

# NTIA

## Election and post-election Q&A

### General Election

#### ***What will NTIA be doing on election day and night?***

We will be working within the media throughout the day and night monitoring the results ready to communicate directly with new MP's and work on follow up meetings across the coming weeks. We will be putting together a Webinar for our members over the course of the coming weeks to discuss any changes that will take place with the new Government coming in.

#### ***How can I view the results?***

The first declarations tend to come in around 90 minutes after polls close, and we'll be keeping a close eye on the BBC and other reputable news outlets to make sure the results are reliable and accurate. Once confirmed, we will keep you up to date on the new MP profiles on our website.

You can [read more about the race to declare the first results here](#).

#### ***When will the final list of MPs be available?***

As soon as the last constituency has declared, we will circulate a final spreadsheet with all 650 MPs. This is unlikely to be until Friday afternoon, as there could be recounts.

#### ***Where can I view biographies of the new MPs?***

We expect that the majority of winning candidates will have bespoke Randall's biographies available immediately for download, much like the ones you are used to with former MPs. These will be available to you on both Touchbase and client websites. There will inevitably be some surprises on the night, and we will work to produce any missing biographies as quickly as we can. We will then be enhancing all biographies over the coming weeks and months as more information becomes available about the new intake. If former MPs reappear in the House of Lords in the future, profiles will be readily available.

## **After the General Election**

### ***When do candidates officially become MPs?***

As soon as a result is declared by the returning officer, the winning candidate immediately becomes a Member of Parliament. From this point they have access to the parliamentary estate and can begin to undertake constituency work.

### ***When will MP email addresses be available?***

The emails for returned MPs will be up as soon as they are re-elected.

For new MPs, we would expect to see addresses confirmed during the week before the King's Speech. The standard format for MP email addresses is [firstname.surname.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:firstname.surname.mp@parliament.uk). We do not yet know, however, what name people will choose to be addressed by (e.g. Chris or Christopher) so the standard format may not work straight away.

### ***When are ministers appointed?***

Should a majority government become clear by Friday, we would expect Cabinet appointments to be announced the same day. After the Conservatives won a majority in the 2015 General Election, David Cameron announced senior government Cabinet appointments a day after the election; Tony Blair did the same in 1997. Other ministerial appointments would then be expected to be made over the following days, including the weekend. We will keep you updated through Friday and over the weekend with any news.

If there is a Labour government, there is no guarantee that current shadow ministers will automatically transfer to the equivalent government position; the Prime Minister can appoint people as he or she wishes.

### ***When will the Shadow Cabinet be announced?***

This is less clear. If polls are to be believed, the Conservative Party will be forming the Official Opposition, with significantly fewer MPs to choose from. It's also looking very possible that current ministers could lose their seats.

The opposition will be required to send shadow ministers to respond to the government in debates and in oral sessions when Parliament starts sitting again. It's also *very* likely that a Tory leadership contest will be declared soon after the election. Therefore, the most likely scenario is an interim shadow team will be announced in the period between the election and the State Opening, before the next Conservative leader appoints his or her Shadow Cabinet.

### ***When will Special Advisers be appointed?***

Working on the assumption of a Labour government, most of the Shadow Cabinet will already have a good idea of who they will want to appoint as Special Advisers, largely based on those who are already advising them. New Cabinet members will want to make these appointments as

soon as possible, but there is no set time that they have to do this by. We may not have information for several weeks.

### ***Will departments stay the same?***

There is no guarantee that government departments will stay the same, and should Labour form the next government, it's highly likely that we can expect significant changes across Whitehall. A government can create and rename departments at their own choosing and these changes can be made immediately. As a formality, a Machinery of Government change will take place, usually via a written ministerial statement, but this might be published several weeks later, and the new department will usually be up and running by this point.

As soon as we are aware of any changes to government departments, we will circulate these to relevant clients.

### ***When will ministerial emails be available?***

Before ministerial e-mails are set up, the government will need to confirm appointments. As we are expecting a new party in government, it is likely that the process will take slightly longer than usual due to machinery of government changes that may also take place at the same time (i.e. changing the names and remits of departments). It will not be a straight swap from former e-mail addresses – although we will endeavour to provide at least a generic address as soon as possible.

