

Prime Minister

David Cameron, 43
From MP to PM in just nine years. Political future rests on making coalition work

Chancellor of the Exchequer



George Osborne, 38
Youngest finance minister since 1886. Must tackle UK's massive budget deficit which has soared from below 3% of GDP in 2007 to 12% – or £167 billion – in 2010

Chief Secretary to the Treasury

David Laws, 44
Former high-flying Barclays Bank executive must oversee fiercest spending cuts in three decades

Business Secretary



Vince Cable, 67
Former chief economist with Shell must boost bank lending and green economy

Scottish Secretary



Danny Alexander, 37
Nick Clegg's political fixer

Pictures: Associated Press, Getty Images

Britain's coalition cabinet

The centre-right Conservative party and the smaller, centre-left Liberal Democrats have formed the first coalition government in Britain since World War II



Deputy Prime Minister



Nick Clegg, 43
Elected as an MP in 2005. Future of Lib Dems rests in his hands

Home Secretary

Theresa May, 53
Became MP in 1997 after career in city and at Bank of England. Brief is to sort out shambolic immigration system and slash police numbers

Foreign Secretary



William Hague, 49
Backs hardline policies on asylum, immigration and Europe. Hague has role of setting foreign policy framework for strategic defence review

Defence Secretary



Liam Fox, 48
Hardline Eurosceptic wants to renew Britain's Trident submarine-launched nuclear deterrent but faces inevitable defence spending cuts

Energy and Climate Change Secretary

Chris Huhne, 55
Opposes new nuclear power stations – favours carbon capture and wind power to reduce carbon emissions

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- Education**
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- International Development**
- Environment**
- Culture**
- Local Government**
- Wales**
- Northern Ireland**
- Chief Whip**

- Philip Hammond, 54
- Iain Duncan Smith, 56
- Michael Gove, 42
- Andrew Lansley, 53
- Andrew Mitchell, 54
- Caroline Spelman, 52
- Jeremy Hunt, 43
- Eric Pickles, 58
- Cheryl Gillan, 58
- Owen Paterson, 53
- Patrick McLoughlin, 52

Lord Chancellor, Secretary of State for Justice



Ken Clarke, 69
Political heavyweight, former chancellor from 1993 to 1997 guided Britain's recovery from recession