



Raab resigns: Sunak carries out mini reshuffle

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak reshuffles his deck as Raab leaves space at the top

Briefing by PoliMonitor

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Summary

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Dominic Raab, the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice and Deputy Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, resigned on the morning of 21 April 2023. A longtime ally of Rishi Sunak, Raab resigned after an investigation into allegations of bullying during his time in Government upheld two complaints against him. Raab had previously stated publicly that he would resign if an independent investigation were to uphold any formal complaints made against him.

Raab is the 4th ministerial resignation of Sunak's premiership, and the second from his Cabinet, following the departures of Sir Gavin Williamson, Baroness Stedman-Scott and Nadhim Zahawi.

The following briefing outlines changes made to Rishi Sunak's Cabinet and Ministerial team in the wake of today's resignation. Additionally, this briefing also outlines some temporary changes made under the Ministerial and other Maternity Allowances Act 2021.

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Resigned

**Lord Chancellor
Secretary of State for Justice
Deputy Prime Minister**



Dominic Raab

Appointed

**Lord Chancellor
Secretary of State for Justice**

Deputy Prime Minister*



Alex Chalk KC



Oliver Dowden

Alex Chalk KC becomes the next Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, making his Cabinet debut. Chalk joins the Ministry of Justice having served as Minister of State for Defence Procurement in the Ministry of Defence since 26 October 2022. Chalk is no stranger to the Ministry of Justice, having served as a Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice from 14 February 2020 to 16 September 2021, as Minister of State for Prisons and Probation from 2 March 2021 to 10 September 2021 and Solicitor General for England and Wales from 16 September to 5 July 2022, when he was among some of the first Ministers to resign from Boris Johnson's Government, which ultimately led to Johnson's resignation as Prime Minister.

Prior to entering politics, Chalk worked as a barrister, prosecuting and defending in cases concerning terrorism, fraud and homicide. Elected a Member of Parliament for Cheltenham in 2015, Chalk's current majority of 981 is the lowest out of any member of Sunak's Cabinet.

Oliver Dowden, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, takes on the role of Deputy Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. Dowden, a close ally of Sunak's, resigned the role of Party Chairman on 24 June 2022 following Conservative by-election defeats in Tiverton and Honiton and Wakefield, an action which some say helped contribute to the subsequent mass-resignations of Boris Johnson's Government starting on 5 July 2022.

Other changes

**Minister of State on Leave
(Secretary of State)**



Michelle Donelan

**Minister of State on Leave
(Minister of State)**



Julia Lopez

**Secretary of State for Science,
Innovation and Technology**



Chloe Smith

**Minister of State for Media,
Data and Digital Infrastructure**



Sir John Whittingdale

**Minister of State (Ministry
of Defence)**



James Cartlidge

**Exchequer Secretary to the
Treasury**



Gareth Davies

James Cartlidge, who woke up this morning as the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury, replaces Chalk at the Ministry of Defence, having been appointed Minister of State - it is likely he will take on the Defence Procurement role left by Chalk. **Gareth Davies**, a member of the 2019 intake of Conservative MPs, makes his ministerial debut, having been appointed Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury to fill the vacancy left by Cartlidge.

Under the Ministerial and other Maternity Allowances Act 2021, which allows ministers and paid opposition figures to take up to six months maternity leave at full pay, **Michelle Donelan**, the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology, and **Julia Lopez**, Minister of State for Media, Data and Digital Infrastructure, have both been appointed Minister on Leave. Their roles will be temporarily filled by **Chloe Smith** and **Sir John Whittingdale**, respectively.

Smith most recently served as Secretary of State for Work and Pensions during the premiership of Liz Truss, and is now one of only a few MPs to have served in the Government of every Conservative Prime Minister elected since 2010. Whittingdale is well-known in DCMS circles, having served as Chair of the DCMS Select Committee from 2005 until 2015, DCMS Secretary from 2015 to 2016 and as a Minister of State for Media and Data from February 2020 to September 2021.

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