MHP Group

*Guide to the*

# Starmer Cabinet

5 July 2024



# The Starmer Cabinet

## *The "Quad"*



**Keir Starmer**
Prime Minister, First Lord of the Treasury, Minister for the Union, and Minister for the Civil Service



**Angela Rayner**
Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities



**Rachel Reeves**
Chancellor of the Exchequer



**Pat McFadden**
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Cabinet Secretary



**David Lammy**
Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs



**Yvette Cooper**
Secretary of State for the Home Department



**John Healey**
Secretary of State for Defence



**Wes Streeting**
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care



**Bridget Phillipson**
Secretary of State for Education



**Ed Miliband**
Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero



**Jonathan Reynolds**
Secretary of State for Business and Trade, and President of the Board of Trade



**Lisa Nandy**
Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport



**Peter Kyle**
Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology



**Shabana Mahmood**
Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice



**Louise Haigh**
Secretary of State for Transport



**Steve Reed**
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs



**Darren Jones**
Chief Secretary to the Treasury



**Liz Kendall**
Shadow Secretary of State for Work and Pensions



**Anneliese Dodds**
Minister of State for Development



**Hilary Benn**
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland



**Ian Murray**
Secretary of State for Scotland



**Jo Stevens**
Secretary of State for Wales



**Lord Hermer KC**
Attorney General



**Lucy Powell**
Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House of Commons



**Alan Campbell**
Chief Whip in the House of Commons



**Baroness Smith**
Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House of Lords



## Keir Starmer

*Prime Minister, First Lord of the Treasury, Minister for the Union, and Minister for the Civil Service*

*Background:*

A relative latecomer to politics, Starmer had a successful early career as a criminal defence barrister, rising to become Director of Public Prosecutions 2008-13. He entered the Commons in 2015, serving as Immigration and Brexit spokesperson under Corbyn. Starmer became Labour leader in 2019 and has successfully moved the party to centre.

*Priorities:*

- Gradual progress, with investment in public services funded by the ultimate priority of growth in the economy.



## Angela Rayner

*Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities*

*Background:*

Rayner left school at 16 and had an early career was in social care. She entered politics as a Unison rep before winning election to parliament in 2015. She held Pensions, Education and Equalities roles under Corbyn. Rayner won the Deputy Leadership in 2020. Her relationship with Starmer has been fractious at times.

*Priorities:*

- Building 1.5m homes, aided by reform to planning laws and ending no fault evictions.
- Implementing Labour's package of workers' rights reform, including banning zero hours contracts, removing age pay bands, and day one rights such as sick pay.



## Rachel Reeves

*Chancellor of the Exchequer*

*Background:*

Reeves began her career at the Bank of England and HBOS. She entered parliament in 2010. She held Shadow business, pensions and Treasury roles under Miliband, but sat out the Corbyn era. Starmer made Reeves Shadow Chancellor in 2021 and she has since been central to restoring Labour's economic credibility.

*Priorities:*

- Following strict fiscal rules such as ensuring that day-to-day costs are met by revenues and ensuring that debt falls as a share of the economy by the fifth year of the forecast.
- Implementing promised windfall tax on oil and gas companies, 20% VAT on private schools, and closing non-dom tax loopholes.



## Pat McFadden

*Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Cabinet Secretary*

*Background:*

McFadden is a Labour stalwart. He began his career as a researcher to Donald Dewar and adviser to Tony Blair. He was first elected in 2005 and served in both the Blair and Brown Administrations. McFadden has coordinated Labour's National Campaign strategy under Starmer and is a key player in the PM's inner circle.

*Priorities:*

- Civil Service Reform, including the establishment of 5 new cross-departmental 'mission boards' which would spearhead delivery and break down inter-departmental rivalries to speed up decision making.
- Usher in private sector expertise by scaling up the use of non-executive directors in departments.



## Sue Gray

*Chief of Staff to the Prime Minister*

*Background:*

While not formally in the Cabinet, as Chief of Staff, Gray will attend it and be a driving force of the new Government. Previously a longstanding Civil Servant, she has held senior roles in the Cabinet Office and Northern Ireland for two decades, notably leading the Partygate review.

