

The New UK Government:

A guide for Crisis Action partners

May 2010

Introduction




The General Election on 6 May 2010 ended 13 years of Labour government. However, no overall party won an outright majority in the House of Commons with the Conservatives gaining 306 seats, Labour 258, the Liberal Democrats 57 and other parties 28. After five days of negotiation a Conservative-Liberal Democrat coalition government was formed; the first in British politics since World War Two. This briefing gives a short overview of the key appointments in the new government made so far likely to be critical for shaping policy on international conflict, security and the protection of civilians in crisis, together with the early pointers we have on these issues from the statements made by the new government. The process of making appointments (including in more backroom, but key, roles like Special Advisors), defining the division of responsibilities within and between departments (and new structures like the National Security Council), and agreeing and setting out the government's new policy agenda in detail is still very much in process. However, we hope this short guide will be a useful initial tool for planning effective joint campaign and advocacy work under the new government.

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crisis action

Who's who in key government departments

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Name, Constituency, Party	Position and Responsibilities	Background
 <p>Rt. Hon William Hague MP, Richmond (Conservative)</p>	<p>Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (and First Secretary of State)</p>	<p>Shadow Foreign Affairs Secretary 2005-10 Former leader of the Conservative Party 1997-01</p>
 <p>David Lidington MP, Aylesbury (Conservative)</p>	<p>Minister of State - with responsibility for the EU, Europe, inc. Balkans, Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova, Russia, South Caucasus, Central Asia, NATO and European Security, OSCE and Council of Europe</p>	<p>Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs from July 2007 Parliamentary Private Secretary to William Hague as Leader of the Opposition 1997-01 Parliamentary Private Secretary to Home Secretary Michael Howard 1994-7 A former special advisor to Douglas Hurd at both the Home and Foreign Office 1989-90</p>
 <p>Jeremy Browne MP, Taunton Dean (Liberal Democrat)</p>	<p>Minister of State - with responsibility for South East Asia/Far East, Caribbean, Central/South America, Australasia and Pacific, Overseas Territories, human rights, consular affairs, public diplomacy and the Olympics.</p>	<p>Liberal Democrat Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury, 2007-10 Home Affairs Spokesperson 2007 Foreign & Commonwealth Office Spokesperson 2006-7 Foreign Affairs Spokesperson 2005-6 Member of the Home Office Select Committee 2005-10</p>

**Lord Howell of Guildford
(Conservative)**



Minister of State - with responsibility for all FCO business in the House of Lords, the Commonwealth, migration, drugs and international crime.

Shadow Spokesperson on Foreign Affairs in the House of Lords 2005
Shadow Deputy Leader of the Lords 2005-10
Secretary of State for Transport 1981-83
Secretary of State for Energy 1979-81

**Alistair Burt MP, North East
Bedfordshire (Conservative)**



Under Secretary of State - with responsibility for Afghanistan and South Asia, Counter Terrorism, Proliferation, North America, Middle East and North Africa, FCO Finance and human resources

Deputy Chair of the Conservative Party 2008-present
Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Leader of the Opposition 2002-5
A patron of Habitat for Humanity and supporter of World Vision

**Henry Bellingham MP, North
West Norfolk (Conservative)**



Under Secretary of State - with responsibility for Africa, the United Nations, global economic issues, climate change, conflict resolution, protocol and ministerial oversight for the FCO Service

Shadow Minister for the Department for Constitutional Affairs 2006-10
Shadow Minister for Trade and Industry 2002-10




Matthew Gould







Principal Private Secretary to William Hague

A career diplomat who has served in Manila, Washington, Islamabad and Tehran
Former speechwriter for Robin Cook 1997-01
Due to become the UK's first Jewish ambassador to Israel in Autumn 2010


Department for International Development (N.B. DFID has not yet confirmed exact ministerial responsibilities.)

Name, Constituency, Party	Position and Responsibilities	Background
<p>Rt. Hon. Andrew Mitchell MP, Sutton Coldfield (Conservative)</p> 	<p>Secretary of State for International Development</p>	<p>Organises the Conservative Party's Rwandan development scheme: Project Umubano 2007-10 Shadow Minister for International Development 2005-10 Shadow Minister for Home Affairs 2004-5 Shadow Minister for Economic Affairs 2003 Vice-Chair of the Conservative Party 1992-3 A UN Peacekeeper in Cyprus during the 1970s</p>
<p>Alan Duncan MP, Rutland and Melton (Conservative)</p> 	<p>Minister of State for International Development</p>	<p>Former Shadow Minister for: Prisons; Business, Enterprise & Regulatory Reform; Trade & Industry; Transport; Constitutional Affairs; Health Shadow International Development Secretary 2004-5 Shadow Foreign Minister with responsibility for the Middle East 2001-3 Parliamentary Political Secretary to William Hague 1997-01 Vice-Chair of the Conservative Party 1997 Has lived in the Middle East, South East Asia and Singapore</p>
<p>Stephen O'Brien MP, Eddisbury (Conservative)</p> 	<p>Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for International Development</p>	<p>Shadow Minister for Health and Social Care 2010 Shadow Minister for Skills and Higher Education 2005 Shadow Secretary of State for Industry 2003-5 Shadow Minister for the Treasury 2001-3</p>
<p>Melanie Speight</p>	<p>Principal Private Secretary</p>	<p>Career civil servant</p>

