health and Social Care. Chris Skidmore replaces Stephen Hammond as Minister of State for Health. Jo Churchill replaces Seema Kennedy as Parliamentary Under Secretary of State. Nadine Dorries replaces Jackie Doyle-Price as Parliamentary Under Secretary of State. Caroline Dinenage and Baroness Blackwood remain in their posts.

Biographies of the new ministers are below.

Chris Skidmore MP, Minister of State for Health

Conservative MP for Kingswood since 2010, re-elected in June 2017 with a majority of 7,500.

Portfolio

The Minister of State for Health leads on:

- Brexit
- Finance, efficiency and commercial
- NHS capital, and land and estates
- Operational performance
- Workforce, including pay and pensions
- Setting the government's mandate for NHS England
- Transformation and provider policy.

Parliamentary career

- Joint Minister of State at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and the Department for Education, 2018-19
- Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Cabinet Office, 2016-18
- Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, 2015-16
- Member of the Education Select Committee, 2012-14
- Member of the Health and Social Care Select Committee, 2010-13

Biography

- Former deputy chair of the Number 10 policy board (2014) and served as a member in 2013.
- Has written several history books including on Edward VI, Elizabeth I and Richard III. He is a fellow of the Royal Historical Society and the Society of Antiquaries.

Jo Churchill MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

Conservative MP for Bury St Edmunds since 2015. Re-elected in June 2017 with a majority of 18,441.

Portfolio

- Jo Churchill's portfolio is yet to be confirmed, although it is understood that she will be responsible for public health and primary care. The previous holder of this role led on the following policy areas:
  - Primary care
  - Prevention and early intervention
  - Protection and improvement
  - Sexual health
  - Public health system
  - International diplomacy and relations
  - Major diseases
  - NHS litigation.

- The previous holder of this role was ministerial lead for:
  - Public Health England
  - Food Standards Agency
  - NHS Resolution.

Parliamentary career

- Government whip, 2018-19
- Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Secretary of State for Health/Health and Social Care, 2017-18
- Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Minister of State for the Armed Forces, 2016-17
- Member, Environmental Audit Committee, 2015-16
- Member, Women and Equalities Committee, 2015-17

Biography

- Churchill is a former Lincolnshire County Councillor and has been a governor and vice-chair of governors at local schools.
- Twice diagnosed with cancer, Churchill campaigned for improved cancer outcomes before entering parliament and was involved with the breast cancer charity Breakthrough.
- After beginning her career in retail for regional and global brands, Churchill went to work in the construction and site development industries, later running two contracting companies.

Nadine Dorries MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health

Conservative MP for Mid Bedfordshire since 2005. Re-elected in June 2017 with a majority of 20,983.

Portfolio

- Nadine Dorries' portfolio is yet to be confirmed, but it is likely that Dorries will be responsible for mental health, inequalities and suicide prevention. The previous holder of this role led on the following policy areas:
  - Mental health
  - Suicide prevention
  - Maternity care
  - Women's health and children's health
  - Prison health services
  - Health and work
  - Blood and transplants, including organ donation.
- The previous holder of this role was ministerial lead for:
  - NHS Blood and Transplant
  - Human Tissue Authority
  - Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority.

Parliamentary career

- Member, Panel of Chairs, 2011-17
- Member, Health and Social Care Committee, 2010-11
- Member, Commons Science and Technology, 2007, 2009-10
- Member, Energy and Climate Change Committee, Jan 2009-10
- Member, Innovation, Universities, Science and Skills Committee, 2005-06, 2007-09

Biography

- Has written several books, recently securing a publishing deal to write a trilogy of books about her experiences growing up in 1950s Liverpool.
- Founded Company Kids Ltd (a child day care service), which she later sold to BUPA, where she became a director.
- Originally trained as a nurse at Warrington General Hospital, working in nursing for three years, before becoming a medical representative for Ethical Contact Ltd, and working at a community school in Zambia.

2. Key Cabinet appointments from a health and care perspective

Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP, Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury

Conservative MP for Henley, 2001-08. MP for Uxbridge and South Ruislip since 2015. Re-elected in 2017 with a majority of 5,034.

