

General election 2024: Cabinet and ministerial appointments

Prime Minister Keir Starmer has announced Cabinet and ministerial appointments during his first week in office. Wes Streeting was announced Secretary of State for Health and Social Care on 5 July, retaining the position he held in opposition from 2021. Two ministers joining the health and social care team also previously held positions in the shadow health team, with Karin Smyth appointed Minister for Health (Secondary Care) and Andrew Gwynne as Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Public Health and Prevention. Baroness Merron joins as Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Patient Safety, Women's Health and Mental Health, after being Labour's shadow spokesperson for health and social care in the House of Lords since 2021.

Other key announcements include Rachel Reeves as Chancellor of the Exchequer, the first woman to hold this post, and Angela Rayner as Secretary of State for Housing Communities and Local Government, and Deputy Prime Minister.

Leader of the Opposition Rishi Sunak also announced Victoria Atkins as Shadow Secretary of State and Jeremy Hunt as Shadow Chancellor. Rishi Sunak has said he will step down as Conservative Party leader once arrangements to select his successor are in place. We will update members once a new leader and shadow health team have been established.

This briefing sets out:

1. Biographies of the new health and social care ministers
2. Other key government appointments
3. Key shadow ministerial appointments
4. A list of Cabinet ministers and those attending Cabinet

NHS Providers has written to the new secretary of state for health and social care setting out the priorities for the sector, and [our response to his appointment](#) is on our website.

1. Biographies of the new health and social care ministers



The Rt Hon Wes Streeting MP, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

Labour MP for Ilford North since May 2015, re-elected in 2024 with a majority of 528.

Portfolio

The Secretary of State is responsible for the work of the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), including:

- overall financial control and oversight of NHS delivery and performance
- oversight of social care policy

Parliamentary career

- Shadow Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, (Nov 2021-)
- Shadow Secretary of State for Child Poverty Strategy, (2021-2021)
- Shadow Minister (Education, Schools), (2020-2021)
- Shadow Exchequer Secretary (Treasury), (2020-2020)
- Member, Committee on the Future Relationship with the European Union (2020–2021)
- Member, Treasury Committee (2015-2017, 2017–2019)
- Member, Treasury Sub-Committee (2017–2019)

Previous Career

Prior to becoming an MP, Streeting was president of the National Union of Students. Streeting then worked in the charity sector, notably in educational charities, such as the Helena Kennedy Foundation, where he was chief executive, and Stonewall, where he was head of education. He also worked at the think tank Progress.

Karin Smyth MP, Minister of State for Health (Secondary Care)

Labour MP for Bristol South since May 2015, re-elected in 2024 with a majority of 7,666.

Portfolio

The Minister of State for Health (Secondary Care) is responsible for:

- system oversight:
 - system reconfigurations and improvement
 - commissioning
- elective care:
 - elective performance and waiting list recovery
 - cancer care
- NHS workforce:
 - recruitment and retention
 - education and training
 - leadership
 - pay and pensions
 - industrial relations
 - professional regulation
- NHS data and technology:
 - cyber security
 - Federated Data Platform
- NHS capital, land and estates:
 - New Hospital Programme
 - hospital upgrades
 - reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC)
 - energy resilience and net zero
 - car parking
- medicines:
 - medicines regulation, pricing and supply
 - prescribing
 - supply threats and disruption
- NHS finance:
 - procurement
 - cost recovery and immigration health surcharge
 - counter fraud
- urgent and emergency care:

- accident and emergency services
- NHS 111 services
- hospital at home services
- ambulances
- winter planning
- sponsorship of:
 - NHS England
 - NHS Counter Fraud Authority
 - NHS Property Services
 - NHS Business Services Authority
 - Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency
 - National Institute for Health and Care Excellence

Parliamentary career

- Shadow Minister (Health), (2023-2024)
- Shadow Minister (Health and Social Care), (2021-2022)
- Shadow Minister (Northern Ireland), (2020-2021)
- Member, Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee (2020-2024)
- Member, Health and Care Bill Committee (2021-2021)
- Member, Public Accounts Committee (2015-2017)

Previous career

Prior to becoming an MP, Smyth worked as an NHS manager at Bristol Clinical Commissioning Group. She was non-executive director of Bristol North Primary Care Trust from 2002-2006.