We will be working hard in the days and weeks following the election to get these emails confirmed. As soon as we are confident that we have the right direct email address, we will add it to the relevant ministerial profile on Touchbase and client websites. The Cabinet Office will eventually publish a full list, but this is often months later, and we sometimes have better email addresses than the ones given.

If you are looking for a specific email address, please let us know and we will make a note to alert you as soon as we have it confirmed.

### ***What happens between election night and state opening?***

New MPs will attend an induction shortly after the election, where equipment and e-mails are given to them. They can also start undertaking constituency work immediately. As per the Hansard Society, [who wrote this helpful blog on the 2015 intake](#), Westminster “offices are allocated by the party whips, according to seniority and with regard to party balance in each building and across the estate.” This process can take several weeks to complete.

### ***When will Parliament first meet?***

The new Parliament will first meet on Tuesday 9 July 2024 when the business will be the election of the Speaker and the swearing-in of members before they take their seats in Parliament. Essentially marking an oath of allegiance to the Crown, members can either swear in using a religious text or take a non-religious, solemn affirmation.

For the election of the Speaker, MPs will be led to the House of Lords by the Father of the House. There they receive a message from the monarch asking them to elect a Speaker. If the current Speaker, Lindsay Hoyle, is returned at the election and wishes to stand for re-election, that decision is made immediately. A ballot will take place for a new Speaker if there is no returning Speaker wishing to stand or the House votes against the current Speaker. Following the Speaker's election, the Speaker-Elect leads MPs to the House of Lords to hear another message from the monarch. This message confirms the Speaker's appointment.

Following the re-election of the Commons Speaker, the election of Deputy Speakers will take place. The Speaker notifies the House of Commons of the arrangements for the election, which will take place by secret ballot.

Swearing in continues for the next week, until the State Opening.

### ***When will we first hear from the Prime Minister in the House of Commons?***

The Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition will have the opportunity to first address the new House of Commons immediately after the election of the Speaker on Tuesday 9 July. Following these two speeches, other party leaders will also be able to speak.

## **State opening and beyond**

### ***When is the State Opening?***

The State Opening of Parliament and the King's Speech will take place on Wednesday 17 July 2024.

### ***When can written parliamentary questions be tabled again?***

Members can submit Written Parliamentary Questions (WPs) once they have sworn in, but the date of tabling would be shown as 17 July (i.e. State Opening of Parliament).

As the minimum period a question can be answered from tabling is two days (in the case of a named day question), we will not see any answers until Friday 19 July at the earliest.

The Tabling Office have confirmed that they expect full details of tabling arrangements to be made available in a "Chamber Information Note" which will be published on the UK Parliament website Monday 8 July. The Note will be available here: [House of Commons - UK Parliament](#)

### ***When will Parliamentary business be announced?***

The first Business Questions of the new Parliament is expected to take place on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July. Business for the subsequent weeks, including the King's Speech debates will be scheduled and recess dates may be announced.

### ***When can new MPs start speaking in debates?***

Traditionally, new MPs who have been elected for the first time need to make a maiden speech before they can speak in a substantive debate. New MPs, however, can take part in question times and smaller debates, such as those in Westminster Hall, before their maiden speech. Once a maiden speech has been delivered, seniority rules (which are important in Parliament) mean that those in the new intake may have to wait some time before being called to speak again in a debate.

### ***When will Select Committees be established?***

It is entirely possible that there will be no committees meeting until well into the Autumn. Our best guess is that they will not be in place until September at the earliest. The Speaker will tell the party leaders the proportion of chairs of select committees to be elected falling to each such party on Wednesday, the day after his or her election. The chairs then get nominated by the parties with a motion in the name of all party leaders laid before Parliament and agreed, which is expected within a week of the King's Speech, and then get elected 14 days later. The members are then appointed by a complicated process of ballots within the parties, which the House has then to approve.