*Priorities:*

- Cross government Mission delivery.
- Policy efficiency and reform.
- Representing the Prime Minister internally across departments; Starmer's eyes and ears on the ground.



## David Lammy

*Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs*

*Background:*

A lawyer before being elected as an MP in 2000, Lammy has built a reputation for strong oratory and campaigning. Lammy served as a minister under Blair and Brown He did not sit in the Shadow Cabinet under Miliband or Corbyn, only joining as Shadow Justice Secretary under Starmer in 2020.

*Priorities:*

- Implementing a foreign policy of 'progressive realism' to counter climate change and defend democracy.
- Forge a closer working relationship with the EU.
- Continue support of Ukraine and recognise a Palestinian state with consideration to moves in the US.



## Yvette Cooper

*Secretary of State for the Home Department*

*Background:*

Cooper is one of the few frontbenchers to have previously served in government as Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and Chief Secretary to the Treasury. First elected in 1997, she was the Shadow Home Secretary under Ed Miliband, and the long-time chair of the Home Affairs Committee from 2016 until her appointment in 2021.

*Priorities:*

- Tackling anti-social behaviour and knife crime with more neighbourhood policing and youth hubs.
- Half violence against women and girls in a decade by introducing new laws such as new legislation against spiking.
- Border Security Command to stop the boats.



## John Healey

*Secretary of State for Defence*

*Background:*

A former comms professional, latterly for the TUC, Healey was elected to Parliament in 1997. He first became a minister under Tony Blair in 2001. After serving as Shadow Secretary of State for Housing under Jeremy Corbyn, Healey has held the Defence brief since the beginning of Starmer's leadership.

*Priorities:*

- Labour's Strategic Defence review to set out how the government can reach spending of 2.5% of GDP on defence.
- Defence Industrial Strategy to support the domestic defence industry.
- Re-forging UK-EU relations to coordinate defence and continue support for Ukraine.



## Wes Streeting

*Secretary of State for Health and Social Care*

*Background:*

A committed Starmerite, Streeting was promoted to the Health brief in 2021. First elected in 2015, he was the Chair of the National Union of Students from 2008 to 2010 after which he became the CEO of an educational charity, and Head of Education for Stonewall. He joined Starmer's top team in 2020 after being a vocal critic of Jeremy Corbyn.

*Priorities:*

- Cutting NHS waiting times by using spare capacity in the private sector and recruiting 8500 more mental health staff.
- Resolving NHS strike action, particularly with junior doctors. Similarly, establishing a long-term NHS Workforce plan.
- Establishing a National Care Service and improving capacity in dentistry.m



## Bridget Phillipson

*Secretary of State for Education and Minister of State for Women and Equalities*

*Background:*

An MP since 2010, Phillipson worked for a women's refuge before she joined Parliament. She has sat on various committees whilst on the backbenches and was briefly an Opposition Whip between 2013 and 2015. She was first appointed to Starmer's frontbench as Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury before taking up her current brief in 2021.

*Priorities:*

- Recruiting 6,500 new teachers.
- Universal rollout of free primary school breakfast clubs.
- Building up the UK's nursery infrastructure with 3000 school-based nurseries.



## Ed Miliband

*Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero*

*Background:*

A key figure during the New Labour years, Miliband advised Gordon Brown at the Treasury until his own election in 2005 when he was appointed to the Cabinet. He was elected Labour Leader in 2010, serving until the election loss in 2015 when he returned to the backbenches. He returned to the frontbench in 2021 in his current role.

*Priorities:*

- Establishing GB Energy to invest in the green economy. Doubling onshore wind, tripling solar power, and quadrupling offshore wind.
- Improve energy efficiency of homes.
- Implementing a 'Local Power Plan' to install clean power projects within communities across the UK.



## Jonathan Reynolds

*Secretary of State for Business and Trade, and President of the Board of Trade*

*Background:*

Reynolds trained as a solicitor before becoming involved in Labour politics. He was elected in 2010, when he became the Shadow Minister for Energy and Climate Change under Ed Miliband. Reynolds sat on Corbyn's frontbench as Shadow Economic Secretary to the Treasury, before joining Starmer's top team in 2020.