Ministry of Defence

Name, Constituency, Party	Position and Responsibilities	Background
Rt. Hon. Dr. Liam Fox MP, North Somerset (Conservative) 	Secretary of State for Defence	Shadow Secretary of State for Defence 2005-10 Shadow Foreign Secretary 2005 Co-Chair of the Conservative Party 2003 Shadow Secretary of State for Health 1999-03 Opposition Front Bench Spokesman on Constitutional Affairs 1997-9 Minister at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office 1996-7 Senior Government Whip 1995 Assistant Government Whip 1994 Parliamentary Private Secretary to Michael Howard 1993-4
Nick Harvey MP, North Devon (Liberal Democrat) 	Minister of State for Defence – with responsibility for the Armed Forces	Defence Spokesperson 2006-10 Spokesperson on Culture, Media & Sport 2001-3 Spokesperson on Health 1999-01 Spokesperson on Trade & Industry 1994-97 Spokesperson on Transport 1992-4
Gerald Howarth MP, Aldershot (Conservative) 	Parliamentary Undersecretary of State for Defence	Shadow Defence Minister with responsibility for defence and the Royal Air Force 2002-10 Vice-Chair of the Defence Select Committee 2001-3 Member of the Home Affairs Select Committee 1997-01 Parliamentary Private Secretary to Margaret Thatcher 1991-2 Minister of State for the Department of Environment 1990-1 Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Energy 1987-90
Andrew Robathan MP, South Leicestershire (Conservative) 	Parliamentary Undersecretary of State for Defence	Shadow Minister for Defence 2005 Shadow Minister for Defence (International Affairs) 2004-5 Member of the International Development Committee 2004

Home Office

Name	Position and Responsibility	Background
Baroness Dame Neville-Jones of Hutton Roof in the County of Cumbria (Conservative) 	Minister of State for Security and Counter-Terrorism	Shadow Spokesperson for Security and National Security Adviser, 2007-10 A Conservative member of the House of Lords from 2007 Head the Conservative Party's National and International Security Policy Group 2006 Chair of defence technology company Qinetiq 2002-05 Political Director of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office 1994-6 Chair of the British Joint Intelligence Committee 1993-4 A career diplomatic between 1963-96; served in Zimbabwe, Singapore, Washington, Bonn and the European Commission Negotiated for the British government during the Bosnian war

National Security Council

As promised in the Conservatives pre-election Green Paper on Defence, the Government has created a new National Security Council. It will 'oversee all aspects of Britain's security' and 'coordinate responses to the dangers we face, integrating at the highest level the work of the foreign, defence, home, energy and international development departments, and all other arms of government contributing to national security.'ⁱ It will replace the Ministerial Committee on National Security, International Relations and Development and the Ministerial Civil Contingencies Committee. Described by David Cameron as a 'de facto War Cabinet'ⁱⁱ its inaugural meeting was held on 12 May where the group was briefed on the UK's current security status and reportedly discussed Afghanistan. The Prime Minister will chair and other members include: *Deputy Prime Minister; Chancellor; Foreign Secretary; Home Secretary; Defence Secretary; Secretary of State for International Development; Minister for Security; Minister for the Cabinet Office; Cabinet Secretary; Chief of the Defence Staff; National Security Advisor; Chair of the Joint Intelligence Committee; Director General of the Security Service; C (Head of the Secret Intelligence Service); Director of GCHQ*



Senior FCO official Sir Peter Ricketts will establish and manage the NSC and its various subcommittees. He will also be the Prime Minister's National Security Adviser based in the Cabinet Office. Prior to his appointment he led the Foreign and Commonwealth Office as Permanent Undersecretary. He has served as the UK's Permanent Representative to NATO in Brussels and is the former Chair of the Joint Intelligence Committee.

