



Japan Local Government Centre, London

Monthly Report for June 2009 (England) – Machinery of government changes

Department for Communities and Local Government

Following the resignation of Hazel Blears and the wider post-local elections reshuffle conducted by Gordon Brown, John Denham was appointed Communities and Local Government Secretary. With the exception of John Healey, who became Minister of State for Housing and Planning, the remainder of the ministerial team are all new to the department.

Denham was previously Secretary of State at the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (since June 2007), the only person to hold this post as the department was discontinued as a result of this reshuffle. Prior to his appointment to Gordon Brown's first cabinet on becoming prime minister in June 2007, Denham was Chairman of the House of Commons Select Committee on Home Affairs (since July 2003). In March 2003, Denham became one of the first ministers to resign from the government over the Iraq war, having previously served as minister of state at the Home Office (since June 2001), minister of state at the Department of Health (1999-2001) and parliamentary under-secretary (1997-1998) and minister of state (1998-1999) at the then Department of Social Security. Prior to entering parliament for Southampton Itchen in 1992, Denham also served as a councillor on Hampshire County Council (1981-1989) and then on Southampton City Council (1989-1993), serving as chair of the housing committee on the latter.

The following appointments were also made at the department following the reshuffle:

Minister of State for Housing and Planning - John Healey MP. Healey remains a minister of state at the department, but is instead now responsible for housing and planning and may now attend cabinet if his responsibilities are on the agenda. Healey was previously Minister of State for Local Government (since June 2007), having served as Financial Secretary to the Treasury (2005-2007), Economic Secretary to the Treasury (2002-2005) and parliamentary under-secretary at the then Department for Education and Skills (2001-2002).

Minister of State for Regional Economic Development and Cooperation - Rosie Winterton MP. This new ministerial post is shared between the department and the new Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, with the status of attending cabinet if her ministerial responsibilities are on the agenda. Winterton was formerly minister of state at the Department for Work and Pensions (2008-2009), minister of

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state at the Department for Transport (2007-2008), minister of state at the Department of Health (2003-2007) and parliamentary under-secretary at the then Lord Chancellor's Department (2001-2003). Prior to entering parliament in 1997, Winterton worked briefly in local government as a political adviser.

Parliamentary under-secretaries include:

Shahid Malik MP (responsible for community cohesion, fire and Thames Gateway) - previously parliamentary under-secretary at the Ministry of Justice (since October 2008) and at the Department for International Development (since June 2007). Formerly chair of the Urban Forum regeneration umbrella organisation and Chief Executive of the Haringey Regeneration Agency.

Ian Austin MP (responsible for housing and planning) - previously assistant government whip (2008-2009), parliamentary private secretary to Gordon Brown (2007-2008) and before entering parliament in 2005 was political adviser to Gordon Brown (since 1999). Formerly a councillor of the Metropolitan Borough of Dudley (1991-1995).

Lord Bill McKenzie (joint post with Department for Work and Pensions) - previously parliamentary under-secretary at the Department for Work and Pensions (since January 2007) and government whip (2005-2007). Lord McKenzie sat as a councillor on Luton Borough Council (1976-1992 and 1999-2005), serving as leader between 1999 and 2003.

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (DBIS) was formed in June 2009 from the merger of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills. Both departments were created following Gordon Brown becoming prime minister in June 2007.

The department is overseen by Lord Peter Mandelson (a former chair of the UK-Japan 21st Century Group), who is also First Secretary of State and Lord President of the Council.

The Minister of State for Regional Economic Development and Coordination also sits in the Department for Communities and Local Government but oversees the Regional Development Agencies as part of her DBIS duties.

National Democratic Renewal Council

As part of the post-local elections reshuffle, the prime minister also announced the creation of a new National Democratic Renewal Council. Holding the status of a cabinet committee, this body will advise the government on future constitutional reform policy, including the role of local government within the constitution.

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