

REA briefing on Truss Ministerial Appointments

Briefing for: REA Members

Purpose: For REA members to familiarise themselves with Liz Truss' newly appointed Cabinet Minister and their views on climate change and renewable technologies

Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS)

Rt Hon Jacob Rees Mogg MP

Secretary of State for BEIS

North East Somerset

Previously: Leader of the House (2019 – 2022), Minister of State for Brexit

Opportunities (Feb 2022 – Sept 2022)



- Rees-Mogg shares similar economic views to the Prime Minister, with a focus on deregulation, lower taxes and the importance of free enterprise and growth.
- Rees-Mogg has a track record of criticising decarbonisation policies, having previously blamed "windmills" for high energy bills. He has previously expressed climate denialism, arguing that "it is widely accepted that carbon dioxide emissions have risen but the effect on the climate remains much debated...common sense dictates that if the Meteorological Office cannot forecast the next season's weather with any success it is ambitious to predict what will happen decades ahead."
- Wrote that "Net Zero is going to be a huge regulatory cost and that is an issue for the country to face and to face up to". Approach to Net Zero is tech innovation rather than regulation. (April 2022)
- Called for "every last cubic inch of gas" to be squeezed from the North Sea and has been a vocal supporter of fracking in the UK. In favour of low taxes and opposed to a windfall tax on these grounds.
- Generally he appears to want the Net Zero push to be driven by technological innovation, not regulation.
- Earlier in 2022, Rees-Mogg was reported to be one of the main voices pushing the Government to drop the Environmental Land Management scheme (ELMs) over concerns about food security.

Mr Graham Stuart MP

Minister of State for Climate

Beverley and Holderness

Previously: Minister of State for Europe (July – Sept 2022), Under-Secretary of State for Exports (2018-2021), Chair of Education Select Committee (2010-2015)



- Supporter of Net Zero policy and ally of Conservative Environment Network and previously sat on the Energy and Climate Intelligence Unit (ECIU) Advisory Board.
- Has described climate change as the "one of the greatest challenges we will face in this lifetime" and has praised the UK's "world-leading role in tackling climate change" and its position as the first G7 country to adopt a legal Net Zero target.
- Long-term proponent of decarbonisation: "If we can entirely decarbonise the power system and then use that power in other systems, we will start to move towards the ability to eradicate most of our carbon." (2016)
- Speaking on the Energy Bill earlier this year: "the Bill is of particular importance to my constituents. It will make possible the development of hydrogen, and of carbon capture and storage, on which I expect the Humber to be not only a national but a global leader. It will take us to net zero and give us energy security and huge export potential".
- His constituency is located in the Humber cluster and he has taken a keen interest in renewables, visiting both Drax Power Station and the Humber Gateway offshore wind farm.
- Pro-nuclear: "Nuclear technologies have a critical part to play in tackling climate change, for instance, not only in helping to achieve net zero, but also through nuclear applications such as helping to improve food security and agricultural resilience." (2022)
- Served as Vice-Chair of the All-Party Renewable Transport Fuels Group.

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)

Mr Ranil Jayawardena MP

Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

North East Hampshire

Previously: International Trade Minister, (May 2020 - Sept 2022), Conservative Party Vice-Chair (Aug 2019 - May 2020), PPS to MoJ (Sept - Nov 2018), PPS to DWP (Jan - Sept 2018)



