

New Ministerial Team at the Department of Health



The Rt Hon Alan Johnson MP Secretary of State for Health

Alan Johnson was first elected to Parliament in 1997 as the Member for Kingston upon Hull.

A former postman, Alan Johnson served as a former General Secretary of the Communication Workers Union (CWU) and is one of the largest trade union names to have entered Parliament in recent decades. Often credited with the much coveted tag of being an "ordinary bloke", he is highly articulate and effective and is credited with the successful campaign that deterred the previous Conservative government from privatising the Post Office.

Popular among his peers, Alan Johnson is generally regarded to be on the centre right of the Labour Party and is well regarded by the Labour leadership. As a union member of Labour's ruling NEC (up to 1996) he was seen as supportive of Tony Blair's attempts to modernise the Labour Party. He was the only senior union leader to back the abolition of Labour's clause IV.

He becomes the first former union leader to become a cabinet minister in nearly 40 years when he is appointed to the Work and Pensions brief in 2004. After moving to Trade and Industry, he becomes Education and Skills Secretary in May 2006.

After being tipped by many as the front-runner in the Labour deputy leadership contest of 2007, Alan Johnson was narrowly beaten by Harriet Harman.

Commons Career

PPS to Dawn Primarolo:

as Financial Secretary, HM Treasury 1997-99,

as Paymaster General, HM Treasury 1999;

Department of Trade and Industry 1999-2003:

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Competitiveness) 1999-2001,

Minister of State 2001-03:

(Employment Relations and Regions 2001-02, Employment Relations, Industry and the Regions 2002-03);

Minister of State, Department for Education and Skills (Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education) 2003–04;

Secretary of State for:

Work and Pensions 2004–05,

Trade and Industry 2005–06,

Education and Skills 2006–07;

Secretary of State for Health 2007–

Non-political career

Postman 1968–87;

Local officer Slough UCW 1974–81;

Union of Communication Workers:

Branch official 1976,

Executive Council 1981–87,

National officer 1987–93,

General Secretary 1993–95;

Member General Council, TUC 1993–95;

Executive Member Postal, Telegraph and Telephone International 1993–97;

Director Unity Bank Trust plc 1993–97;

Joint General Secretary Communication Workers Union 1995–97



Dawn Primarolo

Minister of State

Dawn Primarolo was a mother, book keeper, legal secretary and typesetter, while also finding time to study for a degree and to begin doctoral research on women and housing, before her election as MP for Bristol South in 1987.

A one time member of the Campaign Group of left wing Labour MPs and former secretary of Tony Benn constituency Labour party when he was a Bristol MP, she was once regarded as being firmly on the left of the Labour Party. She opposed the first Gulf War, and voted for Margaret Beckett in the 1994 Labour leadership election.

Ms Primarolo is now a committed New Labour loyalist and is considered to be close to Gordon Brown. She served for more than ten years in Mr Brown's Treasury team, before moving to the Department of Health upon Mr Brown reaching the top job.

At the Treasury, she earned promotion from her role as Financial Secretary to become

Paymaster General, just under Cabinet level. In the latter role, she was charged with introducing the controversial IR35 tax rules.

Commons Career

Opposition Spokesperson for:

Health 1992–94,

Treasury and Economic Affairs 1994–97;

HM Treasury:

Financial Secretary 1997–99,

Paymaster General 1999–07.

Non-political career

Secretary 1972–73;

Secretary and advice worker, Law Centre, East London;

Secretary, Avon County Council 1975–78;

Voluntary work 1978–81;

Mature student 1981–87



Ben Bradshaw

Minister of State and Minister for the South West

An ardent Blairite loyalist, Ben Bradshaw is fully signed up to the New Labour agenda. As a strong supporter of constitutional reform, Mr. Bradshaw supports proportional representation and closer European integration.

He took his seat – one of the few urban constituencies in Devon – by defeating the Tory's Adrian Rogers, who was the director of the Conservative Family Campaign.

Energetic and a keen cyclist, Ben Bradshaw worked as a reporter and presenter for the BBC.

Commons Career

Introduced Pesticides Act (Private Member's Bill) 1998;

PPS to John Denham as Minister of State, Department of Health 2000–01;

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office 2001–02;

Parliamentary Secretary, Privy Council Office 2002–03;

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs 2003–:

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State 2003–06,

Minister of State 2006–07.

Non-political career

Award-winning BBC reporter and presenter 1986-97;

BBC Berlin correspondent during fall of Berlin Wall 1989-91;

Reporter for 'World At One' and 'World This Weekend' on BBC Radio 4 1991-97.