Inquiries can be picked up again after the election should the newly formed committee decide to do so. The PAC works from NAO reports, so it is likely they will consider any outstanding NAO reports from before the election. Lords Committees are not set up by Standing Orders, so technically cease to exist at the end of every Session.

It is worth noting that the government is required to respond formally to all reports notwithstanding dissolution. Responses will only appear after the formation of a new government as described in the GE Guidance "Departments should continue to work, on a contingency basis, on any outstanding evidence requested by the outgoing committee and on any outstanding government responses to committee reports. It will be for any newly-appointed Ministers to approve the content of any response.

It will be for the newly-appointed committee to decide whether to continue with its predecessor committee's inquiries and for the incoming administration to review the terms of draft responses before submitting to the newly appointed committee".

### ***What happens to consultations?***

During the election period, departments continued to receive and analyse responses to existing consultations, with a view to putting proposals to the next government. If a new minister agrees, it might be that after the election, the consultation period is extended, or extra publicity is issued to generate more responses.

### ***What happens with Statutory Instruments?***

If a Statutory Instrument (or Secondary Legislation) was laid before dissolution, the provisions of the relevant Act(s) and the practice or Standing Orders of the two Houses determined whether or not it must be re-laid when the new Parliament meets. The following do not need re-laying:

- Class i) SIs (affirmative drafts requiring approval) or (Class ii) SIs (affirmative instruments laid after being made but requiring approval before coming into force).
- Class iii) SIs (affirmative instruments laid after being made but requiring approval within a specified period to remain in force). In all known cases, the time during which Parliament is dissolved is excluded from the specified period by the parent Act and therefore re-laying is not required. (If there were no such exclusion the SI would have to be re-laid.)
- Class iv) SIs (negative drafts) and Class v) SIs (negative instruments). Under section 7(1) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1946 the time during which Parliament is dissolved is excluded from the 40-day period prescribed by sections 5 and 6 and therefore re-laying is not required
- Special Procedure Orders. It is the practice of the House of Lords that these are not re-laid. In the House of Commons, they are exempted because of Private Business Standing Order No 247. Proceedings begun in the last Parliament may be resumed in the new Parliament. The time during which Parliament is dissolved is excluded from the 21-day petitioning period of 21 days (see Private Business Standing Orders, House of Lords No 201A, House of Commons No 247) and from the 21-day resolution period (see the Statutory Orders (Special Procedure) Act 1945, section 4(1))

For negative instruments, the 21-day rule still applies. Unlike the 40-day praying period, the 21 days are not “suspended” on dissolution, so the 21-day rule can be complied with whenever the SI is laid. Swearing-in days count as praying days.

- [Statutory Instrument Practice](#)

### ***When will All Party Groups be set up?***

APPGs will need to be re-established in the new Parliament. The next All Party Notice will be distributed soon after the State Opening of Parliament.

### ***When will petitions be debated again?***

Decisions about whether to debate any petitions from the previous Parliament will be the responsibility of the new Petitions Committee. This has generally happened after previous elections but would be up to the new Committee.

Petitions will next be considered for debate when the House of Commons sets up a new Petitions Committee after the General Election. We don't yet know the exact times for when a new Committee will be established.

### ***What's happening with Summer Recess?***

There will be a summer recess, but with the State Opening being on 17 July and a new government of a different colour likely, it is feasible that the recess may be shorter. Any previously agreed recess dates were automatically voided with the dissolution of Parliament and new dates will require the approval of each House.

Both Labour leader Keir Starmer and Shadow Chancellor Rachel Reeves have hinted that should they form the next government, they would be keen to make the most of the first 100 days by reducing the length of the summer recess.

[The Sunday Times has reported](#) that the Commons will sit until 31 July and return on 2 September.

***Will set piece events such as party conferences still go ahead?***

Set piece events such as party conferences are expected to go ahead as planned. In recent weeks, [Rachel Reeves has ruled out a Summer Budget](#), stating that “The OBR requires 10 weeks’ notice to provide an independent forecast ahead of a Budget... and I’ve been really clear that I would not deliver a fiscal event without an OBR forecast.” [The Sunday Times have reported](#) that if in government, Reeves will prepare for a budget to take place in either September or October.