- Whilst in the position of International Trade Minister, Mr Jayawardena stated that Ministers at the DIT regularly discuss matters relating to trade and environment with counterparts at DEFRA. "The two departments work together to provide qualitative and quantitative assessments of the environmental impacts of new free trade agreements. This includes several aspects of the environment, including emissions, air quality, water quality, and biodiversity." (April 2022)
- Has repeatedly discussed the benefits of signing international trade deals which "preserve our right to regulate to meet Net Zero, affirm our shared commitment to the Paris Agreement and seek to cooperate on a range of environmental issues." (March 2022)
- Also stated that "HM Government is exploring a range of options for collaboration in financial services and infrastructure development too, including securing green financing to aid Maldivian efforts towards cleaner, renewable energy generation." (April 2021)
- He voted against financial incentives for low carbon emission electricity generation methods in 2018.
- Between 2016 and 2021, Mr Jayawardena consistently voted with the government against measures to prevent climate change, with 16 votes against, including voting:
 - Not to require ministers to have due regard to the target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 when taking actions including setting up agricultural subsidy schemes. (2020)
 - Not to require a "climate and nature emergency impact statement" as part of any proposal for financial assistance under a United Kingdom Internal Market Act. (2020)
 - Not to call on the Government to develop and implement a plan to eliminate the substantial majority of transport emissions by 2030. (2020)
 - Against a motion calling on the Government "to rebuild the economy so that it works in the interest of the many, not just handing out rewards to those at the top" and bring forward "a green industrial revolution to decarbonise the economy and boost economic growth." (2019)
- However, in 2015, he voted for greater regulation of hydraulic fracturing (fracking) to extract shale gas.
- An avid cycling fan, Mr Jayawardena is an advocate of the North Hampshire Cycle Network.

Trudy Harrison MP

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Copeland

Previously: Transport Minister, July - Sept 2022, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Transport, Sept 2021 - July 2022, PPS to Prime Minister Boris Johnson, April 2020 - Sept 2021



- Vice Chair - All-Party Parliamentary Group on Nuclear Energy.
- On her website Ms Harrison calls for investment on "road, rail and digital networks" and cites the Government's commitment to spend £40bn on transport improvements.
- Generally supportive of decarbonising transport during her time in DfT, particularly supporting EVs and rapid chargepoints, and low carbon fuels under the RTFO scheme.
- At the time of her selection Ms Harrison worked as programme leader for the Bootle2020 project, which seeks to "create a rural, sustainable community and generate more than 20% of its total energy demand through local, renewable sources by 2020" in the village of Bootle, Cumbria.

- Consistently voted with the government against measures to prevent climate change (0 votes for, 10 votes against, between 2019–2021)
- No details have yet been released by Defra as of 12 September about her remit in the department. But with experience at the local authority level and of renewables, she is seen as potentially taking on the recycling and waste management brief.

The Rt Hon Mark Spencer MP

**Minister of State at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Sherwood**

**Previously: Leader of the House of Commons and Lord President of the Council,
Feb 2022 - Sept 2022, Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury (Chief Whip), Jul
2019 - Feb 2022, Comptroller of HM Household (Government Whip) Jul 2018 - Jul
2019, Vice Chamberlain of HM Household (Government Whip) Jan 2018 - Jul 2018,
PPS to Liz Truss as Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Secretary May 2015 - Jul 2016**



- Food and energy security were among Mr Spencer's priorities during his tenure as a member of the Environment Audit Committee between 2010 and 2015. He also served on the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee and the Backbench Business Committee between 2013 and 2015.
- He endorsed the development of anaerobic digestion, solar panels and ground source heat pumps, however, said nuclear would inevitably be required. The financial rewards of energy efficiency should also become more evident in public debates, he concluded.
- Generally voted with the government against measures to prevent climate change (4 votes for, 25 votes against, between 2011–2021.)
- "I join the hon. Gentleman in recognising Clean Air Day today. Clean air is an important issue and the Government take it seriously, so we are investing in infrastructure to improve the quality of our vehicles and move towards electric vehicles. We recently passed the Environment Act 2021 and we are looking at investment in our energy production infrastructure to move to more renewable sources. We need to proceed at a pace that our constituents and consumers can afford, but the infrastructure is coming very quickly." (June 2022)
- Recognises a need for a balanced approach to our energy sources. The Government are committed to moving in the direction of renewable energy, and this important matter is worthy of debate in the House. (March 2022)

Department for Transport (DfT)