Steven Kinnock MP, Minister of State for Care

Labour MP for Aberafan Maesteg since 7 May 2015. Elected in 2024 with a majority of 10,354.

Portfolio

The Minister of State for Care is responsible for:

- adult social care:
 - workforce
 - funding
 - system assurance and data
 - markets
 - technology and innovation
 - continuing healthcare

- hospital and community discharge
- health and social care integration
- dementia
- primary care:
 - general practice
 - pharmacy
 - eye care
 - dentistry
- community health, including neighbourhood health services
- end of life and palliative care
- disabilities and SEND (special educational needs and disabilities)

Parliamentary career

- Shadow Minister (Home Office, Immigration), (2022-2024)
- Shadow Minister (Defence), (2021-2022)
- Shadow Minister (Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs), (2020-2021)
- Member, European Scrutiny Committee (2020-2024)
- Member, European Statutory Instruments Committee (2020-2024)

Previous career

Prior to becoming an MP, Kinnock worked as a research assistant at the European Parliament before becoming a British Council Development and Training Services executive based in Brussels in 1997. He held various positions with the British Council including director of its St. Petersburg office.

Andrew Gwynne MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Public Health and Prevention

Labour MP for Gorton and Denton since May 2005, re-elected in 2024 with a majority of 13,413.

Portfolio

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Public Health and Prevention is responsible for:

- health protection:
 - Covid-19
 - environmental health
 - infectious diseases
 - seasonal immunisations
 - routine immunisations

- Vaccine Damage Payment Scheme
- pandemic preparedness
- emergency response
- antimicrobial resistance (AMR)
- chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats (CBRN)
- health improvement:
 - diet and obesity
 - addiction, including tobacco, alcohol, drugs and gambling
 - NHS Health Check
 - health inequalities
 - child health and family services
 - work and health
 - sexual health, including HIV
- international:
 - World Health Organization and international engagement
 - EU and trade
 - devolved administrations
 - crown dependencies and overseas territories
 - overseas development aid programmes, including Public Health Rapid Support Team
- major and long-term conditions:
 - cancer prevention and strategy
 - diabetes
 - cardiovascular diseases
 - rare diseases
 - long-term conditions
 - screening
- sponsorship of:
 - UK Health Security Agency
 - Food Standards Agency

Parliamentary Career

- Shadow Minister (Social Care) (2023-2024)
- Shadow Minister (Health and Social Care) (2021-2023)
- Shadow Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (2018-2020)
- Shadow Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (2017-2018)
- Shadow Minister (Health) (2011-2016)

Previous Career

Prior to becoming an MP, Gwynne became England's youngest councillor after being elected in 1996 to Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council at the age of 21. From 1998-2001 he chaired Denton and Audenshaw District Assembly, and during 2003-2004 he chaired the Resources and Community Services Scrutiny Panel.

Baroness Merron, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Patient Safety, Women's Health and Mental Health

Labour life peer in the House of Lords since January 2021.

Portfolio

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Patient Safety, Women's Health and Mental Health is responsible for:

- patient voice and patient experience:
 - Patient Safety Commissioner
 - complaints
 - Healthwatch
- patient safety:
 - clinical negligence
 - inquiries
 - quality regulation
 - death certification
 - indemnity
- mental health:
 - mental health reform
 - children and young people and early intervention
 - suicide and crisis prevention
 - offender health
 - mental health inquiries
 - blood, transplant and organs
- research:
 - clinical trials
 - Covid-19 vaccine licensing
 - National Institute for Health and Care Research
- life sciences and innovation:
 - medtech and regulation

- genomics
- women's health
- maternity services
- reproductive health
- abortion
- gender identity services
- statutory instruments, including retained EU laws
- departmental management
- sponsorship of:
 - Health Research Authority
 - Care Quality Commission
 - Health Services Safety Investigations Body
 - NHS Resolution
 - Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority
 - Human Tissue Authority
 - NHS Blood and Transplant

