



Resignations push Britain's Brown to the brink

Prime Minister Gordon Brown has been dealt a monumental blow to his chances of holding on to office after the unprecedented resignation of five of his senior ministers within a week. Brown has been battered by recession and an expenses scandal in which a dozen Labour MPs have now resigned or been barred from standing for re-election



James Purnell
Work and pensions
Quits, calling on Brown
*"to stand aside to
give Labour a fighting
chance of winning
the next election"*



Hazel Blears
**Communities
Secretary**
Resigns after Brown
calls her expenses
behaviour *"totally
unacceptable"*



Jacqui Smith
Home Secretary
Faces criticism over
second home claims
and humiliation for
charging taxpayer for
husband's porn films



Tom Watson
**Cabinet Office
Minister**
Close Brown ally
has been battered
by succession of
controversies



Beverley Hughes
Children's minister
To step down as MP
at next election.
Denies any link
between decision and
expenses scandal



Michael Martin
Commons Speaker
First Speaker to be
forced from office in
more than 300 years
following his officials'
failure to stop abuse
of claims system



Shahid Malik
Justice minister
Stepped down over
allegations that he
broke ministerial
code of conduct over
second home
allowances



Elliot Morley
Suspended from
Parliamentary Party
over allegation that
he claimed interest
payments for non-
existent mortgage

Picture: Getty Images



Margaret Moran
Barred from standing
for party at next
election following
high-profile battle with
her constituents over
expenses claims



David Chaytor
Suspended from
Parliamentary Party
over allegation that
he claimed interest
payments for non-
existent mortgage



Ian Gibson
Barred by so-called
star chamber from
standing for party at
next general election,
following questions
about his expenses



Ben Chapman
To quit following
allegation that he
claimed interest
charges on mortgage
that he had already
paid off