Professor Sir Ara Darzi

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

He has worked in some of the most high-tech areas of non-invasive surgery (including the use of robotics). He will work with Alan Johnson in improving patient-care, increase the convenience and accessibility of health services and build a new partnership with NHS and staff and patients.

Professor Darzi studied medicine in Ireland and qualified from the Royal College of Surgeons. He obtained his fellowship in Surgery from the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and a M.D. degree from Trinity College, Dublin. He was subsequently granted the fellowships of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, The American College of Surgeons, the Royal College of Surgeons and Physicians of Glasgow and of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. More recently he was awarded fellowship of the Academy of Medical Sciences and City and Guilds of London Institute and an honorary fellowship of the Royal Academy of Engineering.

Professor Darzi was knighted by the Queen as a Knight Commander of the most excellent Order of the British Empire (KBE) in December 2002.

Currently Professor Darzi holds the Chair of Surgery Imperial College London where he is head of the Division of Surgery, Oncology, Reproductive Biology and Anaesthetics. He is an Honorary Consultant Surgeon at St. Mary's Hospital NHS Trust. He holds the Paul Hamlyn Chair of Surgery at the Royal Marsden Hospital. He held the office of the Tutor in Minimal Access Surgery at the Royal College of Surgeons in England where he set the national guidelines in education and training in Minimal Access Surgery. He was also a Council member of the Association of Coloproctologist of Great Britain and Ireland, The Association of Endoscopic Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland, and the Society of Minimal Invasive Therapy.

Professor Darzi's contribution to the NHS has been substantial. He was elected to the London

Modernisation Board – now the National Leadership Network – by the Secretary State for Health and currently advises the government on Modernising the NHS and is advisor in surgery to the Department of Health. He has led on difficult issues related to reconfiguration of surgical services at Kidderminster Hospital and the North East. He published the national guidelines for day care surgery and in his role as Chair of the National centre for Innovations in Elective Care is involved in setting the future model of Diagnostic Treatment Centres.



Ann Keen

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

Ann Keen was elected for Brentford and Isleworth in 1997, joining her husband, Alan Keen who, since 1992, has represented the neighbouring constituency of Feltham and Heston.

A former nurse, before being elected to Parliament, she unsuccessfully fought this seat in 1987 and in 1992. To complete the family links in Parliament, her sister, Sylvia Heal is the Labour MP for Halesowen and a Deputy Speaker of the Commons.

Formerly on the left of the Labour Party in the 1980s, Ann Keen is now regarded as a loyalist on the centre right of the Labour Party. A former PPS to Frank Dobson, she was involved in his failed bid to become London Mayor. She successfully proposed Michael Martin for the role of Speaker in the House of Commons, and her continued closeness to the Labour leadership was confirmed by her appointment as PPS to Chancellor, Gordon Brown in June 2001.

Ann Keen was one of the first MPs to make an attempt to equalise the age of consent when she proposed to add a new clause to the Crime and Disorder Bill in 1998.

Commons Career

PPS:

to Frank Dobson: as

Secretary of State for Health 1999,

at HM Treasury 2000–01,

to Gordon Brown as Chancellor of the Exchequer 2001–07.

Non-political career

Registered Nurse 1976;

Head faculty of advanced nursing Queen Charlotte's College, Hammersmith 1992–94;

General secretary Community and District Nursing Association 1994–97



Ivan Lewis

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

From a Jewish background, Ivan Lewis was born in Prestwich and served as a councillor on Bury Council. One of the youngest Labour MPs, Mr Lewis worked as Chief Executive of the Jewish Social Services in Manchester before being elected to Parliament in 1997. He is widely regarded as a loyal supporter of the Labour leadership and is seen as being positioned on the centre right of the Labour Party.

One of the more surprising appointments in the government reshuffle, which followed Labour's 2001 general election victory, Mr Lewis began his ministerial career as parliamentary secretary to the Department for Education and Skills.

Commons Career

PPS to Stephen Byers as Secretary of State for Trade and Industry 1999–2001;
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Education and Skills 2001–05:
(for Young People and Learning 2001–02,
for Adult Learning and Skills 2002,
for Young People and Adult Skills 2002–03,
for Skills and Vocational Education 2003–05);
Economic Secretary, HM Treasury 2005–06;
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Health (Care Services) 2006–07.

Non-political career

Co-ordinator, Contact Community Care Group 1986–89;
Community care manager, Jewish Social Services 1989–92;
Chief executive, Manchester Jewish Federation 1992–97.