Parliamentary career

- Shadow Spokesperson for Health and Social Care (2021–2024)
- Opposition Whip (Lords) (2021–2024)
- Shadow Spokesperson for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (Lords) (2021-2023)
- MP for Lincoln (1997-2010)
- Minister of State (Public Health), Department of Health (2009-2010)
- Parliamentary Under-Secretary, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (2008-2009)
- Parliamentary Under-Secretary, Department for International Development (2008-2008)
- Parliamentary Under-Secretary, Cabinet Office (2007-2008)

Previous Career

Outside of her parliamentary career, Baroness Merron worked within local government and was an official for the National Union of Public Employees (now UNISON).

2. Other key government appointments

The Rt Hon Rachel Reeves MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer, HM Treasury

Labour MP for Leeds West and Pudsey (formerly Leeds West) since May 2010, re-elected in 2024 with a majority of 12,392.

Portfolio

The Chancellor of the Exchequer is the government's chief financial minister and as such is responsible for raising revenue through taxation or borrowing, and for controlling public spending. She has overall responsibility for the work of the Treasury.

The Chancellor's responsibilities cover:

- fiscal policy (including the presenting of the annual Budget)
- monetary policy, setting inflation targets
- ministerial arrangements (in her role as Second Lord of the Treasury)
- overall responsibility for the Treasury's response to Covid-19

Parliamentary career

- Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer (2021-2024)
- Shadow Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (2020-2021)
- Shadow Minister for the Cabinet Office
- Shadow Secretary of State for Work and Pensions
- Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury

Previous career

Prior to becoming an MP, Reeves worked as an economist at the Bank of England before moving to Leeds and becoming a banker at the Halifax Bank of Scotland.

The Rt Hon Angela Rayner MP, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government (and Deputy Prime Minister)

Labour MP for Ashton-under-Lyne since 2015, re-elected in 2024 with a majority of 6789.

Full details of ministerial responsibilities yet to be announced.

The Rt Hon Peter Kyle MP, Secretary of State for Science Technology and Innovation

Labour MP for Hove and Portslade (previously Hove) since May 2015, re-elected in 2024 with a majority of 19,791.

Portfolio

The Secretary of State has overall responsibility for the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology. Responsibilities include:

- Online Safety Bill
- oversight of science and technology
- economic and national security
- skills and talent
- landscape review
- research bureaucracy
- regulation
- overall R&D budget
- Horizon Europe
- Advanced Research and Invention Agency (ARIA)
- UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) relationship
- OneWeb shareholding
- British Technology Investments Ltd

Parliamentary career

- Shadow Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology (2023-2014)
- Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary (2021-2023)
- Shadow Minister for Schools (2021-2021)
- Shadow Minister for Victims of Youth Justice (2020-2021)
- Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Select Committee (2016-2020)

Previous career

Prior to becoming an MP, Kyle worked as an aid worker and a project director for Children on the Edge in Eastern Europe and the Balkans and 2006 he became a Cabinet Office special advisor for social exclusion. He was deputy chief executive of Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations between 2007 and 2013 before becoming chief executive of Working for Youth.

The Rt Hon Bridget Phillipson MP, Minister for Women and Equalities (and Secretary of State for Education)

Labour MP for Houghton and Sunderland since May 2010, with a majority of 7,169.

The Women and Equalities brief is shared with Annelise Dodds (see below)

Portfolio (Women and Equalities)

- promoting equality of opportunity for everyone, and reducing negative disparities

- strategic oversight of Government's equality policy, for women, ethnicity and LGBT
- sponsorship of the Social Mobility Commission and Equality and Human Rights Commission
- overview of the overarching equalities legislative framework, including the Equality Act

Parliamentary career

- Shadow Secretary of State for Education (2021-2024)
- Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury (2020-2021)
- Committee on Privileges (2017-2024)
- Committee on Standards (2017- 2024)
- Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission (2010- 2024)
- Home Affairs Committee (2010-2013)
- Public Bill Committee (2010-2011)
- Procedure Committee (2010-2011)

Previous career

Prior to becoming an MP, Phillipson worked in local government in the North East. She was a manager at Wearside Women in Need between 2007 and 2010.