Responsibilities

- The Prime Minister is the leader of Her Majesty's Government and is ultimately responsible for the policy and decisions of the government.

Overview of recent career

- Columnist at the Daily Telegraph, 2018-19
- Foreign Secretary, July 2016-18
- Mayor of London, 2008-16
- Shadow Minister, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, 2004, 2005-7
- Member of Parliament for Henley, 2001-08.

Career before his current parliamentary term

- In 2008 he became Mayor of London, serving two terms. His first term centred around commitments to reduce crime, scrap bendy buses and abolish the congestion charge extension. His second term focused on jobs and growth, and saw London host the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Other key themes were supporting infrastructure investment, housebuilding, financial services and the tech sector.
- After unsuccessfully contesting the Welsh seat of Clwyd South, Johnson was first elected to Parliament in 2001 as MP for Henley in Oxfordshire, a position he held for 7 years. He stood down following his election as Mayor of London.
- In 1994 he became a political columnist for The Spectator and was then the magazine's editor until 2005.
- He worked at The Daily Telegraph as a correspondent covering the European Community (1989-94) and later as an assistant editor (1994-99).

Priorities and commitments since taking office

- In his first speech as Prime Minister, Boris Johnson stated that "[the government is] going to fulfil the repeated promises of parliament to the people and come out of the EU on October 31" and the UK will "do a new deal, a better deal that will maximise the opportunities of Brexit while allowing [the UK] to develop a new and exciting partnership with the rest of Europe".
- The Prime Minister outlined his immediate health and care priorities stating, "we start work this week with 20 new hospital upgrades, and ensuring that money for the NHS really does get to the front line".

He also committed to fixing "the crisis in social care once and for all with a clear plan we have prepared", and said it was his job to ensure "you don't have to wait three weeks to see your GP".

- In his subsequent statement to Parliament, Johnson outlined more detail on his Brexit policy, stating he would prefer to leave the EU with a deal and that he "will work flat out to make it happen". He said that Theresa May's deal was "unacceptable to this parliament and this country".
- Johnson said that his new government was ready to negotiate with Brussels in good faith but at the same time would "turbocharge" preparations for a no-deal Brexit in the event that the government was unable to come to an agreement with the EU.
- In his speech to Parliament, Johnson also:
  - Said he would ask the Migration Advisory Committee to conduct a review on moving to an Australian-style points-based system for immigration
  - Announced 3.2 million EU citizens will have the "absolute certainty" of the right to remain after Brexit
  - Stated the Irish backstop will be scrapped altogether
  - Stated the UK won't appoint a new EU commissioner
  - Stated NHS money will go to the frontline as soon as possible
  - Said he has asked officials to provide policy proposals for reducing waiting times for GP appointments
  - Ruled out making the NHS part of any US trade deal.

Spending commitments

- The Prime Minister has announced a number of new spending commitments including:
  - 20 hospital upgrades
  - Solving the social care crisis
  - A plan to recruit 20,000 police officers
  - A new railway line between Manchester and Leeds
  - £2.1 billion to prepare for no deal, including £434 million made available to help ensure the continuity of vital medicines and medical products, including through freight capacity, warehousing and stockpiling
  - Increasing school funding by £5,000 per secondary school pupil and reversing cuts to school budgets
  - Rolling out super-fast broadband across the country by 2025
  - Increasing spending on roads.
- There is a growing expectation that an emergency budget will take place in the week of 7 October.

Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer

Conservative MP for Bromsgrove since 2010. Re-elected in 2017 with a majority of 16,573.

Responsibilities

- Responsible for raising revenue through taxation or borrowing and for controlling public spending, with overall responsibility for the work of HM Treasury. The Chancellor's responsibilities cover:
  - fiscal policy (including the presenting of the annual Budget)
  - monetary policy, setting inflation targets
  - ministerial arrangements (in his role as Second Lord of the Treasury).

