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New Health Ministers appointed

The new Ministerial team at the Department of Health has been confirmed by Health Secretary Andrew Lansley.

- Simon Burns MP is Minister of State for Health;
- Paul Burstow MP is Minister of State for Care Services;
- Anne Milton MP is Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Public Health; and
- Earl Howe is Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Quality.

Andrew Lansley said:

"We have a very strong Ministerial team with a wealth of experience in the field of health. Simon Burns previously served as a Health Minister as well as, more recently, working on the shadow health team. Since 1999, Paul Burstow has worked on the older people's brief and has a special interest in social care and disability issues.

"Anne Milton, who worked for the NHS for 25 years, has a wide range of hands-on experience, including nursing in hospitals, as a district nurse, and supporting GPs and nurses working in palliative care. And Earl Howe was Opposition spokesman for Health and Social Services in the House of Lords from 1997.

"Together, we will build an NHS in which the patient shares in making decisions; where quality standards are evidence-based and form the basis of the design of services and their management; and where the objective is consistent improvement in the outcomes we achieve, so that they are amongst the best in the world. We will create a more integrated public health service at the heart of healthcare policy and we will offer support, security and services to those in need of personal and social care."

The list of ministerial responsibilities at the Department of Health is as follows (a detailed list of portfolio areas will be available on the Department of Health website shortly):

Simon Burns MP - Minister of State for Health, portfolio includes:

Legislation
NHS Performance
Health Services
Reconfiguration of Services
Patient Safety
Application of Quality Regulation
NHS Workforce
Mixed Sex Accommodation
Connecting for Health

Paul Burstow MP - Minister of State for Care Services, portfolio includes:

Long Term Care Reform
Adult Social Care
Carers
Personal Health Budgets
Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults
End of Life Care
Long Term Conditions, including cancer and diabetes
Dementia
Mental Health
Physical Disabilities
Autism
Learning Disabilities

Anne Milton MP - Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Public

Health, portfolio includes:

Public Health, including sexual health, tobacco, drugs and alcohol
Vaccination & Immunisation
Blood & Transplants
Fertility & Embryology
Fluoridation
Food, diet and nutrition
Children's Health
Maternity Services
Nursing & Midwifery
Health Visiting
Professional Regulation
Medical Education & Training

Earl Howe - Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Quality (Lords), portfolio includes:

NHS Constitution
NHS Commissioning Reform
Primary Care
Dentistry
Medicines, Pharmacy & Industry
NICE
Research and Development
Innovation
Finance
Review of Arm's Length Bodies

NOTES TO EDITORS

BIOGRAPHIES

Simon Burns MP

Mr Burns was educated at Christ the King School, Accra, Ghana; Stamford School, Stamford, Lincolnshire; and Worcester College, Oxford, where he obtained BA Honours Degree in Modern History. He also has an Honorary Doctorate of Philosophy from Anglia University.

In 1972, he worked for Senator George McGovern in his presidential election bid against Richard Nixon and on Hilary Clinton's Presidential Campaign in the Hampshire Primary Election in January 2008. From 1973-75 he was a committee member, Political Action Officer and Secretary of Oxford University Conservative Association and a member of the Oxford Union.

Mr Burns was Member of Parliament for Chelmsford from June 1987 – April 1997, Member of Parliament for West Chelmsford from May 1997 - April 2010 and been Member of Parliament for Chelmsford since May 2010. Mr Burns was Parliamentary Private Secretary to Timothy Eggar MP and the Rt. Hon. Gillian She MP at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food until July 1994. He has also been Assistant Government Whip (1994-1995), Lord Commissioner of Her Majesty's Treasury (1995-1996) and Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Health (1996-7). He was a member of the House of Comm Health Select Committee from 1999 – 2005.

In September 2001, Mr Burns was appointed Shadow Health Minister and was reappointed to this position in May 2005. In December 2005, David Cameron appointed Simon an Opposition Whip.

Mr Burns is interested in American Politics, collecting political books and swimming. He has a daughter, Amelia, and a son, Bobby.

Paul Burstow MP

Paul was elected as Member of Parliament for Sutton & Cheam at the 1997 election and has held several front bench positions, including Shadow Spokesman Health, Shadow Minister for London and most recently Shadow Chief Whip.

Before being elected to Parliament, Paul headed the Liberal Democrat's Local Government Unit and served on Sutton Council for 16 years from 1986.

Paul was educated at Glastonbury High School for Boys, Sutton and Carshalton College before attending South Bank Polytechnic where he gained a business studies degree. On graduating, he worked as a buying assistant before becoming a research assistant at the London Borough of Hounslow.

Married with a son and two daughters, Paul enjoys cooking, reading and working out at the gym.

Anne Milton MP

Anne was educated at Haywards Heath Grammar School in Sussex and trained as a nurse at St Bartholomew's Hospital in London. Anne worked for the NHS for years and has a wide range of experience within the NHS, including district nursing in hospital, working in research and supporting GPs and nurses working in palliative care. She also pioneered a scheme to look after people who were sent home early from hospital. Her last job in the NHS was to give medical advice to councils and housing associations.

Anne became involved in politics in the early 1990s, though in the past she was a union steward for the Royal College of Nursing and involved in the National Childbirth Trust after that. Before being elected as an MP in 2005, Anne was a borough councillor for five years in Surrey.

In November 2006, Anne was appointed Shadow Minister for Tourism in the Department of Culture, Media and Sport team. In July 2007, she was appointed a Shadow Minister for Health.

In her spare time, Anne enjoys gardening, is a keen runner and is an avid reader, although her family are at the heart of her life.

Earl Howe

Earl Howe was born in 1951. He was educated at Rugby School and Christ Church, Oxford. After leaving University in 1973, he joined Barclays Bank and served a number of managerial and senior managerial posts both overseas and in London. In 1987, he was appointed London director of Adam & Co. plc, the Scottish based private bank, where he remained until 1990.

He is married with three daughters and a son.

In 1991, Lord Howe became a government whip in the House of Lords with responsibilities, successively, for transport, employment, defence and environment. Following the General Election of 1992, he was appointed Parliamentary Secretary (Lords) at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food; and in 1995 Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Ministry of Defence, a post he relinquished at the 1997 General Election.

He was opposition spokesman for Health and Social Services in the House of Lords since 1997. He is an elected hereditary peer under the provisions of the House of Lords Act 1999. Apart from his frontbench responsibilities, Earl Howe has previously been a member of the all-party groups on penal affairs, abuse investigations, pharmaceuticals, adoption, mental health and epilepsy.

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