



The Shadow Cabinet

By the Vuelio Political Team

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Keir Starmer
Leader of the Labour Party



Angela Rayner
Deputy Leader of the Labour Party, Shadow Deputy Prime Minister and Shadow Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities



Rachel Reeves
Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer



Bridget Phillipson
Shadow Secretary of State for Education



Yvette Cooper
Shadow Secretary for the Home Department



Wes Streeting
Shadow Secretary of State for Health and Social Care



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



David Lammy
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Jo Stevens
Shadow Secretary
of State for Wales



Emily Thornberry
Shadow Attorney
General



Lisa Nandy
Shadow Cabinet
Minister for
International
Development



Darren Jones
Shadow Chief
Secretary to the
Treasury



Ellie Reeves
Deputy National
Campaign
Coordinator



Lucy Powell
Shadow Leader of
the House of
Commons



Alan Campbell
Opposition Chief
Whip in the House
of Commons



**Baroness Smith
of Basildon**
Shadow Leader of
the House of Lords



**Lord Kennedy of
Southwark**
Opposition Chief
Whip in the House
of Lords

Introduction

Labour has been in opposition for thirteen years, and in the last general election they won just 202 seats, its lowest number and proportion since 1935. Keir Starmer won the party leadership contest in April 2020 and [vowed](#) to lead Labour 'into a new era with confidence and hope'. With an election due, [polls](#) currently put Labour around 20 points ahead of the Conservative Party. Moreover, swings to the Labour Party of around 20% have now happened in quick succession in by-elections in Selby and Ainsty (23.7%), Tamworth (23.9%) and Mid Bedfordshire (20.5%) which seem to suggest that opinion polls are about right. Similarly, earlier in October 2023, Labour retook Rutherglen and Hamilton West from the SNP; at 20 points, with a swing nearly double than what was expected from opinion polls. Labour leader Keir Starmer acknowledged it was still a 'big task' to win the election, but [said](#) the by-election results had given him a 'renewed spring' in his step.

The Labour Party has been gradually setting out its plans, however, it has received criticism over the lack of detail. Decisions to ditch a string of policies in recent years, with the latest being the £28bn green pledge, have also sparked significant controversy. Keen to project an image of financial sensibility, the Labour leader and Shadow Chancellor have continuously pointed to the uncertain economic situation the party will inherit. Labour have set a deadline of early February for manifesto policies to be consolidated, and will now be going through 'bombproofing tests' to ensure viability.

Nevertheless, ahead of the 2023 conference, Labour delegates were asked to sign off the most recent [statement](#) of Labour's current policy stances, which will inform how the party's next general election manifesto will be written. Moreover, Keir Starmer's 2023 Conference speech made reference to the five [missions](#) which he has pledged will be priorities for a Labour government:

1. **Secure the highest sustained growth in the G7**, with good jobs and productivity growth in every part of the country making everyone, not just a few, better off.
2. **Make Britain a clean energy superpower** to create jobs, cut bills and boost energy security with zero-carbon electricity by 2030, accelerating to net zero.
3. **Build an NHS fit for the future** by reforming health and care services to speed up treatment, harnessing life sciences and technology to reduce preventable illness, and cutting health inequalities.
4. **Make Britain's streets safe** by reforming the police and justice system, to prevent crime, tackle violence against women, and stop criminals getting away without punishment.
5. **Break down the barriers to opportunity at every stage**, by reforming the childcare and education systems, and preparing young people for work and life.

In September 2023, Keir Starmer reshuffled his shadow cabinet for the third time [saying](#) he was putting his 'strongest possible players on the pitch' ahead of the election. Since the reshuffle, Keir Starmer and his new shadow ministerial team have been setting out more detailed plans in both speeches and various policy documents.

The Vuelio Political Team has put together profiles of each shadow cabinet member including their most recent activity.



Keir Starmer, Leader of the Opposition & Leader of the Labour Party

MP for Holborn and St Pancras

Majority: 27,763

Website: <https://keirstarmer.com/>

Twitter: https://twitter.com/Keir_Starmer

Shadows: Rishi Sunak, Prime Minister and Leader of the Conservative Party

Profile

- Starmer studied law at Leeds University and Oxford University, qualifying as a lawyer in 1987. He practised predominantly in criminal defence, specialising in human rights.
- He served as a human rights adviser to the Northern Ireland Policing Board and the Association of Chief Police Officers and was a member of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's death penalty advisory panel.
- He became Director of Public Prosecutions in 2008 and later received a knighthood for services to criminal justice.
- His parents were Labour Party supporters and named him after the party's first parliamentary leader Keir Hardie.
- In the 2015 Labour leadership race he supported Andy Burnham.
- Starmer stepped down from his role as Minister for Immigration in the widespread 2016 resignations in protest at Jeremy Corbyn's leadership. He however rejoined the Shadow Cabinet in October 2016.
- Starmer suspended former Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn over his response to the Equality and Human Rights Commission's report into antisemitism in the party. He also sacked his former leadership rival, Rebecca Long-Bailey, from the Shadow Cabinet following accusations of antisemitism.

Previous Appointments

- Shadow Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union (October 2016 - April 2020)
- Shadow Minister for Immigration (September 2015 - June 2016)

Recent Activity

- In a major u-turn Starmer [announced](#) that his party would no longer commit to spending £28bn a year on its green investment plan.
- In January he delivered a speech at Labour's Business Conference where he revealed the party's '[Business Partnership for Growth](#)'.
- Launching the [Child Health Action Plan](#), he has committed to making this generation the healthiest generation of children ever in Britain.

- He has [called](#) for a coordinated Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) fund appeal with matched government funding to provide humanitarian emergency aid in Gaza, and to create a longer-term fund for the reconstruction of Gaza.
- In February 2023 he set out five '[national missions](#)' which would be the basis for Labour's manifesto for the next general election.
- Starmer [suffered](#) his biggest defeat as leader when 56 of his MPs (including ten frontbenchers) defied a three-line whip by voting for an SNP motion to support an immediate ceasefire in Gaza.
- Starmer attended COP28. He received some [criticism](#) for flying in a private jet funded by Qatar.



Angela Rayner, Deputy Leader of the Labour Party, Shadow Deputy Prime Minister and Shadow Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

MP for Ashton-under-Lyne

Majority: 4,263

Website: <https://www.angelarayner.co.uk/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/AngelaRayner>

Shadows: Michael Gove, Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

Profile

- Born in Stockport in 1980, Rayner was brought up on a council estate. She left school at 16 with no qualifications and pregnant with her first son.
- As a child, she had to look after her mother who had bipolar disorder.
- After some time spent at her local further education college studying British sign language and social care, Rayner worked as a care worker for Stockport Council and became a union representative with UNISON. She eventually became the senior elected official of UNISON in the North West of England.
- Rayner was first elected to Parliament in 2015 and was soon after promoted to the Shadow Whip's Office by Jeremy Corbyn.
- She nominated Andy Burnham in the 2015 Labour leadership race, but backed the incumbent Jeremy Corbyn in the 2016 leadership race (she was only one of 18 MPs to do so), which was called following widespread criticism of Corbyn's approach to the 2016 EU referendum.
- She has held the position of Shadow Pensions Minister, as well as the Education and Women and Equalities briefs in the Shadow Cabinet. She has also held the roles of Shadow Secretary of State for the Future of Work and Shadow Minister for the Cabinet Office.
- In the 2020 leadership election she supported her flatmate Rebecca Long-Bailey who came second to Keir Starmer.
- In 2020 she was elected as Deputy Leader of the Labour Party, replacing Tom Watson.
- Rayner was sacked as Party Chair following poor results in the English local elections in 2021, but was promoted to Shadow Minister for the Cabinet Office and Shadow Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

