

CABINET COMMITTEE SYSTEM

1. Cabinet and Cabinet Committees are groups of Ministers that can take collective decisions that are binding across Government. The Cabinet is the supreme decision-making body in government, dealing with the big issues of the day and the Government's overall strategy. Cabinet Committees reduce the burden on Cabinet by enabling collective decisions to be taken by a smaller group of Ministers. The composition and terms of reference of Coalition Cabinet Committees are a matter for the Prime Minister, in consultation with the Deputy Prime Minister.
2. The Coalition Committee is a formal Committee of Cabinet which meets to consider issues relating to the operation of the Coalition. It is co-chaired by The Prime Minister and The Deputy Prime Minister.
3. Each Committee has a Chair from one Party and a Deputy Chair from the other Party. The Chair and Deputy Chair have the right to remit an issue to the Coalition Committee if it affects the operation of the Coalition and cannot be resolved by the originating Committee. The use of this right will be kept to a minimum.
4. With the approval of the Chair (with the exception of those Committees requiring limited or specific attendance due to the nature of the discussion) Ministers are able to send a deputy from either their Department or their Party, as appropriate, to Committee meetings.
5. The Coalition Operation and Strategic Planning Group is a working group and is not a Cabinet Committee. It is co-chaired by the Minister of State – Cabinet Office and the Secretary of State for Scotland.
6. Other Ministers, officials and organisations can be invited to Committees when appropriate at the discretion of the Chair. The relevant Law Officers shall be invited to attend Committee Meetings as required and shall receive the minutes of all Cabinet Committees.

Coalition Committee

Membership:

Prime Minister, First Lord of the Treasury and Minister for the Civil Service (Co-Chair)	(The Rt Hon David Cameron MP)
Deputy Prime Minister, Lord President of the Council (Co-Chair)	(The Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP)
First Secretary of State, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Deputy Chair)	(The Rt Hon William Hague MP)
Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Deputy Chair)	(The Rt Hon Chris Huhne MP)
Chancellor of the Exchequer	(The Rt Hon George Osborne MP)
Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills	(The Rt Hon Dr Vincent Cable MP)
Secretary of State for Scotland ¹	(The Rt Hon Danny Alexander MP)
Chief Secretary to the Treasury	(The Rt Hon David Laws MP)
Minister for the Cabinet Office, Paymaster General	(The Rt Hon Francis Maude MP)
Minister of State – Cabinet Office	(The Rt Hon Oliver Letwin MP)

Terms of Reference

To meet weekly, or as required, to manage the business and priorities of the Government and the implementation and operation of the Coalition agreement. This Committee will be deemed quorate if two members from each party in the coalition are present.

Coalition Operation and Strategic Planning Group²

Membership:

Minister of State - Cabinet Office (Co-Chair)	(The Rt Hon Oliver Letwin MP)
Secretary of State for Scotland (Co-Chair) ³	(The Rt Hon Danny Alexander MP)
Minister for the Cabinet Office, Paymaster General	(The Rt Hon Francis Maude MP)
Advocate General for Scotland	(The Rt Hon Lord Wallace of Tankerness QC)

Permanent Secretary, No 10 (Jeremy Heywood) and others will be invited to attend, in equal numbers from both Parties in the coalition.

Terms of Reference

To meet weekly, and as required, to consider and resolve issues relating to the operation of the coalition agreement, the longer term strategic planning of Government Business and to report as necessary to the Coalition Committee.

¹ Attends in his role providing Ministerial support to the Deputy Prime Minister in the Cabinet Office

² This is an informal working group and not a Cabinet Sub Committee

³ Attends in his role providing Ministerial support to the Deputy Prime Minister in the Cabinet Office

National Security Council

Membership

Prime Minister, First Lord of the Treasury and Minister for the Civil Service (Chair)	(The Rt Hon David Cameron MP)
Deputy Prime Minister, Lord President of the Council (Deputy Chair)	(The Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP)
First Secretary of State, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs	(The Rt Hon William Hague MP)
Chancellor of the Exchequer	(The Rt Hon George Osborne MP)
Secretary of State for the Home Department; and Minister for Women and Equalities	(The Rt Hon Theresa May MP)
Secretary of State for Defence	(The Rt Hon Dr Liam Fox MP)
Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change	(The Rt Hon Chris Huhne MP)
Secretary of State for International Development	(The Rt Hon Andrew Mitchell MP)
Secretary of State for Scotland ⁴	(The Rt Hon Danny Alexander MP)
Minister of State – Cabinet Office	(The Rt Hon Oliver Letwin MP)
Minister for Security	(Baroness Pauline Neville-Jones)

Terms of Reference

To consider matters relating to National Security, Foreign Policy, Defence, International Relations and Development, Resilience, Energy and Resource Security.