*Priorities:*

- Immediately addressing the threat of redundancies at Tata Stell.
- Implementing a competition and regulatory framework for business and publishing a business taxation roadmap for the next parliament.
- Replace the business rates system to level the playing field.



## Lisa Nandy

*Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport*

*Background:*

Nandy began her career advising The Children's Society on policy until her election in 2010. She was appointed to the Labour frontbench in 2012 and has been in prominent roles under every leader since. In 2020, Nandy ran to be Labour leader, subsequently receiving progressively smaller roles under Starmer.

*Priorities:*

- Widening access to arts and music for school children and protect time for PE on the curriculum.
- Include the creative sectors in a new Industrial Strategy.
- Continue the Football Governance Bill to bring in an independent regulator for the sport.



## Peter Kyle

*Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology*

*Background:*

After working as a Cabinet Office Special Adviser in 2006, Peter Kyle was the CEO of Working for Youth before his election in 2015. He joined the Labour frontbench in 2020 under Starmer as Shadow Minister for Victims and Youth Justice, serving in several other roles before coming to his current brief in 2023.

*Priorities:*

- Increasing the speed of regulatory approval for new technology and medicines in the NHS.
- Jointly oversee co-investment with the private sector into green technology through GB Energy.



## Shabana Mahmood

*Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice*

*Background:*

Mahmood was called to the bar in 2003 and practised as a barrister until her election in 2010. She was quickly promoted, rising to Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury. She was appointed to Starmer's cabinet in 2021 as National Campaign Coordinator, before coming to her current role in 2023.

*Priorities:*

- Tackling urgent overflow in prisons.
- Fast tracking rape cases through the courts.
- Making more prosecutors available by allowing associate prosecutors to work on appropriate cases.
- Carrying out a sentencing review to modernise the sentencing process.



## Louise Haigh

*Secretary of State for Transport*

*Background:*

Haigh worked for the local council youth service before working in Parliament as the co-ordinator of the APPG on international corporate responsibility. She was also a Unite shop steward, volunteered as a special constable in the Met and worked for Aviva as public policy manager, responsible for corporate governance and investment policy.

*Priorities:*

- Nationalising rail services when their current contracts expire.
- Accelerating Electric Vehicle charging point infrastructure.
- Devolve more transport powers to local leaders.



## Steve Reed

*Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs*

*Background:*

Steve worked in publishing for 18 years and was elected shop steward for his trade union before being elected Leader of Lambeth Council in 2006, where Morgan McSweeney was his chief of staff. In his spare time, he enjoys the outdoors whether it's cycling to keep fit, walking in the countryside, or spending a few days camping.

*Priorities:*

- Giving OFWAT new powers to block the payment of bonuses to executives who pollute waterways and bring criminal charges against persistent law breakers.
- Introducing a land-use framework for farmers.
- Banning trail hunting and the import of hunting trophies.



## Darren Jones

*Chief Secretary to the Treasury*

*Background:*

Jones chaired the Business and Trade Select Committee from 2020 to 2023. Before Parliament he worked in the NHS before being admitted as a solicitor where he was a specialist in technology law, before becoming an in-house counsel with BT, advising on data privacy, cyber-security, telecommunications and consumer law.

*Priorities:*

- Sticking to "tough" spending rules, such as ensuring day-to-day costs are met by revenues.
- Increasing investment from pension funds in the UK markets.



## Liz Kendall

*Shadow Secretary of State for Work and Pensions*

*Background:*

First elected in 2010, Kendall began her career at the Institute for Public Policy research before becoming the political adviser to Harriet Harman in 1996. She stood unsuccessfully for the Labour leadership in 2015 and did not serve under Jeremy Corbyn. Prior to her current position she was the Shadow Minister for Social Care.

*Priorities:*

- Establishing a framework for joint working with skills bodies across the UK.
- Reviewing Universal Credit.
- Implementing Labour's 'New Deal for Working People' with Anglea Rayner.



## Anneliese Dodds

*Minister of State for Development and Minister of State for Women and Equalities*

*Background:*

A former academic and MEP, Dodds joined Parliament in 2017 and was immediately made Shadow Financial Secretary to the Treasury. She was Starmer's first Shadow Chancellor before assuming her current role but was demoted in 2021. She is also the Chair of the Labour Party, responsible for administration of the party.