Previous Appointments

- Labour Party Chair (April 2020 - May 2021)
- Shadow Minister for the Cabinet Office and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (May 2021 - September 2023)

- Shadow Secretary of State for the Future of Work (May 2021 - September 2023)
- National campaign coordinator (April 2020 - May 2021)
- Shadow Minister for Women and Equalities (June 2016 - October 2016)
- Shadow Secretary of State for Education (June 2016 - April 2020)
- Shadow Minister for Work and Pensions (January 2016 - June 2016)
- Opposition Whip (September 2015 - January 2016)

Recent Activity

- Rayner [said](#) new towns are 'absolutely key' to Labour's housebuilding ambitions.
- As a priority, she has [committed](#) to helping struggling councils, and said she would stop forcing councils to bid against each other for money.
- Rayner [said](#) the next Labour Government will deliver the biggest boost to affordable housing for a generation – with social and council housing at the heart of Labour's secure homes plan.
- At the 2021 Labour Party Conference she launched Labour's [New Deal for Working People](#), drawn up in partnership with Labour's affiliated unions.
- During her time as Shadow Secretary for the Future of Work, Rayner [promised](#) an employment rights bill in the first 100 days of office should Labour win the next general election. The proposals include ending fire and rehire and banning zero-hours contracts.
- She was in the news for calling the Conservatives 'scum' at a Labour Party Conference reception in 2021. She initially refused to apologise but later said she would not use the same language again, having [reflected](#) on the 'threats and abuse' that often feature in politics.
- Recently, in response to Michael Gove's admission that he is banned from capital spending by the Treasury (during a recent Lords Select Committee hearing), Rayner [tweeted](#) 'Michael Gove is a Secretary of State for Levelling Up who doesn't even have the authority to sign off on a park bench.'



Rachel Reeves, Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer

MP for Leeds West

Majority: 10,564

Website: <https://www.rachelreevesmp.co.uk/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/RachelReevesMP>

Shadows: Jeremy Hunt, Chancellor of the Exchequer

Profile

- Reeves was born in Lewisham. She grew up with her younger sister Ellie Reeves, who is the MP for Lewisham West and Penge.
- Reeves was the Parliamentary candidate twice for Bromley and Chislehurst
- Prior to becoming an MP, Reeves worked as an economist at the Bank of England, the British Embassy in Washington and at Halifax Bank of Scotland.
- Reeves began work in 2006 for HBOS retail division in Leeds, before going to New Mexico in the US in October 2008 with her younger sister to help on Barack Obama's presidential campaign.
- Reeves was ranked number one in the New Statesman's Left Power List 2023, which described her as 'the most influential person on the British left today'.
- In 2023, Reeves' book '*The Women Who Made Modern Economics*' was published.
- She is married to Nicholas Joicey, with whom she has two children. Joicey is Group Chief Operating Officer and Second Permanent Secretary at Defra. He was once a speechwriter for Gordon Brown during his time as the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Previous Appointments

- Shadow Minister for the Cabinet Office and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (April 2020 - May 2021)
- Chair, Business and Trade Committee (July 2017 - April 2020)
- Shadow Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (October 2013 - September 2015)
- Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury (October 2011 - October 2013)
- Shadow Minister (Work and Pensions) (October 2010 - October 2011)

Recent Activity

- Reeves [addressed](#) the Labour Business Conference and vowed to cap corporation tax rates at 25% for the first term of a Labour government, and pledged a 'roadmap for business taxation' within six months of taking office.
- Reeves [released](#) Labour's plan for financial services, which promised to cut down 10,000 pages of regulations and ruled out a windfall tax on bank profits.

- She wrote an [article](#) in *The Telegraph* on her message to business leaders in Davos.
- In Rachel Reeves' [response](#) to the Autumn Statement, she argued that the national insurance headline rate cut was unlikely to be impactful and criticised the lack of any reductions in inheritance tax. She said Labour would encourage investment into British start-up firms and scale-up firms and introduce measures to ensure the consolidation of pension funds.
- In Rachel Reeves' [speech](#) at the Labour conference, she claimed she would be the 'iron' chancellor who would help rebuild Britain.
- Rachel Reeves [coined](#) the term 'securonomics' in a public address at the Peterson Institute for International Economics.
- Although previously pitching herself as the 'first green Chancellor,' Reeves was [seen](#) as critical in Labour's U-turn on their £28bn green spending commitments.
- Reeves was recently [criticised](#) for renegeing on Labour's commitment to limit banker's bonuses. This was just three months after she [tweeted](#) in opposition to this.



Bridget Phillipson, Shadow Secretary of State for Education

MP for Houghton and Sunderland South

Majority: 3,115

Website: <http://www.bridgetphillipson.com/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/bphillipsonMP>

Shadows: Gillian Keegan, Secretary of State for Education

Profile

- Phillipson was born and raised in Washington, attending local schools and joining the Labour Party aged 15.
- Phillipson studied Modern History at Oxford University and was also the Co-Chair of the University Labour Club.
- Before becoming an MP, Phillipson managed Wearside Women in Need, a refuge for women and children fleeing domestic violence
- Since her election in 2010, Phillipson has sat on a number of Parliamentary select committees, including the high-profile Public Accounts Committee.

Previous Appointments

- Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury (April 2020 - November 2021)
- Opposition Whip (October 2013 - September 2015)

Recent Activity

- In January 2024, Bridget Phillipson [addressed](#) the Labour and Civil Society Summit. In this speech, Phillipson argued that a key part of Labour's mission is ensuring that everyone has a chance in life and partnership between Government and Civil Society is essential to this.
- Earlier in January, Phillipson gave a keynote [speech](#) at the Centre for Social Justice. Her speech reiterated previous criticism of the Conservative's record on education while also defending the previous Labour Government's education measures. She then detailed Labour's response to the attendance crisis which involves the introduction of breakfast clubs; implement a home schooling register; additional school and language support in schools; introduce annual attendance, safeguarding and off rolling checks; and greater linkage across services.
- Moreover, on 22 January 2024, Phillipson proposed an [urgent question](#) in the House of Commons to the Government on their plans to support the rollout of funded childcare.



Yvette Cooper, Shadow Secretary for the Home Department

MP for Normanton, Pontefract and Castleford

Majority: 1,276

Website: <http://www.yvettecooper.com/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/YvetteCooperMP>

Shadows: James Cleverly, Secretary of State for the Home Department

Profile

- Cooper studied Philosophy, Politics and Economics at Oxford University and got a Masters in Economics from the London School of Economics.
- While studying at Yale, Cooper voluntarily worked on Bill Clinton's 1992 campaign.
- Her father previously served as the Joint General Secretary of the trade union Prospect.
- She was an economics correspondent at the *Independent* before she became an MP.
- Cooper backed Keir Starmer in the 2019 leadership election.
- Throughout her time Cooper has been a notable opponent of Brexit and tabled a Private Members Bill in 2019 which proposed making a no deal Brexit illegal.
- Cooper is married to former Shadow Chancellor Ed Balls.

