

## WEEK IN WESTMINSTER

Week ending Friday 15 May

### Cabinet and Ministerial Reshuffle

Following the General Election, Prime Minister David Cameron has formed a majority Conservative government and reshuffled his cabinet and ministerial teams. Key ministers for automotive include:

#### HM Treasury

- Chancellor of the Exchequer – Rt Hon George Osborne MP
- Chief Secretary to the Treasury – Rt Hon Greg Hands MP
- Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury – Damian Hinds. This portfolio includes environment and transport taxation.

#### BIS

- Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills – Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP
- Minister of State for Business and Enterprise – Anna Soubry MP (attends Cabinet). This portfolio includes advanced manufacturing and low carbon vehicles.
- Minister of State for Trade – Rt Hon Francis Maude MP
- Minister of State – Ed Vaizey MP. This portfolio includes the digital economy.

#### DfT

- Secretary of State for Transport – Rt Hon Patrick McLoughlin MP
- Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport – Andrew Jones MP. This portfolio includes responsibility for OLEV, connected vehicles, environment and innovation.

#### DEFRA

- Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs – Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP

#### DECC

- Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change – Amber Rudd MP

Harriet Harman, acting leader of the Labour Party, has also announced the new [shadow cabinet](#) line up.

(Source: Government, the Guardian)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/election-2015-prime-minister-and-ministerial-appointments>

### City Devolution Plans outlined

George Osborne presented devolution plans which will give powers over housing, transport, planning and policing to English cities. Greater Manchester – which will take on powers when electing a mayor in two years – will become a blueprint for other large cities. A Cities Devolution Bill will be in the Queen's Speech later this month.

(Source: BBC)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-32726171>



### Labour leadership

Following Ed Miliband's resignation as Leader of the Labour Party last week, after heavy losses sustained in the General Election at the hands of the SNP, a leadership election will take place. Labour's National Executive Committee has announced that the party will select its new leader in mid-September, ahead of the party conference. The ballot will close on 10 September, with the new leader announced on 12 September. Labour's annual conference begins on 27 September. Liz Kendall, Yvette Cooper and Andy Burnham have all announced that they will stand for Labour's leadership, whilst Chuka Umunna, who declared his intentions to stand earlier in the week, has now withdrawn from the race.

(Source: BBC)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-32714809>

## £60 million for propulsion technologies

The [Advanced Propulsion Centre \(APC\)](#) is seeking proposals for projects led by businesses that will deliver significant reductions in CO<sub>2</sub> or other emissions. Business can apply for a share of £60 million to develop low-emission propulsion technologies. This is the fourth round of funding. Around £90 million has already been allocated to more than 50 organisations in the first three rounds. Projects must be based around one or more propulsion technology areas:

- internal combustion engines
- lightweight powertrain structures
- electric machines and power electronics
- energy storage and energy management
- alternative propulsion systems

(Source: Innovate UK)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/low-carbon-vehicles-60-million-for-propulsion-technologies>



## ONS Labour Market Statistics

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) published its Labour Market statistics this week. The main findings of this release are that employment continues to rise and unemployment continued to fall. These changes continue the general direction of movement since late 2011. For January to March 2015, 73.5% of people aged from 16 – 64 were in work, up from 72.5% for a year earlier. The unemployment rate for January to March 2015 was 5.5%, down from 6.8% in comparison to 2014.

(Source: ONS)

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/lms/labour-market-statistics/may-2015/index.html>

## Week ahead

### Monday 18 May

#### Commons Chamber

- 2:30pm: Father of the House takes the Chair
- 2:40pm: Black Rod summons MPs to the House of Lords, where they will be read a Royal Commission directing them to choose a Speaker
- 2:50pm: Re-election of the Speaker

#### House of Lords

- The House of Lords is expected to sit to allow peers to retake the oath and to affirm their undertaking to abide by the code of conduct.

### Tuesday 19 May

#### Commons Chamber

- If the former Speaker has been re-elected  
2:40pm: Members go to the House of Lords to receive Royal approbation of their choice of Speaker
- 2:50pm: Swearing in of Members begins

#### Lords Chamber

- The House of Lords is expected to sit to allow peers to retake the oath and to affirm their undertaking to abide by the code of conduct.

### Wednesday 20 May – Thursday 21 May

#### Commons Chamber

- 11:30am: Swearing in of MPs continues on Wednesday.
- 9:30am: Swearing in of MPs continues on Thursday.

### Wednesday 27 May

#### Commons Chamber

- 11:25am: Queen's Speech
- 2:30pm: Queen's Speech debate