Parliamentary career

- Home Secretary, 2018-19
- Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2018
- Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, 2016-18
- Business Secretary, 2015-16
- Culture Media and Sport Secretary, 2014-15
- Minister for Equalities, 2014
- Financial Secretary, 2013-14

Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office

Conservative MP for Surrey Heath since 2005. Re-elected in 2017 with a majority of 24,943.

Responsibilities

- Key responsibilities include:
  - Advising the Prime Minister on developing and implementing government policy
  - Driving forward government business and implementation including chairing and deputy chairing Cabinet
  - Committees and implementation taskforces
  - Overseeing devolution consequences of EU exit
  - Overseeing constitutional affairs and maintaining the integrity of the Union
  - Oversight of all Cabinet Office policies.
- It is reported that Michael Gove will oversee Brexit no-deal planning across government.

Parliamentary career

- Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, 2017-19

- Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, 2015-16
- Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury and Chief Whip, 2014-15
- Secretary of State for Education, 2010-14
- Shadow Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, 2007-10
- Shadow Minister for Communities and Local Government and Housing and Planning, 2005-07

Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP, Secretary of State for Housing Communities and Local Government

Conservative MP for Newark since 2014. Re-elected in 2017 with a majority of 18,149.

Responsibilities

- Responsible for the overall leadership and strategic direction of the department.

Parliamentary career

- Exchequer Secretary, HM Treasury, 2018-19
- Member, Public Accounts Committee, 2018-19 (as part of his exchequer secretary role)
- Member, Health and Social Care Committee, 2014-15

Rt Hon Stephen Barclay MP, Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union

Conservative MP for North East Cambridgeshire since 2010. Re-elected in 2017 with a majority of 21,270.

Responsibilities

- Policy work to support the UK's negotiations to leave the European Union and to establish the future relationship between the EU and the UK.
- Conducting the negotiations in support of the Prime Minister including supporting bilateral discussions on EU exit with other European countries.
- Working closely with the UK's devolved administrations, parliament, and a wide range of other interested parties on the approach to negotiations.
- Leading and co-ordinating cross-government work to realise the opportunities and ensure a smooth process of exit on the best possible terms.

Parliamentary career

- Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, 2018-present
- Minister of State at the Department for Health and Social Care, 2018
- Economic Secretary, HM Treasury, 2017-18
- Government whip, 2015-17

Rt Hon Priti Patel MP, Secretary of State for the Home Department

Conservative MP for Witham since 2010. Re-elected in 2017 with a majority of 18,646.

Responsibilities

- Overall responsibility for all Home Office business, including: security and terrorism; legislative programme; expenditure issues.

Parliamentary career

- Secretary of State for International Development, 2016-17
- Minister of State at the Department for Work and Pensions, 2015-16
- Exchequer Secretary, HM Treasury, 2014 -15
- Member, Public Accounts Committee, 2011-14

Rt Hon Dominic Raab MP, Foreign Secretary and First Secretary of State

Conservative MP for Esher and Walton since 2010.Re-elected in 2017 with a majority of 23,298.

Responsibilities

- Has overall responsibility for the work of the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, including Brexit and Global Britain.

Parliamentary career

- Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, 2018-19
- Minister of State for Housing at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2018
- Minister of State at the Ministry of Justice, 2017-18
- Member of the Select Committee on Exiting the European Union, 2016-17
- Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Ministry of Justice, 2015-16
- Member, Education Select Committee, 2013-15
- Member, Human Rights Committee, 2010-13

3. New Liberal Democrat leader

Jo Swinson MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats

Liberal Democrat MP for East Dunbartonshire, 2005-15. Re-elected in 2017 with a majority of 5,339.

Jo Swinson became the leader of the Liberal Democrats in July 2019, winning the support of party members following a contest with former Energy Secretary, Sir Ed Davey. She will take over from Vince Cable, who led the party for two years.