*Priorities:*

- Race Equality Act, to enshrine in law the full right to equal pay for the BAME community. Similar legislation for disabled people too.
- Ensuring schools address misogyny and teach young people about healthy relationships and consent.
- Reforming outdated gender recognition laws.



## Hilary Benn

*Secretary of State for Northern Ireland*

*Background:*

The son of Labour legend Tony Benn, Hilary Benn is only one of the few prominent frontbenchers to have served in cabinet under Blair and Brown. After being dismissed from Corbyn's cabinet in 2016, Benn chaired the Brexit Select Committee before returning to the frontbench in his current role in 2023.

*Priorities:*

- Implementing the Windsor Framework.
- Taking forward discussions about a Northern Irish Fiscal Framework.
- Repealing and replacing the Legacy Act which currently shuts down historical inquests concerning The Troubles.



## Ian Murray

*Secretary of State for Scotland*

*Background:*

Before being elected to Parliament in 2010, Murray worked in pensions management for the charity Sight Scotland, before moving into events management. He was the only Scottish Labour MP after the 2015 and 2019 elections. A centrist politician, he was highly opposed to Jeremy Corbyn, only returning to the Shadow Cabinet in his current role under Keir Starmer.

*Priorities:*

- Supporting, Anas Sarwar, Leader of Scottish Labour in the runup to the 2026 Holyrood elections.
- Implementing the new Council of Nations and Regions, bringing together devolved powers with central government.
- Supporting GB Energy in Scotland.



## Jo Stevens

*Secretary of State for Wales*

*Background:*

Stevens had a career as a solicitor before her election in 2015. She served as Shadow Solicitor General and Shadow Secretary of State for Wales under Jeremy Corbyn, resigning in order to vote against Article 50 which triggered the official Brexit process. She has also been the Chair of the GMB Parliamentary group.

*Priorities:*

- Revamping the Welsh Fiscal Framework.
- Considering the devolution of Youth Justice to the Welsh Government.
- Devolving employment support funding to the Welsh Government.



## Lord Hermer KC

*Attorney General*

*Background:*

Called to the Bar in 1993, Hermer was Head of Chambers at Matrix at the time of his appointment and generally described as a leading public, international, and human rights lawyer. He was also a Deputy High Court Judge assigned to the King's Bench Division and Administrative Court. An unexpected appointment, he was made a Lord so that he could take up the role.

*Priorities:*

- Ensuring that legal rigour is at the heart of every Government decision.
- Implementing a new expanded fraud strategy, working with technology companies.



## Lucy Powell

*Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House of Commons*

*Background:*

Powell worked at Labour Party HQ in the 1997 election before getting involved in pro-EU pressure groups and the Manchester Innovation Fund. After running Ed Miliband's leadership campaign, she was elected in a 2012 by-election. She has served on every Labour leader's frontbench since, latterly as Culture Secretary before her current role.

*Priorities:*

- Managing the Parliamentary timetable to ensure Labour legislation is passed through.



## Baroness Smith

*Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House of Lords*

*Background:*

Smith began her career as an accountant and PR specialist before being elected as the MP for Basildon in 1997. She served as a minister under Blair and Brown before being appointed to the House of Lords in 2010. She has been Labour's leader in the Lords since 2015 after serving as Shadow Deputy Chief Whip for 3 years beforehand.

*Priorities:*

- Increase Labour peers to match Conservative levels.
- Increase female representation in the Lords.
- Manage reforms such as the mandatory retirement of peers at 80 years old.



## Alan Campbell

*Chief Whip in the House of Commons*

*Background:*

A teacher before his election to Parliament in 1997, Campbell served as Lord Commissioner of the Treasury and Minister for Crime Reduction under Tony Blair and Gordon Brown. He has sat in the Labour whips office since 2010, first as Deputy Chief Whip and now Chief Whip following his promotion in 2021.

*Priorities:*

- Maintaining party discipline across the largest group of Labour MPs since the Blair era.

# *Thank you.*

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