The Centre: Key players in the Prime Minister's and Deputy Prime Minister's teams

Name	Position and Responsibilities	Background
Steve Hilton	Special Adviser on Strategy	Old friend of David Cameron, since time together at Conservative Research Department Writes David Cameron's important speeches Developed the Corporate Social Responsibility area of Cameron's agenda
Ed Llewellyn	Chief of staff to the PM	Lifelong friend of David Cameron; also attended Eton and Oxford Former diplomat; worked for Paddy Ashdown in Bosnia and Chris Patten in Hong Kong
Kate Fall	Deputy Chief of Staff to the PM	Previously focussed on internal staff politics rather than policy issues
Andy Coulson	Director of Communications (Longer-term communications strategy)	News of the World editor 2002-7 Former Sun journalist
Henry Macrory	Political Press Spokesperson – deputy to Andy Coulson	Former newspaper journalist and political correspondent
Gabby Bertin	Political Press Secretary (David Cameron's spokesperson)	David Cameron staff member when Shadow Education Secretary Former press officer to Liam Fox when Co-Chair of the Party Ex-City trader
James O'Shaughnessy	Special Advisor on Policy – will be leading on the overall policy agenda along with Oliver Letwin MP, Francis Maude MP, Oliver Dowden and Tim Chatwin	Previously at think tank Policy Exchange Former head of Conservative Policy and Research Unit Used to be in public affairs
Steve Field	Official Spokesperson – will make regular lobby briefings to journalists, chief of civil service press officers	A Civil Service appointment Previously headed the Treasury's European economic reform team.
George Bridges	(Role not yet clear)	Returning to politics after consulting Served under John Major
Lena Pietsch	Press Secretary to Nick Clegg (will work with a team of civil service press officers in the Cabinet Office)	Long-term Clegg staffer German born
Norman Lamb MP	Chief Parliamentary and Political Adviser to the Deputy Prime Minister	MP for North Norfolk Former spokesperson on international development and on trade Former Chief of Staff to former Lib Dem leader Sir Menzies Campbell Also Assistant Government whip in House of Commons

Some early commitments and statements

- The initial **coalition agreement** (http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/election_2010/8677933.stm) between the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats included only limited references to international affairs:
 - a section on EU relations (not joining the Euro in this Parliament, a ‘referendum lock’ before adopting future treaties)
 - a commitment ‘to the maintenance of Britain's nuclear deterrent’ with ‘Trident scrutinised to ensure value for money’
 - confirmation of a Strategic Defence and Security Spending Review alongside the general Spending Review (as promised by all three major parties prior to the election)
- More detailed announcements on agreed policy positions in a range of areas are expected soon.
- The new Foreign Secretary described **Afghanistan and Iran** as the Government’s two top foreign policy priorities.ⁱⁱⁱ
- The commitment to reach the target of 0.7% GDP in **development aid** was reiterated in the coalition agreement. Although it remains to be seen whether the target will become law, it is currently protected from budget cuts. How much the budget will come under calls from spending priorities from other departments (such as climate change programmes in developing countries) is yet to be determined.
- On 17 May International Development Secretary Andrew Mitchell announced **an immediate freeze** on five development ‘awareness projects’. ‘I am sending a clear signal’ he said ‘value for money will be our top priority for aid’.
- William Hague met with his US counterpart Secretary of State Hilary Clinton in Washington on 14 May. At a press conference following the meeting he called **Britain’s relationship with the US** ‘indispensable’ having said to the press that he intends the UK to be a ‘solid, but not slavish’ Atlantic partner^{iv}. David Cameron is due to visit Washington in June.
- William Hague has been **invited to Israel** by Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman during a phone conversation to welcome the new British minister to his post on 13 May, though there is no confirmation yet on his response.
- According to Defence Secretary Liam Fox, military spending will be protected from cuts in the current financial year, until the outcome of the **Strategic Defence Review** is known^v. Asked about a potential timetable, Dr. Fox told ITV news on 12 May ‘it will begin today’; an outcome is expected in the first week of November^{vi}.

Key upcoming dates

19 May: Parties informed of Select Committee Chair numbers (based on seats won)

25 May: The Queen's Speech detailing the Government's legislative agenda for the coming year

27 May: Close of nominations for Labour Party leadership

15 June: Ballot to elect Select Committee Chairs

June: David Cameron visits Washington

22 June: Emergency budget

29 June: Nomination of members of Select Committees

End July – mid October: Estimated recess dates (although Conservatives are in favour of shortening the recess)

13 September: TUC Conference

18-22 September: Liberal Democrat Conference (Liverpool)

22 September: Voting opens for Labour Party leader

26 September: Announcement of Labour Party leader

26-30 September: Labour Party Conference (Manchester)

3-6 October: Conservative Party Conference (Birmingham)

Early November: Expected outcome of the Strategic Defence Review

Notes

ⁱ <http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/latest-news/2010/05/establishment-of-a-national-security-council-49953>

ⁱⁱ http://www.conservatives.com/News/Speeches/2010/01/David_Cameron_The_Conservative_approach_to_national_security.aspx

ⁱⁱⁱ [http://www.inthenews.co.uk/news/world/us/hague-and-clinton-hail-the-unbreakable-alliance--\\$21377471.htm](http://www.inthenews.co.uk/news/world/us/hague-and-clinton-hail-the-unbreakable-alliance--$21377471.htm)

^{iv} http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/leading_article/article7125832.ece

^v Interview, The World This Weekend, 16 May http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b00sbbk9/The_World_This_Weekend_16_05_2010/

^{vi} <http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2010/may/12/liam-fox-mod-budget-defence>