

# September 2015 Labour Reshuffle – The Corbyn Shadow Cabinet



## SHADOW CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER

### JOHN MCDONNELL

Age: 64

MP for Hayes and Harlington  
1997- Present

Chair of Finance and Deputy  
Leader, Greater London Council,  
1981-1985

Candidate for Labour Leadership,  
in 2007 and 2010

## WHITEHOUSE ANALYSIS

A close friend, left-wing ally and manager of Jeremy Corbyn's leadership campaign, John McDonnell was rewarded with the crucial position of Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer. His appointment has proved controversial, especially since a number of Labour MPs had stated that their willingness to serve in a Corbyn led team was contingent on McDonnell not being awarded the position of Shadow Chancellor. Corbyn's decision to give McDonnell this position, in spite of caution urged by fellow Labour MPs and some union leaders, is an indication that the party's new leader is determined not to compromise on his hard left views and to press ahead with pursuing his radical, anti-austerity economic agenda.

## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN LABOUR'S ECONOMIC POLICY?

- Clamping down on large corporate tax avoidance.
- Establishing the policy behind the National Investment Bank to cut the deficit and stimulate growth.
- Enacting 'People's Quantitative Easing' to boost the economy by creating money to invest in infrastructure.
- Opposing the third runway at Heathrow.



## SHADOW SECRETARY OF STATE FOR HEALTH

### HEIDI ALEXANDER

Age: 40

MP for Lewisham East 2010-  
Present

Shadow Secretary of State for  
Health, 2015 - present

Deputy Shadow Minister for  
London, 2013-15

Opposition Whip, 2012-15

PPS to Mary Creagh as Shadow  
Secretary of State for  
Environment, Food and Rural  
Affairs, 2010-12

## WHITEHOUSE ANALYSIS

Plucked from relative obscurity, Alexander's appointment has come as a surprise, including for herself after she admitted a more junior shadow post was likely. Little is known of her health policy background with her most significant intervention being her campaign to prevent the downgrading of services at Lewisham Hospital, and her ability to combat the Conservatives' record on health services will have been noted. Alexander has previously expressed moderate support for the role of the independent sector. However she used her first interview since her promotion to clarify that this should be limited to a supporting role rather than "wholesale privatisation".

## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR LABOUR'S HEALTH POLICY?

- Call for immediate increase in funding, rather than £8bn by end of the parliament.
- Support for BMA narrative on the ability to deliver 7 day services.
- NHS as preferred provider with limited role for independent providers.

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## SHADOW SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION

**LUCY POWELL**

Age: 40

MP for Manchester Central 2012 - Present

Shadow Cabinet Office Minister 2014-15

Shadow Childcare Minister 2013-14

## WHITEHOUSE ANALYSIS

Considered one of Labour's rising stars under Ed Miliband, her appointment is a logical next step in her career. Powell's challenge will be working with a leader with whom she is neither close to personally or ideologically. An Andy Burnham supporter, she said in August that she has "never, ever met or spoken" to Corbyn. Powell's predecessor Tristram Hunt said "she got things done", also receiving acclaim from the early years sector for her willingness to engage. Having reportedly turned down the DECC brief, it remains to be seen how comfortable Powell will be in pushing through Corbyn's radical education agenda, including the National Education Service, restoring student grants and abolishing university tuition fees.

## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR LABOUR'S EDUCATION POLICY?

- Greater push towards education for people of all ages, considered a core part of the Corbyn agenda.
- Restore grants such as EMAs and abolish university tuition fees.
- Powell's personal passion for early years, driven by her young children and existing policy experience, could lead to an increased focus in this area.



## SHADOW SECRETARY OF STATE FOR BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

**ANGELA EAGLE**

Age: 54

MP for Wallasey 1992 - Present

Shadow Leader of the Commons, 2011-2013

Shadow Chief Treasury Secretary, 2010-2011

Shadow Treasury Minister, 2010

Pensions Minister, 2009-10

Exchequer Secretary, 2007-09

## WHITEHOUSE ANALYSIS

Originally tipped for the position of Shadow Chancellor, Eagle's experience makes her a rational appointment. Her secondary role of First Secretary of State (allowing her to stand in for PMQs), can be seen as an attempt to increase the role of women in the Shadow Cabinet. Eagle's appointment has also been seen as an attempt to unite Labour by creating a 'wide tent'. She is considered a moderate left-winger who served harmoniously under Tony Blair, Gordon Brown and Ed Miliband. She was a founding member of New Wave Labour, which sought to move the party towards the moderate left.

## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR LABOUR'S BUSINESS POLICY?

- She is vocal on LGBT, diversity and minority issues, likely to push for more diversity in top positions.
- Likely to seek to reduce administrative burden for SMEs.
- Interested in demographic background of higher education applicants.

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## SHADOW SECRETARY OF STATE ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### LISA NANDY

Age: 36

MP for Wigan 2010- Pres

Shadow Minister for:

Cabinet Office 2013-15

Children and Families 2012-13

PPS to Tessa Jowell as Shadow

Minister for London and the

Olympics 2011-12

## WHITEHOUSE ANALYSIS

Lisa Nandy, the MP for Wigan since 2010 is a surprise choice to shadow Energy Secretary Amber Rudd. Like Powell, who was reputedly offered the job, Nandy is perceived by many as "rising star" on the left of the party. She entered Parliament in 2010 but has already served as a Shadow Minister in Education and to the Cabinet Office. Prior to her foray into politics, the 36 year old specialised in issues facing young refugees, and she appears to lack prior knowledge of sector she inherits from Caroline Flint. Nandy will have little time to master the complex energy brief, as she is due to appear against Amber Rudd during this week's Energy Questions, taking place at 9.30am on Thursday.

## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR LABOUR'S EDUCATION POLICY?

- Greater emphasis on tackling fuel poverty.
- Resisting Government attempts to accelerate shale gas development.
- Building a consensus towards a lasting deal in Paris in December.
- Continued backing for renewables.
- A push for "clean coal" under CCS.



## SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WORK AND PENSIONS

### OWEN SMITH

Age: 45

MP for Pontypridd 2010 - Pres

Shadow Secretary of State for Wales 2012-15

Shadow Exchequer Secretary 2011-12

Shadow Minister for Wales 2010-11

## WHITEHOUSE ANALYSIS

Smith has been appointed as Work and Pensions Secretary after Rachel Reeves stepped down. A relative newcomer who spent just over a year as Shadow Wales secretary, he retains his place in the Shadow Cabinet despite backing Andy Burnham. On pensions issues, Smith voted against changes to auto-enrolment legislation introduced in the Coalition Government's emergency Budget, and against the 2010-11 Pensions Bill, which included measures to accelerate raising the state pension age to 66. His Parliamentary interventions on the Work Programme have focused on the scheme's effectiveness in Wales and on matters of devolution, which he supports.

## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR LABOUR'S PENSIONS POLICY?

- Advocate establishing an 'Older People's Commission' to assess reform options over the next five years.
- Flexible age of retirement to be introduced as Labour Party policy
- Protect workers' rights and block welfare cuts

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