Previous Appointments

- Chair of the Home Affairs Select Committee (July 2017 - November 2019)
- Shadow Home Secretary (January 2011 - September 2015)
- Shadow Minister (Equalities Office) (Women and Equalities) (January 2011 - October 2013)
- Shadow Foreign Secretary and Minister for Women and Equalities (October 2010 - January 2011)
- Shadow Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (May 2010 - October 2010)
- Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (June 2009 - May 2010)
- Chief Secretary to the Treasury (January 2008 - June 2009)
- Minister of State (Department of Communities and Local Government) (Housing) (June 2007 - January 2008)
- Minister of State (Department of Communities and Local Government) (Housing and Planning) (May 2006 - June 2007)
- Minister of State (Office of the Deputy Prime Minister) (Housing and Planning) (May 2005 - May 2006)
- Parliamentary Under-Secretary (Office of the Deputy Prime Minister) (Regeneration and Regional Development) (June 2003 - May 2005)
- Parliamentary Secretary (Lord Chancellor's Department) (May 2002 - June 2003)

- Parliamentary Under-Secretary (Department of Health) (October 1999 - May 2002)

Recent Activity

- Cooper has recently been an [advocate for](#) women's safety focusing on policies such as placing rape investigation units in police stations and domestic abuse experts in every 999 call centre.
- Along with other members from the party, Cooper [tabled a vote](#) calling for the release of documents in relation to the cost of the Government's Rwanda plan and administration of the asylum system.
- Cooper has [focused her attention](#) on smaller crimes such as shoplifting, stating that she would bring in Respect Orders to ban repeat offenders.
- Cooper recently [signed](#) the Holocaust Educational Trust Book of Commitment.
- Along with Keir Starmer, Cooper [travelled](#) to Milton Keynes to meet with police and young people to set out Labour's action plan to halve knife crime.



Wes Streeting, Shadow Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

MP for Ilford North

Majority: 5,218

Website: <https://www.wesstreeting.org/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/wesstreeting>

Shadows: Victoria Atkins, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

Profile

- Wes Streeting became active in politics during his time at university, moving his way up through the National Union of Students to become President in 2008. As President, he supported the introduction of university tuition fees.
- In 2010, he was elected as a local councillor in Redbridge, becoming Deputy Leader of the Council in 2014.
- Streeting's partner Joseph Dancey, who works in public affairs and communications professionals, was selected in 2023 as the Labour party's prospective parliamentary candidate for Stockton West.

Previous Appointments

- Shadow Secretary of State for Child Poverty (May 2021 - November 2021)
- Shadow Minister for Schools (October 2020 - May 2021)
- Shadow Exchequer to the Treasury (April 2020 - October 2020)

Recent Activity

- Alongside Shadow Science Secretary Peter Kyle, he [launched](#) Labour's plan for life sciences, which aims to provide more certainty for the sector by setting 10-year budgets for R&D institutions.
- He has cautioned against 'nostalgia' for the NHS, and proposed making better use of technology to improve productivity within the health system. He has [said](#) the NHS must 'reform or die', and that he would 'hold the door wide open' for private sector investment.
- Streeting [addressed](#) NHS leaders at the NHS Providers conference, where he criticised the Government's lack of action on strikes, and stressed Labour's plan for workforce expansion. He also pledged to be 'shop steward for patients', and focus on a preventative approach to reduce pressure on hospital admissions.
- During his [speech](#) to the Labour party conference, he stressed the importance of NHS reform and outlined Labour's plan to cut waiting lists. The plan centred around paying

staff to work over time to clear the backlogs, doubling the number of scanners, and recruiting more NHS dentists in areas of need.



Ed Miliband, Shadow Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero

MP for Doncaster North

Majority: 2,370

Website: <https://www.edmiliband.org.uk/>

Twitter: https://twitter.com/ed_miliband

Shadows: Claire Coutinho, Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero

Profile

- Ed Miliband comes from a notable political family, with his father Ralph an established marxist author and his brother David the Foreign Secretary between 2007 and 2010.
- Before becoming an MP, Miliband was a Special Adviser to Gordon Brown in the Treasury, and also served a year as visiting scholar to Harvard University.
- Miliband is one of the few Labour frontbenchers with experience in cabinet. Significantly in 2008 he introduced the Climate Change Act.
- Miliband was leader of the Labour Party from 2010 until 2015. In this time he notably defeated the Government on bombing Syria. He resigned as leader following the loss of the 2015 General Election.
- During a return to the backbenches during Jeremy Corbyn's leadership, Miliband served as the Commissioner for Shelter's Social Housing Commission, publishing a report in 2019 calling for a historic renewal of social housing.

Previous Appointments

- Shadow Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (April 2020 - November 2021)
- Leader of the Labour Party and Leader of the Official Opposition (September 2010 - May 2015)
- Shadow Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (May 2010 - September 2010)
- Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (October 2008 - May 2010)
- Minister for the Cabinet Office and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (June 2007 - October 2008)
- Parliamentary Secretary (Cabinet Office) (May 2006 - June 2007)

Recent Activity

- Miliband was seen as very [committed](#) to Labour's £28bn green energy spending plan, defending it in a speech to the Centre for Progressive Policy conference. However, in an alleged show of unity, Miliband and Shadow Chancellor Rachel Reeves [announced](#) to Labour MPs together that the figure was being reduced.
- Following this decision, Miliband [insisted](#) that he never considered resigning over the matter.
- Miliband attended COP28, saying that its final agreement was 'an important moment for the world.' He [reflected](#) on the conference at a keynote speech to the KCL Policy Institute.
- Miliband [announced](#) that Labour would implement an Energy Independence Act at Labour Conference 2023.
- In July, Miliband [spoke](#) to the Institute for Government's Net Zero Conference. He emphasised the opportunity of net zero as a way to reduce consumers' energy bills and reduce reliance on foreign powers.



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

MP for Tottenham

Majority: 30,175

Website: <https://www.davidlammy.co.uk>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/DavidLammy>

Shadows: Lord Cameron, Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs

Profile

- Lammy was called to the Bar of England and Wales in 1994, practised as a barrister in England and the United States and became the first black Briton to study a Masters in Law at Harvard Law School, graduating in 1997.
- Lammy left the shadow Cabinet in October 2010 and was not included in either Ed Miliband or Jeremy Corbyn's front bench teams.
- In 2016 Lammy led the Lammy review into the treatment of, and outcomes for, Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic individuals in the criminal justice system. Lammy was also appointed to the Government's Serious Violence Taskforce in April 2018.

Previous Appointments

- Shadow Lord Chancellor and Shadow Secretary of State for Justice (April 2020 - November 2021)
- Shadow Minister for Higher Education and Intellectual Property (May 2010 - October 2010)
- Minister of State for Higher Education and Intellectual Property (October 2008 - May 2010)
- Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Skills (June 2007 - October 2008)
- Minister of State for Culture (May 2005 - June 2007)
- Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs (June 2003 - May 2010)
- Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health (May 2002 - June 2003)

Recent Activity

- Lammy has [visited](#) the Middle East four times since the Israel-Hamas war began in October 2023. In this time he has met the Israeli President, Jordanian Foreign Minister and Egyptian Foreign Minister.
- At Labour Conference Lammy [announced](#) a new whistle-blower scheme to 'reward those who expose stolen assets and sanctions breaches.'
- At a January speech to the Fabian Conference, Lammy [committed](#) to visiting Ukraine within the first 100 days if he became Foreign Secretary, reiterated Labour's support of a

Palestinian State and announced that a Labour government would start talks on the creation of a new international contact group to coordinate with Western and Arab partners over Middle East peace.

- Lammy [gave](#) a speech to Chatham House in January. Here he argued that it was key with foreign policy that the Government takes back control, prioritises pragmatism over ideology and makes decisions based on what is best for the many, not for the few.



