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## **DCMS Ministers and Shadow spokespeople**

### **Purpose of report**

For information

### **Summary**

This paper outlines the new ministerial team at DCMS, alongside their counterparts from other parties.

### **Is this report confidential?**

No

### **Recommendation/s**

Board members to note the report.

### **Contact details**

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# DCMS Ministers and Shadow spokespeople

## Background

1. Following the announcement of new ministerial appointments made by Prime Minister Liz Truss, the new portfolio holders, as well as opposition portfolio holders, are outlined below.
2. The [Rt Hon Michelle Donelan](#), MP for Chippenham, is Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. She has served as Member of Parliament for Chippenham since 2015 and served as Minister of State for Higher and Further Education from 2020 to 2022. Responsibilities include:
  - 2.1. Overall departmental strategy
  - 2.2. Appointments and honours
3. [Julia Lopez](#), MP for Hornchurch and Upminster, is Minister of State for Media, Data, and Digital Infrastructure. She has served as Member of Parliament for Hornchurch and Upminster since 2017. She served as Minister of State for Media, Data and Digital Infrastructure between 2021 and 2022. Before entering the House of Commons, she served as a local councillor at Tower Hamlets London Borough Council. Responsibilities include:
  - 3.1. Creative Industries
  - 3.2. Tourism in the Commons
4. The [Rt Hon Stuart Andrew](#), MP for Pudsey, Horsforth and Aireborough, was appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Sport, Arts and Ceremonials. He was previously Minister of State at the Ministry of Justice between 8 July 2022 and 7 September 2022. He was Minister of State (Minister for Housing) in the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities from 8 February 2022 to 6 July 2022. Responsibilities include:
  - 4.1. Sport
  - 4.2. Libraries
  - 4.3. Museums
  - 4.4. Heritage and civil society in the commons
5. [Lord Kamall](#) was appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Civil Society, Heritage, Tourism and Growth. He was previously Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Technology, Innovation and Life Sciences at the Department of Health and Social Care between 17 September 2021 and 20 September 2022. He is Professor of Politics and International Relations at St Mary's University, Twickenham. Responsibilities include:
  - 5.1. Overall growth
  - 5.2. Tourism
  - 5.3. Heritage
6. Damian Collins, MP for Folkestone and Hythe, was appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Tech and the Digital Economy. From 2016 to 2019, he was chair of the [House of Commons Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee](#). In 2021, he chaired the [UK Parliament](#) Joint Committee on the Draft Online Safety Bill. Responsibilities include:
  - 6.1. Digital strategy
  - 6.2. Gambling and lotteries

### 6.3. Online harms

#### Shadow Cabinet – Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Portfolios

7. [Lucy Powell \(MP for Manchester Central\)](#) is Shadow Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. Prior to becoming an MP in 2012, she worked at the National Endowment for Science, Technology, and the Arts (NESTA).
8. [Stephanie Peacock \(MP for Barnsley East\)](#) is Shadow Minister for Media, Data, and Digital Infrastructure. Between 2013 and 2017, she worked as a Political Officer for the GMB trade union.
9. [Jeff Smith \(MP for Manchester Withington\)](#) is Shadow Minister for Sport, Tourism, Heritage and Music. He was Shadow Minister for Local Government from May to 4 December 2021. A former councillor for Old Moat ward on Manchester City Council from 1997, he served as the Executive Member for Finance on the council.
10. [Alex Davies-Jones \(MP for Pontypridd\)](#) is Shadow Minister for Tech, Gambling, and the Digital Economy. She was elected as a councillor for Tonyrefail Community Council in 2012, and for Rhondda Cynon Taf Council in 2017. Davies-Jones has chosen to retain both her positions as councillor, in addition to her role as a Member of Parliament.

#### Liberal Democrats spokespersons

1. [Jamie Stone \(MP for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross\)](#) is Liberal Democrat Spokesperson for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. He was first elected to Ross and Cromarty District Council in 1986, serving until its abolition in 1996. He served as a member of the Highland Council from its creation in 1995 until his election as MSP in 1999.

#### Next steps

11. Cllr James Jamieson has written to congratulate Michelle Donelan on her appointment and outline how the LGA can, on behalf of local government, continue to work with her department to ensure every community can benefit from opportunity and prosperity. The letter is in Annex A.
12. Lead members have agreed to collectively write to Lord Kamall, and Stuart Andrew as the holders of the two portfolios of most interest to the Board.
13. We propose that the Board's Creative Industries Champion and the LGA's Digital Champion co-sign a letter to Julia Lopez, as her portfolio is a shared interest for the People & Place and City Regions Boards, as well as CTS.
14. Invites to attend future board meetings will be issued when members meet with the Ministers.

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**ANNEX A**

Rt Hon Michelle Donelan MP  
Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport  
Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport  
100 Parliament Street  
London  
SW1A 2BQ

September 2022

Dear Michelle,

**Local Government Association**

Congratulations on your appointment as Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). The LGA has enjoyed a constructive relationship with the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport which we are keen to build on, as we seek to achieve our shared agenda of maximising the social and economic benefits of culture, leisure and digital connectivity to support our communities. Our members deliver against the full DCMS portfolio, so we look forward to a strategic conversation with you and your Ministerial team about how we can work together to achieve your priorities and improve outcomes for our communities.