The Rt Hon Anneliese Dodds MP, Minister of State, Minister for Women and Equalities (and Minister of State in the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office)

Labour MP for Oxford East since 2017, re-elected in 2024 with a majority of 14,465.

Parliamentary career

- Shadow Secretary of State for Women and Equalities (2021-2024)
- Chair of Labour Policy Review (2021-2024)
- Party Chair, Labour Party (2021-2024)
- Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer (2020-2021)
- Shadow Minister (Treasury) 2017-2020)

Previous career

Prior to becoming an MP, Dodds lectured in public policy at King's College London and Aston University. Her research interests were in regulation and risk in the public sector. Dodds was elected as a Member of the European Parliament for the South East England region in 2014.

3. Key shadow ministerial appointments

The Rt Hon Victoria Atkins MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

Conservative MP for Louth and Horncastle since May 2015, re-elected in 2024 with a 5,506 majority.

Parliamentary career

- Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Department of Health and Social Care (2023-2024)
- Financial Secretary, HM Treasury (2022-2023)
- Minister for Afghan Resettlement, Ministry of Justice (2021-2022)
- Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (2021-2022)
- Minister for Women, Government Equalities Office (2018-2020)
- Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (2017-2021)

Previous Career

Prior to becoming an MP, Atkins was a criminal barrister specialising in prosecuting serious organised crime.

The Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP, Shadow Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

Conservative MP for Godalming and Ash and has been an MP continually since 2005, re-elected in 2024 with a majority of 891.

Parliamentary career

- Chancellor of the Exchequer, HM Treasury (2022-2024)
- Chair, Health and Social Care Committee (2020-2022)
- Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (2018-2019)
- Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Department of Health and Social Care (2018-2018)
- Secretary of State for Health, Department of Health (2012-2018)
- Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, Department for Culture, Media and Sport (2010-2012)

Career before parliamentary term

Prior to becoming an MP, he ran his own educational publishing business, Hotcourses. He also set up a charity to help AIDS orphans in Africa in which he continues to play an active role.

4. Full list of Cabinet ministers and those attending Cabinet

Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury	Sir Keir Starmer
Secretary of State for Housing and Communities and Local Government, and Deputy Prime Minister	Angela Rayner
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster	Pat McFadden
Chancellor of the Exchequer	Rachel Reeves
Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs	David Lammy
Secretary of State for the Home Department	Yvette Cooper
Secretary of State for Defence	John Healey
Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice	Shabana Mahmood
Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero	Rt Hon Ed Miliband
Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology	Peter Kyle
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care	Wes Streeting
Secretary of State for Business and Trade and President of the Board of Trade	Jonathan Reynolds
Secretary of State for Work and Pensions	Liz Kendall
Secretary of State for Education and Minister for Women and Equalities	Bridget Phillipson
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	Hon Steve Reed
Secretary of State for Transport	Louise Haigh
Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport	Lisa Nandy
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland	Hilary Benn
Secretary of State for Scotland	Ian Murray
Secretary of State for Wales	Jo Stevens
Lord President of the Council, and Leader of the House of Commons	Lucy Powell
Leader of the House of Lords, Lord Privy Seal	Baroness Smith of Basildon

Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury (Chief Whip)	Sir Alan Campbell
Chief Secretary to the Treasury (attends Cabinet)	Darren Jones
Attorney General	Richard Hermer KC
Minister of State (Minister for Development) and Minister of State (Minister for Women and Equalities)	Anneliese Dodds
Paymaster General and Minister for the Cabinet Office (Minister for the Constitution and European Relations)	Nick Thomas-Symonds
Captain of the Honourable Corps of Gentleman at Arms (Lords Chief Whip)Government Whips (Lords)	Lord Kennedy of Southwark