

Government reshuffle following Cabinet resignations -

On 6 July, the Prime Minister attempted to secure Cabinet agreement on the UK's future relationship with the EU after Brexit at a crunch meeting held at Chequers, her country retreat. Yet 72 hours later, two key figures had resigned, David Davis, Secretary of State for Exiting the EU and Boris Johnson, Foreign secretary. Both had supported a "hard Brexit", a position characterised by a desire for regulatory divergence from the EU and a departure from existing EU customs arrangements.

These resignations, alongside that of Brexit Minister Steve Baker, resulted in a small Cabinet reshuffle. Jeremy Hunt, who recently became the longest serving Health Secretary, had his loyalty to Theresa May rewarded with a promotion to Foreign Secretary. In January, he had refused to take on the business portfolio, instead remaining in post and securing recognition of his department's policy responsibility for social care. Having since successfully argued for an early funding uplift for the NHS, and on being offered one of the great offices of state, he clearly felt able to move on.

Dominic Raab takes over as Secretary of State for Exiting the EU. The Brexit White Paper – establishing the UK's position on the future relationship with the EU – is expected to be published on Thursday. European negotiators will await this before commenting on the deal secured at Chequers. However, commentators suggest the EU appears relaxed about the changes, having conducted most of the negotiations to date with Olly Robbins, the Prime Minister's EU advisor.

Questions about Theresa May's leadership and ability to deliver Brexit have loomed for some time, and these high-profile departures renewed speculation. For now she remains in post, with the immediate likelihood of a leadership challenge seeming to have passed, especially as Parliament will go into recess in a fortnight. Yet with the Taxation (Cross-Border Trade) Bill due to be debated in the House of Commons next week, the debate about future trade agreements will come to the fore, with the potential to test support for Theresa May's approach.

We will circulate a full update on Brexit developments, including the government white paper and developments in Europe shortly.

This briefing includes:

1. [Biographies of the new secretaries of state for Brexit and health and social care](#)
2. [Department of Health and Social Care ministerial team](#)
3. [A summary of the other changes made in the reshuffle](#)
4. [NHS Providers response to the appointment of Matt Hancock as Health and Social Care Secretary](#)

Biographies of the new health and Brexit ministers

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

Conservative MP for West Suffolk since 2010, re-elected in June 2017 with a majority of 17,063

Portfolio

The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care has overall responsibility for the business and policies of the department, including: financial control; oversight of all NHS delivery and performance; mental health and championing patient safety.

Parliamentary career

- Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, Jan 2018 – July 2018
- Minister of State at the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, 2016-18
- Paymaster General and Minister for the Cabinet Office, 2015-16
- Minister of State at the Department of Energy and Climate Change; Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.
- Joint Minister of State at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Department for Education, 2013-14
- Joint Parliamentary Under-secretary of State at the Department for Education and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, 2012-13
- Member of the Standards and Privileges Committee, 2010-12
- Member of the Public Accounts Committee, 2010-12

Biography

- Matt Hancock backed the Remain campaign in the 2016 referendum and supported Theresa May in the subsequent Conservative Party leadership election.
- Digital technology is a key focus for him and in February he launched his own social media app to connect with his constituents.
- Before becoming an MP, he worked as an advisor for then Shadow Chancellor, George Osborne, later becoming his chief of staff.
- Hancock received First class honours in philosophy, politics and economics at Exeter College, Oxford and an MSc in economics at Christ's College, Cambridge.
- He started work in the family computer software business and later became a Bank of England economist for five years, specialising in the housing market.
- In 2011 he wrote a book on the 2008 financial crash, *Master of Nothing*, with fellow MP Nadim Zahawi.
- Hancock is an amateur jockey and went on an expedition to the North Pole to play a cricket match.

Dominic Raab MP, Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union

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

Portfolio

The Secretary of State is responsible for the work of the Department for Exiting the European Union. Responsibilities include: supporting the UK's negotiations and establishing the future relationship between the EU and the UK; conducting the negotiations; working with devolved administrations, Parliament and other interested parties on the approach to negotiations and; leading and co-ordinating cross-government work.

Parliamentary career

- 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 of the Education Select Committee, 2013-15 and the Human Rights Committee, 2010-13.

Biography

- Dominic Raab backed the Leave campaign in the 2016 referendum, and supported Michael Gove in the subsequent Conservative Party leadership election.
- He read law at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford and completed a Master's degree at Jesus College, Cambridge.
- After university, Raab joined an international city law firm, including spending time working in Brussels advising on European Union and World Trade Organisation law.
- In 2000, he joined the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) as a civil servant, leading a team of lawyers at the International Court of Justice in the Hague.
- He left the FCO in 2006 to become Chief of Staff to the then shadow Home Secretary David Davis and next worked for Davis' successor, Dominic Grieve QC.

Department of Health and Social Care ministerial team

Matt Hancock now oversees the ministerial team put in place in January:

- Stephen Barclay MP, Minister of State for Health
- Caroline Dinenage MP, Minister of State for Care
- Lord O'Shaughnessy, Parliamentary Under-secretary of State (Lords)
- Steve Brine MP, Parliamentary Under-secretary of State for Public Health and Primary Care
- Jackie Doyle-Price MP, Parliamentary Undersecretary of state for Mental Health and Inequalities

For the biographies and portfolios of the team, see NHS Providers' [January 2018 reshuffle briefing](#) and our 2017 [post-election briefing](#):

Other changes made in the reshuffle

- Chris Heaton-Harris has replaced Steve Baker as junior minister in the Department for Exiting the European Union.
- Kit Malthouse has replaced Dominic Raab as Housing Minister.
- Justin Tomlinson has replaced Kit Malthouse as a junior minister in the Department of Work and Pensions.
- Jeremy Wright has replaced Matt Hancock as Culture Secretary.
- Geoffrey Cox QC has been appointed as the Attorney General replacing Jeremy Wright.

A full list of government ministers is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/ministers>

NHS Providers response to the appointment of Matt Hancock

New secretary of state faces tough choices

Matt Hancock arrives at a crucial time for the NHS with the need to develop a ten-year plan and prioritise how new funding is invested.

This will require difficult decisions in balancing the need to recover lost ground after almost a decade of austerity, transforming the way services are delivered – including the digital revolution - and improving care in key areas such as cancer and mental health.

He will also need to address important concerns that fall outside the NHS funding settlement, including social care, public health and workforce development. Without investment in these areas, progress will be curtailed.

It is vital that frontline trusts have a strong voice in shaping and agreeing to all new commitments in the ten-year plan and how they are delivered. As the membership organisation for 100% of NHS acute hospital, mental health, community and ambulance trusts we look forward to playing a central role in those deliberations.

We would also like to acknowledge the contribution made by Jeremy Hunt, our longest serving secretary of state, whose commitment and determination helped to secure the long term funding settlement for the NHS.

Jeremy Hunt was a tireless champion of patient safety and helped to promote a culture of learning and improvement that will benefit the NHS for many years to come. We wish him the best of luck in his new role as foreign secretary.