Pat McFadden, Shadow Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and National Campaign Coordinator

MP for Wolverhampton South East

Majority: 1,235

Website: <http://www.patmcfadden.com/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/patmcfaddenmp>

Shadows: Oliver Dowden, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

Profile

- Prior to being elected, McFadden worked as a researcher for Donald Dewar MP, a speechwriter for John Smith MP and an adviser to Tony Blair, both in opposition and later in 10. Downing St.
- In 2005 he was elected as MP for Wolverhampton South East, pledging in his speech to fight for education and opportunity for all regardless of their background.
- He was appointed Labour Party's National Campaign Coordinator in September 2023.
- McFadden was sacked from Jeremy Corbyn's shadow cabinet in January 2016 for undermining the former Labour leader.
- He is a member of the Transport and General Workers Union (TGWU).

Previous Appointments

- Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury (November 2021 - September 2023)
- Shadow Economic Secretary (Treasury) (April 2020 - November 2021)
- Shadow Minister (Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) (October 2014 - January 2016)
- Shadow Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (May 2010 - October 2010)
- Minister of State (Department for Business, Innovation and Skills) (June 2009 - May 2010)
- Minister of State (Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform) (Employment Relations and Postal Affairs) (July 2007 - June 2009)
- Parliamentary Secretary (Cabinet Office) (May 2006 - June 2007)

Recent Activity

- Pat McFadden [participated](#) in an Onward event titled 'The Election is Coming' in 2023, which explored the political polling on British voters and issues that will determine which party will form the next government.

- He [led](#) the Urgent Campaign Briefing prior to the Tamworth by-elections in 2023.



Nick Thomas-Symonds, Shadow Minister without Portfolio

MP for Torfaen

Current position: Shadow Minister without Portfolio

Majority: 3,742

Website: <https://www.nickthomassymonds.uk/about/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/nicktorfaenmp>

Shadows: Esther McVey, Minister without Portfolio

Profile

- He started work as a Lecturer in Politics at his old college at the age of 21, specialising in British politics.
- He is currently a governor at St. Alban's R.C. Comprehensive School, Pontypool, his old school.
- He was a barrister at Civitas Law and has written biographies of Clement Attlee and Aneurin Bevan.

Previous Appointments

- Shadow Secretary of State for International Trade (November 2021 - September 2023)
- Shadow Home Secretary (April 2020 - November 2021)
- Shadow Minister (Home Office) (Security) (July 2017 - April 2020)
- Shadow Solicitor General (October 2016 - April 2020)
- Shadow Minister (Work and Pensions) (September 2015 - June 2016)

Recent Activity

- He recently gave a keynote [speech](#) at the IFG annual conference event on next steps for the civil service (including the launch of Whitehall Monitor 2024). He said the number of special advisors has increased rapidly and how they interact with the Civil Service and Ministers is important in organising the Government.
- He [visited](#) the Alzheimer's Society at the Labour Party Conference and pledged to make dementia a priority.
- He made a keynote [speech](#) at the Trade Unlocked event which addressed the challenges of the current trading environment.



Jonathan Ashworth, Shadow Paymaster General

MP for Leicester South

Majority: 22,675

Website: <http://www.jonashworth.org/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/JonAshworth>

Shadows: John Glen, Paymaster General

Profile

- He began working for the Labour Party as a Political Research Officer in 2001, and was the Economics and Welfare Policy Officer from 2002 to 2004.
- When Gordon Brown became Prime Minister in June 2007, Ashworth was appointed deputy Political Secretary with the role of linking the Government to the trade unions.
- He was the only one of his family to go to University. He studied politics and philosophy at Durham.
- In 2000 he served as National Secretary of Labour Students.

Previous Appointments

- Shadow Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (November 2021 - September 2023)
- Shadow Secretary of State for Health and Social Care (January 2013 - November 2021)
- Shadow Secretary of State for Health (October 2016 - January 2018)
- Shadow Minister without Portfolio (Cabinet Office) (September 2015 - October 2016)
- Shadow Minister (Cabinet Office) (October 2013 - September 2015)
- Opposition Whip (Commons) (October 2011 - October 2013)

Recent Activity

- He participated in UK-India week 2023 and made a keynote [speech](#), where he spoke about how key figures from the Labour Party would work together with the private sector to unravel cutting-edge technologies, including AI, to revolutionise the way government functions deliver outcomes.
- He also delivered a keynote [speech](#) to the Social Market Foundation on how a Labour government would transform the Department for Work and Pensions. He spoke about his aim to ensure AI works for working class people and helps people get back into work.
- He made a keynote [speech](#) at the Centre for Social Justice in January 2023 setting out Labour's plans for jobs and welfare. He outlined that a Labour Government will; modernise job centres, shift resources and guarantee local innovation, and transform social security.



Shabana Mahmood, Shadow Secretary of State for Justice

MP for Birmingham, Ladywood

Majority: 28,582

Website: <https://www.shabanamahmood.org/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ShabanaMahmood>

Shadows: Alex Chalk, Secretary of State for Justice

Profile

- Mahmood has a Kashmiri family background and lived for a period of her childhood in Taif, Saudi Arabia.
- She studied at the University of Oxford, graduating in Law. She went on to work as a barrister.
- Mahmood jointly became Britain's first female Muslim MP when elected in 2010 alongside Yasmin Qureshi, and Rushanara Ali.
- Birmingham Ladywood is among the ten safest seats in the UK, having been held by the party consistently since WW2.

Previous Appointments

- National Campaign Coordinator (May 2021 - September 2023)
- Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury (May 2015 - September 2015)
- Shadow Minister (Treasury) (October 2013 - May 2015)
- Shadow Minister (Business, Innovation and Skills) (October 2011 - October 2013)
- Shadow Minister (Home Affairs) (October 2010 - October 2011)

Recent Activity

- Mahmood recently made [comments on](#) the so-called crisis in the probation service after reports were [released](#) stating that killers and sex offenders in the probation service have been going unmonitored. She said this is a 'service in chaos'.
- She also [commented](#) on the record high crown court backlog, writing that this is mismanagement caused by 13 years of Conservatives.



Jonathan Reynolds, Shadow Secretary of State for Business and Trade

MP for Stalybridge and Hyde

Majority: 2,946

Website: <https://www.jonathanreynolds.org.uk/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/jreynoldsMP>

Shadows: Kemi Badenoch, Secretary of State for Business and Trade

Profile

- Before entering Parliament, Reynolds gained extensive political experience firstly in student politics, then as an assistant to Labour Councillors on Stockport Council and a member of the National Executive of the Labour Party.
- In 2007, Reynolds was elected to Tameside Council. He later went on to work as a Parliamentary Assistant to former MP for Stalybridge and Hyde James Purnell, a role that positioned Reynolds well when Purnell stood down and the Labour candidacy opened.
- Reynolds has four children and is married.
- He is a Sunderland FC supporter and is said to enjoy walking his dogs, watching TV and growing fruit and vegetables.
- He is also a member of Unite the Union.

Previous Appointments

- Shadow Secretary of State for Business and Industrial Strategy (November 2021 - September 2023)
- Shadow Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (April 2020 - November 2021)
- Shadow Economic Secretary to the Treasury (October 2016 - April 2020)
- Shadow Minister for Transport (September 2015 - January 2016)
- Shadow Minister (Energy and Climate Change) (October 2013 - May 2015)
- Opposition Assistant Whip (October 2010 - October 2011)

Recent Activity

- Reynolds [launched](#) Labour's long-term industrial strategy, which has four missions: delivering clean power by 2030, harnessing data for the public good, caring for the future, and building a more resilient economy.
- Reynolds [unveiled](#) Labour's plan for small businesses and in a recent [speech](#) announced that Labour will publish a Trade Strategy.
- Reynolds' speech to the CBI can be found [here](#). He made a clear commitment that Labour would introduce an industrial strategy, which they'd put on a statutory footing.