⁴ Attends in his role providing Ministerial support to the Deputy Prime Minister in the Cabinet Office

NSC (Threats, Hazards, Resilience and Contingencies)

Membership

Prime Minister, First Lord of the Treasury and Minister for the Civil Service (Chair)	(The Rt Hon David Cameron MP)
Deputy Prime Minister, Lord President of the Council (Deputy Chair)	(The Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP)
First Secretary of State, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs	(The Rt Hon William Hague MP)
Chancellor of the Exchequer	(The Rt Hon George Osborne MP)
Lord Chancellor, Secretary of State for Justice	(The Rt Hon Kenneth Clarke QC MP)
Secretary of State for the Home Department; and Minister for Women and Equalities	(The Rt Hon Theresa May MP)
Secretary of State for Defence	(The Rt Hon Dr Liam Fox MP)
Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills	(The Rt Hon Dr Vincent Cable MP)
Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change	(The Rt Hon Chris Huhne MP)
Secretary of State for Health	(The Rt Hon Andrew Lansley CBE MP)
Secretary of State for Education	(The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP)
Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government	(The Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP)
Secretary of State for Transport	(The Rt Hon Philip Hammond MP)
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	(The Rt Hon Caroline Spelman MP)
Secretary of State for International Development,	(The Rt Hon Andrew Mitchell MP)
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland	(The Rt Hon Owen Paterson MP)
Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport	(The Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP)
Minister for Security	(Baroness Pauline Neville-Jones)

(Restricted attendance for intelligence and other sensitive security matters to: Prime Minister (Chair), Deputy Prime Minister (Deputy Chair), Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Chancellor of the Exchequer, Secretary of State for the Home Department, Secretary of State for Defence.)

Terms of Reference:

To consider issues relating to terrorism and other security threats, hazards, resilience and intelligence policy and the performance and resources of the security and intelligence agencies; and report as necessary to the National Security Council.

Operational Meetings

When meeting to consider the Government's response to civil emergencies the Terms of Reference will be as follows:

To consider, in civil emergencies, plans for the protection of life, the continuity of everyday activity, and the restoration of disrupted services.

In general the Chair will be taken by the Secretary of State of the Government Department with lead responsibility for the particular issues being considered. Ministers, Departments and organisations, including the Devolved Administrations, will be invited to attend depending on the contingency.

NSC (Nuclear Deterrence and Security) (restricted attendance)

Membership:

Prime Minister, First Lord of the Treasury and Minister for the Civil Service (Chair)
(The Rt Hon David Cameron MP)
Deputy Prime Minister, Lord President of the Council (Deputy Chair)
(The Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP)
First Secretary of State, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
(The Rt Hon William Hague MP)
Chancellor of the Exchequer (The Rt Hon George Osborne MP)
Secretary of State for the Home Department, and Minister for Women and Equalities
(The Rt Hon Theresa May MP)
Secretary of State for Defence (The Rt Hon Dr Liam Fox MP)
Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (The Rt Hon Chris Huhne MP)

Terms of Reference:

To consider issues relating to nuclear deterrence, proliferation and security.

European Affairs Committee

Membership

First Secretary of State, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Chair)
(The Rt Hon William Hague MP)

Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Deputy Chair)
(The Rt Hon Chris Huhne MP)

Chancellor of the Exchequer
(The Rt Hon George Osborne MP)

Secretary of State for the Home Department, and Minister for Women and Equalities
(The Rt Hon Theresa May MP)

Secretary of State for Defence
(The Rt Hon Dr Liam Fox MP)

Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills
(The Rt Hon Dr Vincent Cable MP)

Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government
(The Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP)

Secretary of State for International Development
(The Rt Hon Andrew Mitchell MP)

Secretary of State for Scotland⁵
(The Rt Hon Danny Alexander MP)

Minister of State - Cabinet Office
(The Rt Hon Oliver Letwin MP)

Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury and Chief Whip
(The Rt Hon Patrick McLoughlin MP)

Minister of State – Europe
(David Lidington MP)

Minister of State – Foreign and Commonwealth Office) (Jeremy Browne MP)

Deputy Chief Whip (Comptroller of HM Household) (Alistair Carmichael MP)

Terms of Reference

To consider issues relating to the European Union

Social Justice Committee

Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Chair) (The Rt Hon Iain Duncan Smith MP)

Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Deputy Chair) (The Rt Hon David Laws MP)

Secretary of State for the Home Department, and Minister for Women and Equalities
(The Rt Hon Theresa May MP)

Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government
(The Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP)

Minister without Portfolio
(The Rt Hon Baroness Warsi)

Minister for Cabinet Office, Paymaster General
(The Rt Hon Francis Maude MP)

Minister of State – Cabinet Office
(The Rt Hon Oliver Letwin MP)

Minister of State for Children and Families
(Sarah Teather MP)

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State – Minister for Equalities (Lynne Featherstone MP)

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Public Health (Anne Milton MP)

Terms of Reference

To consider issues relating to poverty, equality and social justice.