The Rt Hon Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP

Secretary of State for Transport

UK International Champion on Adaptation and Resilience for the COP26 Presidency

Nov 2020 -

Berwick-upon-Tweed

Previously: Secretary of State for International Trade and President of the Board of Trade (Sept 2021 - Sept 2022), Minister of State for Business, Energy and Clean Growth (Jan - Sept 2021), Secretary of State for International Development (Feb 2020 - Sept 2020), Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Dec 2019 - Feb 2020), Parliamentary Under Secretary of State and Minister for Defence Procurement (Jul - Dec 2019), PPS to DfE (Sept - Nov 2018), PPS to Ministry of Defence Ministers (Jun 2017 - Sept 2018)



- Has previously been very supportive of green trade, from an economic point of view “Quite simply, green trade, sells green jobs.” (2022)
- Also has supported renewable energy and clean technology, including biofuels, heat pumps, solar, and EVs.
- “Solar energy is a key part of the Government’s strategy for decarbonisation of the energy sector and the Energy White Paper, published in December 2020, committed to ‘sustained growth’ in solar photovoltaics (PV) across the next decade. Installing solar PV alongside electric vehicle (EV) chargepoints, particularly if also paired with battery storage, has a number of benefits. Smart and flexible solutions such as this can increase the use of renewable electricity and reduce demand on the grid. Reducing demand can in turn reduce the cost of connecting the chargepoints to the electricity network and avoid costly electricity network reinforcement.” (2021)
- “The Government are committed to decarbonising our energy system, while supporting our economic recovery from covid-19, with investment in existing, emerging and new low-carbon technologies and the creation of new green jobs. We have made significant progress on decarbonising electricity, and we continue to take action to decarbonise our transportation need. However, as highlighted by the Climate Change Committee, decarbonising our heat requirements is a significant challenge ahead of us.” (2021)
- Generally voted for new high speed rail infrastructure.
- However, she has consistently voted with the government against measures to prevent climate change – 16 votes against between 2016-2021, with zero votes for, including:
 - Voted against financial incentives for low carbon emission electricity generation methods.
 - Voted for greater regulation of hydraulic fracturing (fracking) to extract shale gas.
 - Voted not to require ministers to have due regard to the target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 when taking actions including setting up agricultural subsidy schemes.
 - Voted not to call on the Government to develop and implement a plan to eliminate the substantial majority of transport emissions by 2030.

Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLHC)

Mr Simon Clarke MP

Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland

Previously: Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Sept 2021 - Sept 2022), Minister of State,

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (Feb - Sept 2020),

Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury under Boris Johnson (Jul 2019 – Feb 2020)



- Mr Clarke has been at the forefront of the Government's net zero policy, including around the 2019 amendment of the Climate Change Act which introduced targets for 100% reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. He gathered cross-party support of over 130 MPs for the change in policy by stressing the opportunities for UK businesses during the transition.
- A member of the Northern Research Group, he is supportive of putting pressure on the Government for greater investment in the region.
- He has criticised the Labour party for arguing for a windfall tax, however while he was Chief Secretary to the Treasury, he introduced a windfall tax earlier this year, saying it would ensure "that the extraordinary and unexpected profits from which oil and gas companies have benefited are taxed fairly and provide a significant investment incentive."
- Clarke consistently voted with the government against measures to prevent climate change with 8 votes against and 0 votes for between 2019 and 2021, including:
 - Voting not to require public authorities to act in accordance with the following principles in relation to the environment: preventative action to avert damage; the precautionary principle; rectifying damage at source and "polluter pays".
 - Voting not to require ministers to have due regard to the target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 when taking actions including setting up agricultural subsidy schemes.
 - Voting not to require a "climate and nature emergency impact statement" as part of any proposal for financial assistance under a United Kingdom Internal Market Act.
- "It is true, of course, that gas remains an important part of the wider energy transition that is under way. The current situation in the global gas market underscores the importance of diversifying our energy mix and accelerating the deployment of renewable energy in this country. The shift away from carbon-intensive generation is likely to help insulate the UK from global swings in the prices of commodities such as gas in the future, and indeed, precisely because we have invested in renewables and energy efficiency, UK demand for natural gas has fallen 26% since 2010, which has helped to reduce our exposure." (Jan 2022)