He also acknowledged the need to support increased business investment, and promised to provide greater flexibility on the apprenticeship levy and planning reform

- In 2024, Jonathan Reynolds commissioned an independent report '[A New Partnership](#)' to establish a new model of business and government relations and seek to describe how this new approach might come about.



Liz Kendall, Shadow Secretary of State for Work and Pensions

MP for Leicester West

Majority: 4,212

Website: <https://lizkendall.org/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/leicesterliz>

Shadows: Mel Stride, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions

Profile

- Before entering Parliament, Liz Kendall worked for the Institute for Public Policy, and then as a special adviser to Harriet Harman, until Harman left government in 1998.
- She also worked for Health Secretary Patricia Hewitt from 2001 to 2006 and was involved in introducing the smoking ban.
- She was the Director of the Ambulances Services Network from 2007 to 2010.
- She was unsuccessful in her attempt to be selected as the prospective parliamentary candidate for Chesterfield in 2001. She was eventually elected MP for Leicester West in 2010.
- She ran for the party leadership in 2015. While she was originally considered a frontrunner, she finished 4th.

Previous Appointments

- Shadow Minister for Social Care (April 2020 - September 2023)
- Shadow Minister for Care and Older People (October 2011 - September 2015)
- Shadow Health Minister (October 2010 - October 2011)

Recent Activity

- In her first interview since being appointed Shadow Secretary of State she [told](#) *The Guardian* that health and work should be treated as 'two sides of the same coin'. On the two-child benefit cap, she said Labour opposed the cap, but did not commit to scrapping, as Labour needed to show how they would pay for it.
- During the same interview, she also pledged to introduce a national child poverty strategy which would work across government departments, and suggested Labour would look again at a four day week.
- During her speech to the Labour Party annual conference, she [said](#) Labour would ensure that 'everybody who can work, does'. She pledged they would tackle the root causes of economic inactivity by recruiting more mental health staff, and transforming employment support.



John Healey, Shadow Secretary of State for Defence

MP for Wentworth and Dearne

Majority: 2,165

Website: <https://www.johnhealeymp.co.uk/>

Twitter: https://twitter.com/JohnHealey_MP

Shadows: Grant Shapps, Secretary of State for Defence

Profile

- Healey was elected MP for Wentworth in 1997. Following boundary changes in 2010 he was elected as the MP for Wentworth and Dearne.
- He previously worked in the voluntary sector with the Royal National Institute for the Deaf, the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation and MIND campaigning to improve rights and services for disabled people.
- Healey also worked in communications for Issue Communications, a PR company, and the MSF Union.
- Healey was previously Campaigns Director for the TUC.
- Moreover he has been a part time tutor at the Open University's Business School.
- Healey supported Keir Starmer in the 2020 Labour leadership election.

Previous Appointments

- Shadow Secretary of State for Housing (January 2018 - April 2020)
- Shadow Secretary of State for Housing (October 2016 - January 2018)
- Shadow Minister (Communities and Local Government) (Housing and Planning) (September 2015 - June 2016)
- Shadow Secretary of State for Health (October 2010 - October 2011)
- Shadow Minister (Housing) (May 2010 - October 2010)
- Minister of State (Department for Communities and Local Government) (Housing) (June 2009 - May 2010)
- Minister of State (Department of Communities and Local Government) (Local Government) (June 2007 - June 2009)
- Financial Secretary (HM Treasury) (May 2005 - Jun 2007)
- Economic Secretary (HM Treasury) (May 2002 - May 2005)
- Parliamentary Under-Secretary (Department for Education and Skills) (Jun 2001-May 2002)

Recent Activity

- He recently [called for](#) the Government to end its 'bad deal for steel'.

- [Wrote a letter](#) to the Transport Secretary to ask why Rotherham is still waiting for HS2 blight restrictions to be lifted.
- After both the UK and US launched strikes on the Houthi rebels, Healey spoke about his concern over lack of resources available for the armed forces, [stating](#) that the Royal Navy is underfunded and 'hollowed out'. He also said that this underfunding and lack of resources is why we must 'act alongside allies' to make us stronger.



Louise Haigh, Shadow Secretary of State for Transport

MP for Sheffield, Heeley

Majority: 8,520

Website: <https://www.louisehaigh.org.uk/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/LouHaigh>

Shadows: Mark Harper, Secretary of State for Transport

Profile

- Haigh grew up in Sheffield, and was educated at Sheffield High School, a private girls' school.
- Haigh's grandfather and uncle were both trade union officials, and Haigh herself briefly worked as a shop steward for Unite the Union.
- After graduating in 2006 with a bachelor's degree in Politics from the University of Nottingham, Haigh worked for the local council youth service. Just before becoming a Member of Parliament, Haigh was working for Aviva as public policy manager.
- When she was elected as MP for Sheffield, Heeley in the 2015 election, Haigh became the youngest incumbent MP at the time, aged 28.
- Haigh currently lives with her partner Liam in Norfolk Park.

Previous Appointments

- Shadow Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (April 2020 - November 2021)
- Shadow Minister for Policing (Home Office) (July 2017 - April 2020)
- Shadow Minister for Digital Economy (Culture, Media and Sport) (October 2016 - July 2017)
- Shadow Minister (Cabinet Office) (September 2015 - October 2016)

Recent Activity

- In February 2024, Andy Burnham [said](#) that he had verbal confirmation from Louise Haigh that 'out of area' taxi working would be banned under a Labour government.
- In January 2024, Louise Haigh [told](#) GB News that Labour will push ahead with the renationalisation of train operators. In the same interview, Haigh also [said](#) that she can give a 'cast iron guarantee' that Labour will not seek to re-join the EU if it is elected.
- A transcript of Haigh's Labour Party Conference speech can be found [here](#). In her speech, Haigh said that Labour would be committed to delivering 'the biggest reform of public transport in more than a generation'. This would include bringing bus services and railways back into public ownership.
- Haigh's full response to the cancellation of HS2 Phase 2 can be found [here](#).



Thangam Debbonaire, Shadow Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport

MP for Bristol West

Majority: 28,219

Website: <https://www.debbonaire.co.uk/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/thangamp>

Shadows: Lucy Frazer, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport

Profile

- Debbonaire was born in Peterborough in 1966 to a father of Indian and Sri Lankan Tamil descent and an English mother. She attended both Bradford Girls' Grammar School and Cheltham's School of Music. She became a professional cellist.
- Prior to her election to Parliament, Debbonaire campaigned for 25 years to end domestic violence, both in the UK and internationally.
- She moved to Bristol to work as a national children's officer for charity Women's Aid and helped set up support projects for children in refuges across the UK.
- Debbonaire was elected to represent Bristol West in the 2015 general election, unseating the incumbent Liberal Democrat with a majority of 5,673 and increasing it to 37,336 in 2017.

Previous Appointments

- Shadow Leader of the House of Commons (May 2021- September 2023)
- Shadow Secretary of State for Housing (April 2020 - May 2021)
- Opposition Whip (October 2016 - April 2020)
- Shadow Minister (Culture, Media and Sport) (January 2016 - October 2016)

Recent Activity

- On 20 January, Debbonaire [addressed](#) the Fabian Society annual conference. In this speech, she stressed that the creative industries are an 'essential part of Labour's economic plan for growth.'
- Debbonaire condemned the recent cuts to local authorities and the impact that this has had on arts and culture provision in a [post](#) on twitter on 14 January.
- Moreover, in an [online webinar](#) with cultural leaders in January 2024, Debbonaire pledged that, while Labour cannot guarantee an immediate windfall for the creative industry, she is determined to make additional cash available.