⁵ Attends in his role providing Ministerial support to the Deputy Prime Minister in the Cabinet Office

Home Affairs Committee

Membership

Deputy Prime Minister, Lord President of the Council (Chair)	(The Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP)
Lord Chancellor, Secretary of State for Justice (Deputy Chair)	(The Rt Hon Kenneth Clarke QC MP)
Chancellor of the Exchequer	(The Rt Hon George Osborne MP)
Secretary of State for the Home Department; and Minister for Women and Equalities	(The Rt Hon Theresa May MP)
Secretary of State for Defence	(The Rt Hon Dr Liam Fox MP)
Secretary of State for Work and Pensions	(The Rt Hon Iain Duncan Smith MP)
Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change	(The Rt Hon Chris Huhne MP)
Secretary of State for Health	(The Rt Hon Andrew Lansley CBE MP)
Secretary of State for Education	(The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP)
Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government	(The Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP)
Secretary of State for Transport	(The Rt Hon Philip Hammond MP)
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	(The Rt Hon Caroline Spelman MP)
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland	(The Rt Hon Owen Paterson MP)
Secretary of State for Scotland	(The Rt Hon Danny Alexander MP)
Secretary of State for Wales	(The Rt Hon Cheryl Gillan MP)
Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport	(The Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP)
Chief Secretary to the Treasury	(The Rt Hon David Laws MP)
Minister without Portfolio	(The Rt Hon Baroness Warsi)
Minister of State – Cabinet Office	(The Rt Hon Oliver Letwin MP)

Terms of Reference

To consider issues relating to constitutional and political reform, and home affairs, including migration, health, schools and welfare.

There will be sub-committees to consider issues relating to public health and the Olympics.

Economic Affairs Committee

Membership

Chancellor of the Exchequer (Chair)	(The Rt Hon George Osborne MP)
Secretary of State for Business Innovation and Skills (Deputy Chair)	(The Rt Hon Dr Vincent Cable MP)
First Secretary of State, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs	(The Rt Hon William Hague MP)
Secretary of State for Defence	(The Rt Hon Dr Liam Fox MP)
Secretary of State for Work and Pensions	(The Rt Hon Iain Duncan Smith MP)
Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change	(The Rt Hon Chris Huhne MP)
Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government	(The Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP)
Secretary of State for Transport	(The Rt Hon Philip Hammond MP)
Secretary of State for Scotland ⁶	(The Rt Hon Danny Alexander MP)
Chief Secretary to the Treasury	(The Rt Hon David Laws MP)
Minister of State – Cabinet Office	(The Rt Hon Oliver Letwin MP)
Minister of State – Universities and Skills	(David Willets MP)
Minister of State – Communities and Local Government	(Greg Clark MP)

Terms of Reference

To consider issues relating to the economy.

There will be a sub-committee to consider issues relating to reducing regulation. This sub-committee will report to the European Affairs Committee on issues relating to European regulation.

Banking Reform Committee

Membership

Chancellor of the Exchequer (Chair)	(The Rt Hon George Osborne MP)
Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Deputy Chair)	(The Rt Hon Dr Vincent Cable MP)
Lord Chancellor, Secretary of State for Justice	(The Rt Hon Kenneth Clarke QC MP)
Secretary of State for Scotland ⁷	(The Rt Hon Danny Alexander MP)
Chief Secretary to the Treasury	(The Rt Hon David Laws MP)
Minister of State – Cabinet Office	(The Rt Hon Oliver Letwin MP)
Financial Secretary to the Treasury	(Mark Hoban MP)

Terms of Reference

To consider issues relating to banking.

⁶ Attends in his role providing Ministerial support to the Deputy Prime Minister in the Cabinet Office

⁷ Attends in his role providing Ministerial support to the Deputy Prime Minister in the Cabinet Office

Parliamentary Business and Legislation Committee

Membership:

Leader of the House of Commons, Lord Privy Seal (Chair)	(The Rt Hon Sir George Young Bt MP)
Deputy Leader of the House of Commons (Deputy Chair)	(David Heath MP)
Secretary of State for Scotland ⁸	(The Rt Hon Danny Alexander MP)
Chief Secretary to the Treasury	(The Rt Hon David Laws MP)
Leader of the House of Lords, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster	(The Rt Hon Lord Strathclyde)
Minister of State – Cabinet Office	(The Rt Hon Oliver Letwin MP)
Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury and Chief Whip – House of Commons	(The Rt Hon Patrick McLoughlin MP)
The Attorney General	(The Rt Hon Dominic Grieve QC MP)
Lords Chief Whip	(The Rt Hon Baroness Anelay of St Johns DBE)
Deputy Leader of the House of Lords	(The Rt Hon Lord McNally)
Deputy Chief Whip (Comptroller of HM Household) – House of Commons	(Alistair Carmichael MP)
Deputy Chief Whip – House of Lords	(The Rt Hon Lord Shutt of Greetland OBE)
Advocate General for Scotland	(The Rt Hon Lord Wallace of Tankerness QC)

Terms of Reference

To consider the Government's Parliamentary business and implementation of its legislative programme.

The First Parliamentary Counsel and Parliamentary Private Secretaries to the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister will be invited to attend. The Secretary of State for Wales and Secretary of State for Northern Ireland will be invited to attend meetings as appropriate and will receive papers and minutes.

⁸ Attends in his role providing Ministerial support to the Deputy Prime Minister in the Cabinet Office