Councils play the central role in maintaining the UK's cultural and sporting infrastructure and are an essential partner in achieving your departments' objectives. Local government is the biggest national funder of culture, leisure, tourism support, sports facilities investing over £2.2 billion each year, spending more than double than Arts Council, Sport England and National Lottery Heritage Fund combined. Councils are also the biggest deliverer of DCMS related services, running the network of almost 3000 public libraries, over 2,600 leisure centres and sport facilities, and numerous museums, theatres and tourist attractions that make our country a great place to live, work and visit.

Three quarters of this expenditure is discretionary, so councils are choosing to spend on these services because they recognise their significance to our communities. We are keen to work in closer partnership with you to ensure these services remain sustainable and their contribution toward our shared economic and social objectives are maximised; including boosting productivity through a healthy workforce, fostering innovation, creativity and upskilling through access to skills and business advice in libraries. They also deliver on a wide range of other key government objectives, including tackling loneliness, supporting vulnerable residents with the rising cost-of-living, driving economic growth, improving public health, reducing the burden on the NHS and social care and delivering on our net zero commitments.

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Council-run and supported cultural services have a vital role to play in our recovery from the pandemic and supporting our communities. They underpin the creative economy, which is one of our fastest growing and most future-proof sectors, providing a training ground for creative talent of the future delivering skills and employment support, helping with education recovery, and supporting local economic ecosystems. The [LGA's Commission on Culture and Local Government](#), chaired by Baroness Lola Young is currently investigating how a place-based approach to culture could help us to accelerate progress on supporting inclusive economic growth, the levelling up agenda, and ensuring individuals can achieve their full potential. The Commission is set to publish its vision for the future of council funded and supported culture in December, which we would be delighted to meet with you to discuss, alongside Lord Neil Mendoza, who is acting as a formal advisor to the Commission to ensure its work is connected to the Government's wider ambitions for culture and levelling up.

Council run public leisure services, which provide communities with affordable, universal and targeted services, are relied on by people from all walks of life, from grassroots clubs to elite athletes, schools, and the NHS for over 60 percent of cancer rehabilitation and social prescribing programmes. Councils are unanimous in their desire to maximise the contribution of these quality leisure services and increase their contribution to broader social objectives, as we highlighted in our joint report '[Securing the future of public leisure services](#) (2021). We know users of these services experience boosts to productivity as well as reduced sickness, saving the NHS over £314 million each year. However, the report also highlighted growing financial pressures within the sector and the need for long-term national reinvestment to put facilities and services on a sustainable footing. Since then, the sector's finances have significantly deteriorated due to the accumulative impact of the pandemic and the current energy crisis and wider inflationary pressures. Meanwhile, local government is facing a significant funding gap, which limits councils' ability to meet the sector's financial deficit. As a result, 79 per cent of public leisure facilities say they will cease operation within six months without further support with costs. In [correspondence to your predecessor](#) earlier this year, alongside sector partners such as UK Active, we suggested various options to help offset immediate financial pressures and save vital services. We would welcome discussing these with you and developing a support plan for the sector, which will be essential to achieve the Government's wider sporting, health and environmental objectives.

Closing gaps in super-fast broadband and 4G mobile coverage will be vital to levelling up and ensuring people in every place can benefit from opportunity and economic growth. Councils play a vital role in delivering the rollout of infrastructure in their communities and it will be instrumental for us to work more closely together if we are to achieve the target UK nationwide gigabit-capable broadband and 4G coverage by 2030. In addition to working with you to improve digital infrastructure, we also want to improve digital access for those who are excluded due to social or economic barriers. We are particularly concerned about the impact of the Public Switch Telephone Network (PSTN) switchover on the most vulnerable groups, including the 1.7 million people who rely on landline connections for technology enabled care and personal alarms. While the PSTN upgrade is an industry-led process, we would welcome your Department playing a greater role in coordinating the multiple bodies

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involved with the switchover to align communications messaging, support with funding, and ensure communities are protected and supported through the upgrade process.

The Online Safety Bill marks an important step forward in tackling the range of online harms that young people and adults are too often exposed to in our digital world, and we look forward to the Bill continuing its passage as soon as Parliamentary time allows. The LGA recognises the delicate balance this legislation must maintain between preserving users' freedom of expression and civil liberties, whilst also protecting users from harmful content. This Bill would bring about important protections for Councillors who are experiencing increasing levels of online intimidation, abuse and threats made against them, which can prevent elected members from representing the communities they serve and undermine public trust in democratic processes. We therefore hope the Bill will be brought back in its current form and strengthened so it can provide vital safeguards for both adult and child users against content that rightly does not meet the criminal threshold, but is still harmful to individuals and democracy.

On behalf of local government, the LGA wants to maintain and strengthen collaborative working with you and your officials and offer our support in delivering your programme of reforms, including access to our extensive resources and insights, and network of local government leaders and councillors. The Chair of our Culture, Tourism and Sport Board, Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE and I would be delighted to meet with you to discuss how the LGA can, on behalf of local government, continue to work with your department to ensure every community can benefit from opportunity and prosperity. My office ([Alexander.Saul@local.gov.uk](mailto:Alexander.Saul@local.gov.uk) or 07919304993) would be happy to work with your officials to find a suitable date for a meeting.

I wish you the best of luck in your role.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr James Jamieson  
Chairman