Anneliese Dodds, Party Chair, Chair of the Labour Policy Review and Shadow Secretary of State for Women and Equalities

MP for Oxford East

Majority: 17,832

Website: <https://www.anneliesedodds.org.uk/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/AnnelieseDodds>

Shadows: Kemi Badenoch, Minister for Women and Equalities

Profile

- Anneliese Dodds became involved in student activism and eventually was elected president of Oxford University Students Union 1999, where she remained until 2000.
- She went on to gain a PhD in Government from London School of Economics, and became a lecturer in Public Policy at King's College London.
- Dodds stood unsuccessfully for election in Billericay in 2005 and Reading East in 2010. She first entered public office as a Member of the European Parliament for the South East region in 2014. She was elected as MP for Oxford East during the 2017 general election.
- She lives with her partner, Ed Turner, who is Deputy Leader of Oxford City Council.

Previous Appointments

- Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer (April 2020 - May 2021)
- Shadow Treasury Minister (July 2017 - April 2020)

Recent Activity

- Dodds [unveiled](#) Labour's plans for a new Race Equality Act in February 2024. This would introduce protections for people facing 'dual discrimination', establish mandatory reporting on ethnicity pay gaps, and appoint a Windrush commissioner to oversee a compensation scheme.
- Dodds recently spoke at the Jewish Labour Movement's annual conference she [said](#) we need to 'create spaces and events where people have genuine respectful dialogue with each other', and spoke about the centrality of women's rights to the New Deal for Working People.
- She also addressed the Labour annual women's conference, she announced Labour would make sure every party published data on the diversity of candidates for parliamentary elections. During her [speech](#) to the main conference a day later, she said Labour would 'tackle the rising tide of hate, with stronger laws so those who carry out anti-LGBT+ hate crime get the tougher sentences they deserve', as well as introducing a trans-inclusive conversion therapy ban.



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

MP for Croydon North

Majority: 24,673

Website: <https://www.stevereedmp.co.uk/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/SteveReedMP>

Shadows: Steve Barclay, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Profile

- Steve Reed a member of Lambeth Council from 1998-2012. This included 6 years as leader of the Council between 2006-2012.
- He held significant roles within Local Government, including being Deputy Chairman of the Local Government Association and the Deputy Leader of Local Government Labour. He was awarded an OBE for services to Local Government in 2013.
- Reed resigned as a Shadow Minister in June 2016 as part of a mass resignation against former Labour Leader Jeremy Corbyn. He however rejoined the Shadow team in October 2016.

Previous Appointments

- Shadow Secretary of State for Justice (November 2021 - September 2023)
- Shadow Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (April 2020 - November 2021)
- Shadow Minister for Education (Children and Families) (June 2019 - April 2020)
- Shadow Minister for Civil Society (October 2016 - June 2019)
- Shadow Minister for Communities and Local Government (May 2015 - June 2016)
- Shadow Home Affairs Minister (October 2013 - March 2015)

Recent Activity

- Reed is leading Labour's response to sewage pollution. At Labour Conference 2023, Reed [committed](#) to putting the water industry in 'special measures' to clear up sewage. He committed to strengthen Ofwat's powers to ban bonuses to water companies' bosses and ensure that if laws are continuously broken criminal charges happen.
- Reed [spoke](#) at the Oxford Farming Conference in January 2024. He emphasised that Labour would create GB Energy to decrease farmer's bills, would cut red tape with the EU and would use Government purchasing powers to ensure that at least half of the food in many public institutions is locally produced or to a higher certified standard.
- Following recent flooding, Reed [recommitted](#) to establishing a Flood Resilience Taskforce.



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

MP for Hove

Majority: 17,044

Website: <http://www.peterkyle.co.uk/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/peterkyle>

Shadows: Michelle Donelan Secretary of State for Science, Technology and Innovation

Profile

- In July 2013, Kyle was nominated as Labour's candidate for Hove. He was later elected in the 2015 General Election on 42.3% of the vote, with a constituency swing of 9.3% towards Labour.
- Shortly after his election, Kyle joined the Business, Innovation and Skills Committee and continued to be a member till October 2016. In the 2016, EU referendum Kyle voted in favour of remaining in the European Union.
- In May 2018, Kyle introduced a bill in the House of Commons to lower the voting age to 16. He argued that a young person educated at GCSE level has the knowledge and the skills required to decide what party they want to vote for and the policies they are standing for.
- In October 2023, Kyle [told](#) *The Times* of the personal grief he suffered after his mother and longtime partner, Vlastimil Tiser, died within days of each other.

Previous Appointments

- Shadow Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (November 2021 - September 2023)
- Shadow Minister (Education) (Schools) (May 2021 - November 2021)
- Shadow Minister (Justice) (April 2020 - May 2021)

Recent Activity

- In January 2023, Kyle [condemned](#) the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology's slow speed to publish the response to the AI White Paper as he argued that people need certainty over AI regulation.
- In November 2023, Kyle [asked](#) the Government why the newly created AI Safety Institute was not being used to improve Britain's public services.
- Peter Kyle participated in a fringe event at the Government's AI Safety Summit where he praised the Government's organisation of the summit while criticising their lack of regulatory clarity and action on AI.



Hilary Benn, Shadow Secretary of State for Northern Ireland

MP for Leeds Central

Majority: 19,270

Website: <https://www.hilarybennmp.com/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/hilarybennmp>

Shadows: Chris Heaton-Harris, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland

Profile

- Benn is a fourth generation MP, with his father former Cabinet Minister and campaigner Tony Benn. His brother sits in the Lords at Lord Stansgate.
- Benn was first elected to Ealing Broadway Council in 1979 and has been an MP since June 1999.
- He held several Ministerial positions in the last Labour Government. In this time period he led the UK's response to the Boxing day Tsunami of 2004 and was head of the UK's negotiating team at the 2006 Darfur peace negotiations.
- Benn was one of many shadow Cabinet members who resigned in June 2016 in protest against Jeremy Corbyn.
- He chaired the Select Committee on the Future Relationship with the European Union from 2016 to 2021. After this committee was shut down, he became co-Chair of the Campaign group the UK Trade and Business Commission.

Previous Appointments

- Shadow Foreign Secretary (May 2015 - June 2016)
- Shadow Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (October 2011 - May 2015)
- Shadow Leader of the House of Commons (October 2010 - October 2011)
- Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (July 2007 - May 2010)
- Secretary of State for International Development (October 2003 - June 2007)
- Minister of State for International Development (May 2003 - October 2003)
- Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Prisons and Probation (May 2002 - May 2003)
- Parliamentary Under-Secretary for International Development (June 2001 - May 2002)

Recent Activity

- Benn [welcomed](#) the return of the Northern Ireland Assembly in January 2024.
- At Labour Conference, Benn [committed](#) Labour to negotiating a SPS agreement with the EU and repealing the Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Act 2023.



Ian Murray, Shadow Secretary of State for Scotland

MP for Edinburgh South

Majority: 11,095

Website: <https://www.ianmurraymp.com>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/IanMurrayMP>

Shadows: Alister Jack, Secretary of State for Scotland

Profile

- Ian Murray was elected to Edinburgh Council in 2003. In 2010, incumbent Labour MP Nigel Griffiths chose not to contest Edinburgh South at the general election; Murray was elected as his successor.
- Following the 2015 election, Murray became the only Labour MP in Scotland and was appointed Shadow Secretary of State for Scotland. In June 2016 he resigned from this role, citing the EU referendum and Corbyn's inability to deliver a Labour government.
- He was a candidate in the 2019 Deputy Leadership contest for the UK Labour Party, coming fourth with 13.3% of the vote in the first round. He was later appointed Shadow Secretary of State for Scotland in 2020 by Keir Starmer.