Overview of recent career

- Deputy leader, Liberal Democrats, 2017-19
- Liberal Democrat Spokesperson on Foreign Affairs, 2017-19
- As part of the Conservative / Liberal Democrat coalition, between 2012 and 2015, Swinson held a variety of ministerial roles including: Minister for Employment Relations and Consumer Affairs, and Women and Equalities Minister.
- Shadow ministerial roles held between 2005 and 2010: Shadow Secretary of State for Scotland, Shadow Foreign Minister and Shadow Minister for Women and Equalities.
- Member, Environmental Audit Committee, 2007-10.
- Awarded a CBE in the 2018 New Year Honours for political and public service.

Career outside of parliament

- Founded her own consulting business advising organisations on workplace diversity. She published her book, *Equal Power* in 2018.
- Before entering Parliament she worked in a number of roles including as a marketing and public relations manager for a Yorkshire-based commercial radio station, and as a development officer for the UK Public Health Association in Scotland.
- Unsuccessfully contested a seat in Parliament in Kingston upon Hull East in 2001and in the Scottish Parliament in 2003.

4. Downing Street advisors

Key advisors appointed to number 10 include:

- Dominic Cummings will be Johnson's principal advisor and effective chief of staff. A former special advisor to then Education Secretary Michael Gove, Cummings was one of the leaders of the Leave campaign during the 2016 referendum where he worked with Johnson.
- Sir Eddie Lister will be a key advisor to Johnson and was his former chief of staff when Johnson was Mayor of London.
- Lee Cain will be Johnson's director of communications. He is a former Daily Mirror journalist, worked with Johnson on the Leave campaign during the 2016 referendum, and was special advisor to Johnson when he was Foreign Secretary.
- Munira Mirza will be head of policy. She was deputy Mayor for Education and Culture to Johnson when he was Mayor of London, and will have a key role working with policy advisors across Whitehall.
- William Warr will be Johnson's health advisor. A doctoral researcher at the University of Oxford, Warr used to work in the Prime Minister's Implementation Unit in Downing Street under a previous administration, and is a former advisor to the government's Life Science Champion, Professor Sir John Bell. Between 2016 and 2019, he was a consultant at the political consultancy of close Johnson ally Sir Lynton Crosby.
- Ross Kempsell, a former journalist, will work as a policy advisor leading on Whitehall and public sector reform.

Appendix 1 – Full list of Cabinet appointments

Cabinet ministers	
Prime Minister, First Lord of the Treasury, Minister for the Civil Service	Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer	Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, First Secretary of State	Rt Hon Dominic Raab MP
Secretary of State for the Home Department	Rt Hon Priti Patel MP
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster	Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice	Rt Hon Robert Buckland QC MP
Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union	Rt Hon Stephen Barclay MP
Secretary of State for Defence	Rt Hon Ben Wallace MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care	Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP
Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy	Rt Hon Andrea Leadsom MP
Secretary of State for International Trade and President of the Board of Trade	Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP
Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Minister for Women and Equalities	Rt Hon Amber Rudd MP
Secretary of State for Education	Rt Hon Gavin Williamson CBE MP
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	Rt Hon Theresa Villiers
Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government	Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP
Secretary of State for Transport	Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland	Rt Hon Julian Smith MP
Secretary of State for Scotland	Rt Hon Alister Jack MP
Secretary of State for Wales	Rt Hon Alun Cairns MP
Leader of the House of Lords, Lord Privy Seal	Rt Hon Baroness Evans of Bowes Park
Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport	Rt Hon Nicky Morgan MP
Secretary of State for International Development	Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP
Minister without Portfolio	James Cleverly MP

Also attending Cabinet	
Chief Secretary to the Treasury	Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP
Leader of the House of Commons, Lord President of the Council	Rt Hon Jacob Rees-Mogg MP
Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury (Chief Whip)	Rt Hon Mark Spencer MP
Attorney General	Rt Hon Geoffrey Cox QC MP
Minister of State	Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng MP
Minister for the Cabinet Office, Paymaster General	Rt Hon Oliver Dowden CBE MP
Minister of State (Northern Powerhouse)	Rt Hon Jake Berry MP
Minister of State	Rt Hon Esther McVey MP
Minister of State	Rt Hon Jo Johnson MP
Minister of State	Rt Hon Brandon Lewis MP