

## Changes in Ministerial Responsibilities – September 2025

The main change relevant to local infrastructure is the appointment of a new Secretary of State at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), but there have also been substantial changes in junior ministerial appointments. In some departments, such as the Home Office, almost all ministerial roles have been reshuffled.

### Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

**Steve Reed OBE** is now [Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government](#), moving from Secretary of State in the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA). As the MP for Streatham and Croydon North since 2012, he has extensive experience in local government, having been a local councillor from 1998 until his election to Parliament. This included as council leader in Lambeth, where he oversaw significant improvements in the council. He has been deputy chair of the LGA (Local Government Association), and shadowed various roles across the communities and local government portfolio when Labour was in opposition.

**Alison McGovern MP** is now [Minister of State \(Minister for Local Government and Homelessness\)](#). Jim McMahon has returned to the backbenches. Alison McGovern is MP for Birkenhead. She was previously Minister of State in the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), and an MP since 2010. She was a local councillor in Southwark, including deputy leader of the Labour group.

**Miatta Fahnbulleh MP** is now [Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State \(Minister for Devolution, Faith and Communities\)](#), replacing Lord Kahn. Previously a Parliamentary Under-Secretary in the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, she was first elected to Parliament in July 2024, has a PhD in economic development, and has worked at the Cabinet Office, the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR), and was CEO of the New Economics Foundation.

### Department for Culture, Media and Sport

No changes to Secretary of State or Minister for Civil Society.

### Department of Health and Social Care

No changes to the ministerial team, with the addition of **Dr Zubir Ahmed MP** as a [Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State](#), with his portfolio yet to be specified.

### Department of Work and Pensions

**Pat McFadden MP** is now [Secretary of State for Work and Pensions](#), having previously been Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, and an MP for Wolverhampton South East since 2005.

**Baroness Jacqui Smith** of Malvern is now [Minister of State \(Minister for Skills\)](#). She will remain Minister of State (Minister for Skills and Minister for Women and Equalities) in the Department for Education. She was Chief Whip in the Blair government and Home Secretary



under Gordon Brown, and the appointment is seen to be bolstering the ministerial strength in the department.

**Diana Johnson MP** is now [Minister of State](#) [portfolio to be confirmed], having been previously a minister in the Home Office. She has been MP for Hull North since 1997, held various shadow ministerial portfolios, and some junior ministerial roles in the previous labour government.

### Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

**Emma Reynolds MP** is now [Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs](#), moving from Economic Secretary to the Treasury. She is MP for Wycombe, elected in 2024, and previously represented Wolverhampton North East 2010-2019. Before parliament, she worked in Brussels, Downing Street, and public affairs consultancy.

**Angela Eagle MP** is now [Minister of State](#), moving from the Home Office. She has been an MP since 1992 and has led several junior ministerial roles in the last Labour government and in the shadow cabinet.