Previous Appointments

- Shadow Secretary of State for Scotland (May 2015 - June 2016)
- Shadow Minister (Business, Innovation and Skills) (October 2011 - May 2015)

Recent Activity

- In a recent [debate](#) in the House of Commons on the Scottish Economy, Murray condemned the 16 years of SNP Government that has left Scotland's 'public services with a £1 billion black hole'.
- Additionally, in a House of Commons [debate](#) on Scottish Devolution in November 2023, Murray condemned the UK Government's perceived lack of cooperation with the Scottish Government over protecting jobs at Grangemouth's oil refinery.
- At the 2023 Labour conference, Murray [detailed](#) in his speech the failures of the SNP's leadership and his ramifications for Scotland. He later claimed that Labour is ready to take this on and this is evident in the 2023 Rurtherglen and Hamilton West by-election. Moreover, he condemned the SNP's 'cynical politics' of nationalism. Thereafter, he stressed that any future Labour Government would be determined to sell the soft power of 'Brand Scotland'.



Jo Stevens, Shadow Secretary of State for Wales

MP for Cardiff Central

Majority: 17,179

Website: <https://www.jostevens.co.uk/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/JoStevensLabour>

Shadows: David Davies, Secretary of State for Wales

Profile

- Prior to becoming involved in politics, Jo Stevens was a solicitor and director at Thompsons Solicitors, a law firm which specialises in personal injury and employment rights.
- She was elected MP for Cardiff Central in 2015, beating the incumbent Liberal Democrat.
- She is a member of the Usdaw and GMB unions, and chairs the GMB parliamentary group.
- She is involved with the NGO Justice for Columbia.
- On her website she lists her main areas of expertise as justice; employment rights; women and equalities; Welsh affairs; and culture, media and sport.

Previous Appointments

- Shadow Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (April 2020 - November 2021)
- Shadow Secretary of State for Wales (October 2016 - January 2017)
- Shadow Solicitor General and Shadow Justice Minister (January 2016 - October 2016)

Recent Activity

- She wrote a blog [post](#) for *Nation Cymru*, in which she outlined Labour's plan for Wales. On the closure of Port Talbot steelworks, she said Labour have 'pledged long-term investment to ensure a sustainable transition to green steel comes with jobs in Wales. We need more Welsh steel not less'.
- She added that Labour would create green energy jobs in Wales, 'whether it's floating offshore wind in the Celtic Sea, or tidal energy'.
- Following a Welsh-government commissioned report that said powers over policing should be devolved, Stevens [said](#) Labour would not be looking at devolution over policing or justice, and that they will be focusing on 'the things that matter to people in Wales'.



Emily Thornberry, Shadow Attorney General

MP for Islington South and Finsbury

Majority: 17,328

Website: <https://www.emilythornberry.com/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/EmilyThornberry>

Shadows: Victoria Prentis, Attorney General

Profile

- Emily Thornberry joined the Labour Party at 17 years old.
- She studied Law at Kent University before qualifying as a barrister.
- Thornberry unsuccessfully ran for election in Canterbury in 2001.
- Within her roles she has focused on issues relating to Universal Credit, armed forces pay and the removal of EU funding. She has also campaigned against the war in Yemen and the escalation of tensions with Iran.
- Thornberry campaigned to ensure UK independent trade policy outside the EU doesn't risk labour and food standards or jeopardise the running of public services. She has been an advocate for abortion rights in Northern Ireland.
- She is one of the longest continually serving members of the shadow cabinet.
- She met her husband in law school and they have three children.

Previous Appointments

- Shadow Secretary of State for International Trade (April 2020 - November 2021)
- Shadow Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union (July 2016 - October 2016)
- Shadow Foreign Secretary (June 2016 - April 2020)
- Shadow Secretary of State for Defence (January 2016 - June 2016)
- Shadow Minister (Work and Pensions) (September 2015 - January 2016)
- Shadow Attorney General (October 2011 - November 2014)
- Shadow Minister (Health) (October 2010 - October 2011)
- Shadow Minister (Energy and Climate Change) (May 2010 - October 2010)

Recent Activity

- Thornberry recently [spoke about](#) rebuilding the criminal justice system, restoring the rule of law and tackling injustices against women. Also spoke about tackling and ending violence towards women and girls.
- She [wrote a letter](#) to former Home Secretary Suella Braverman on Labour's proposals to tackle scam calls from overseas.
- Thornberry recently [signed](#) the Holocaust Educational Trust Book of Commitment.

- In Parliament, Thornberry [spoke about](#) the importance of the rule of law to our constitution.
- Thornberry [called on](#) the Government to 'immediately introduce legislation' which would amend the Ministerial and other Pensions and Salaries Act 1991.



Lisa Nandy, Shadow Cabinet Minister for International Development

MP for Wigan

Majority: 6,728

Website: <http://www.lisanandy.co.uk/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/lisanandy>

Shadows: Andrew Mitchell, Minister for International Development and Africa

Profile

- Nandy is a member of the Shadow Cabinet. Her opposite number Andrew Mitchell is not a member of the Cabinet, but attends its sittings.
- She comes from a political family, with her father Dipak Nandy a Marxist academic and her grandfather Lord Byers a former Liberal MP who later became a Peer.
- Nandy came third place in the 2020 Labour Leadership election, with 16.2% of the vote.
- She is seen as one of the ringleaders of the 2016 Shadow Cabinet resignations against the leadership of Jeremy Corbyn. She did not return to Corbyn's frontbench team after this point.
- Prior to her time as an MP, Nandy worked for Centrepunt and the Children's Society, and was also a Labour Councillor in Hammersmith and Fulham.
- Nandy is a co-founder of the Centre for Towns think tank.

Previous Appointments

- Shadow Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing, Communities and Local Government (November 2021 - September 2023)
- Shadow Foreign Secretary (September 2020 - November 2021)
- Shadow Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (September 2015 - June 2016)
- Shadow Minister for the Cabinet Office (October 2013 - September 2015)
- Shadow Minister for Education (March 2013 - October 2013)

Recent Activity

- Nandy [spoke](#) to a fringe event at the Labour Party Conference saying that she would like to reinstate the 0.7% goal for foreign investment. However, she said that a Labour Government would not be able to restore this on 'day one' due to the country's finances.
- Nandy [recently](#) visited Jordan, Israel and the West Bank.
- She visited [Zambia](#) in December 2023 and also [spoke](#) at the LGBTQI Global Giving Summit in November 2023.



Darren Jones, Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury

MP for Bristol North West

Majority: 5,692

Website: <https://www.darren-jones.co.uk/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/darrenpjones>

Shadows: Laura Trott, Chief Secretary to the Treasury

Profile

- Jones was President of the Student Union at the University of Plymouth.
- In September 2011 Jones started working for Womble Bond Dickinson as a Technology, Media and Communications Solicitor, where he was seconded to RWE npower and then to BT Consumer.
- From April 2016 he started working directly for BT Consumer as Legal Counsel.
- Before his victory he had twice stood unsuccessfully for parliament: for Torridge and West Devon in 2010, and for Bristol North West in 2015.
- In 2017 he managed to successfully defeat the Conservative MP Charlotte Leslie, making him the first ever MP to be called Darren – a fact he mentioned in his maiden speech.
- Jones is the Director of Future Labour, which focuses on the future of work, the British economy, and the 4th Industrial Revolution.
- He was a member of Stronger In's Young Lawyers Network during the EU referendum campaign, and a Start-Up Business Mentor for the Prince's Trust.
- He chaired the successful campaign to elect Marvin Rees as Mayor of Bristol and was the South West Chair of Andy Burnham's leadership campaign.
- Current constituency campaigns include: [It takes a village](#), [Speak like you own the room](#) and [Better buses or bust!](#)

Previous Appointments

- Chair, Business and Trade Committee (May 2020 - September 2023)

Recent Activity

- Darren Jones [launched](#) Labour's infrastructure review, which is due to make recommendations on planning reforms; the capacity of public bodies to effectively deliver infrastructure; and opportunities to unlock wider growth around infrastructure projects, deliver value for money, and boost the British supply chain and attract private investment.

- In an [interview](#) with *The Spectator*, Jones discussed his plans to become a reforming Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Whitehall efficiencies and the 'right answers' on spending.



Ellie Reeves, Deputy National Campaign Coordinator

MP for Lewisham West and Penge

Majority: 21,543

Website: <http://www.elliereeves.com/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/elliereeves>

Profile

- Before entering Parliament, Ellie Reeves worked as an employment rights lawyer for 10 years, mostly representing trade union members.
- She sat on Labour's National Executive Committee between 2006 and 2016, before being selected as the party's candidate for Lewisham West and Penge in 2017.
- Her sister is Rachel Reeves, Shadow Chancellor and MP for Leeds West. She is married to John Cryer, who is MP for Leyton and Wanstead, as well as Chair of the Parliamentary Labour Party.

Previous Appointments

- Shadow Minister for Justice (December 2021- September 2023)
- Shadow Solicitor General (April 2020 - December 2021)
- Private Parliamentary Secretary to Kate Osamor MP (March 2018 - June 2018)

Recent Activity

- In February, she [told Sky News](#) about Labour's plans for a new growth and skills levy to replace the apprenticeship levy.
- In January she gave a [speech](#) in a Westminster Hall debate about the need for a general election. She criticised the Conservative's record on the NHS, the economy and on crime. She outlined Labour's vision for a mission driven government.



Lucy Powell, Shadow Leader of the House of Commons

MP for Manchester Central

Majority: 29,089

Website: <http://lucypowell.org.uk/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/LucyMPowell>

Shadows: Penny Mordaunt, Leader of the House of Commons

Profile

- She was elected in a by-election on November 15th 2012, becoming the first female Labour MP to represent a Manchester constituency.
- Her career began as Ed Miliband's acting and later deputy chief of staff from September 2010 to April 2012. She also managed Ed Miliband's successful campaign for the Labour Party leadership in 2010.
- She resigned as Shadow Education Secretary as a result of Jeremy Corbyn's leadership.

Previous Appointments

- Shadow Leader of the House of Commons (September 2023 - present)
- Shadow Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (November 2021 - September 2023)
- Shadow Secretary of State for Housing (September - November 2021)
- Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (May - September 2021)
- Shadow Minister (Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy) (April 2020 - May 2021)
- Shadow Secretary of State for Education (September 2015 - June 2016)
- Shadow Minister for the Cabinet Office (November 2014 - September 2015)
- Shadow Minister (Education) (October 2013 - November 2014)

Recent Activity

- She [campaigned](#) in Rutherglen and Hamilton West in Scotland alongside Labour candidate Michael Shanks and Anas Sarwar, the Leader of the Scottish Labour Party in August 2023.
- She [conducted](#) a Leasehold and Renters Survey in August 2023 where she heard the experiences and challenges of those with leaseholds and those who're renting in Manchester Central.



Sir Alan Campbell, Opposition Chief Whip in the House of Commons

MP for Tynemouth

Majority: 4,857

Website: <http://www.alancampbellmp.co.uk/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/alancampbellmp>

Shadows: Simon Hart, Chief Whip

Profile

- Campbell was first elected in the 1997 landslide Labour victory.
- Prior to entering politics he was a history teacher. He rose to become head of sixth form.
- He served as a PPS for Gus MacDonald in the Cabinet Office and Defence Minister Adam Ingram in Blair's second term.
- Campbell was investigated by the parliamentary standards commissioner in 2022 for allegedly misusing confidential information given to him by an MP.

Previous Appointments

- Opposition Deputy Chief Whip (October 2010 - May 2021)
- Shadow Minister for Home Affairs (May 2010 - October 2010)
- Parliamentary Under-Secretary for the Home Office (October 2008 - May 2010)
- Government Whip (May 2006 - October 2008)
- Assistant Government Whip (May 2005 - May 2006)

Recent Activity

- Campbell is a keen constituency campaigner, [meeting](#) often with local fishermen associations, businesses and charities.
- He [awarded](#) a nuclear test veteran with a medal in December 2023.



Baroness Smith of Basildon, Shadow Leader of the House of Lords

Baroness (Angela) Smith

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/LadyBasildon>

Shadows: Nicholas True, Baron True, Leader of the House of Lords

Profile

- Baroness Smith was appointed a life Peer in 2010.
- In 1995, she became research assistant to Alun Michael, MP for Cardiff South and Penarth.
- She introduced the Waste Minimisation Act 1998.
- Baroness Smith is a patron of Basildon Women's Aid and the President of Basildon Ladies' Football Club.
- She trained as an accountant before working at the League against Cruel Sports from 1983, ultimately becoming Head of Political and Public Relations.

Previous Appointments

- Shadow Spokesperson (Northern Ireland) (October 2023 - Present)
- Shadow Spokesperson (Devolved issues) (February 2023 - Present)
- Shadow Leader of the House of Lords (May 2015 - Present)
- Minister of State (Cabinet Office) (Third Sector) (June 2009 - May 2010)
- Parliamentary Under-Secretary (Department for Communities and Local Government) (Planning) (May 2006 - June 2007)
- Parliamentary Under-Secretary (Northern Ireland Office) (October 2002- May 2006)
- Assistant Whip (HM Treasury) (June 2001 - June 2002)

Recent Activity

- She [mentioned](#) there are serious issues with health and safety in film and TV.
- On January 24 2024, she [spoke](#) in the debate on Action Against Houthi Maritime Attacks.
- On January 16 2024, she [participated](#) in the debate on Israel and Gaza.
- On January 16 2024, She also [spoke](#) about the Rohingya refugees.



Lord Kennedy of Southwark, Opposition Chief Whip in the House of Lords

Lord (Roy) Kennedy of Southwark

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/LordRoyKennedy>

Shadows: Susan Williams, Baroness Williams of Trafford, Lords Chief Whip

Profile

- Roy Kennedy was elected to Southwark Council in 1986, where he held several positions until he was appointed Honorary Alderman in 2007.
- He became a full time organiser for the Labour party in 1990, and worked in various roles for the party until 2010.
- He was made a life peer in 2010 by outgoing Prime Minister Gordon Brown.
- He is married to Alicia Kennedy, former Deputy General Secretary of the Labour Party.

Previous Appointments

- Shadow Spokesperson for the Cabinet Office (February 2023 - October 2023)
- Shadow Spokesperson for Housing, Communities and Local Government (September 2015 - December 2021)
- Shadow Spokesperson for Home Affairs (September 2015 - May 2021)

Recent Activity

- On 22 January, he [questioned](#) the Government's record on childcare, asking when the Government will confirm rates for childcare providers.
- On 11 January, he [asked](#) why the Government will not proceed with the abolition of leasehold for flats in the Leasehold and Freehold Reform Bill.
- On 8 December, he [asked](#) a question about the procedure of the Rwanda Treaty.
- On 30 November, he [asked](#) if the Government have plans to abolish leasehold for flats.
- On 23 November, [asked](#) a question about the NAO report on levelling-up funding to local government.