

# 2020: Select Committees

## Details on the new select committee membership

---

The Select Committee members have finally been confirmed and are listed below. To find out more about an individual parliamentarian:

1. click on the membership link,
2. click on the person you wish to view,
3. then use the menu on the left to find out more about their activity in parliament or scroll down to view their website.

The policy team have profiles on all parliamentarians; if you need more information on an individual for a specific purpose you can [contact us](#). Dods have published a [document](#) covering all the Committees. The overview descriptions of the Committees below are taken from the Dods document.

### Education select committee [membership](#)

Under the respected stewardship of former Education Secretary, Robert Halfon, the Education Select Committee proved influential in shaping debate over the course of the last Parliament. Halfon has been retained as Chair once more, and the Committee has plenty to focus on this time out.

The committee will be eager to meet the new Secretary of State Gavin Williamson for the first time and will likely grill him on the Government's plans for the £3bn National Skills Fund. The Government's T Level reforms may also come under scrutiny. The first wave set to be launched in Autumn 2020, and the Level 3 review has unearthed disquiet from a range of stakeholders concerning; employer awareness, university buy-in, and the potential impact on Applied General Qualifications. With the roll-out taking place over three years, T-levels may represent a major focus for the committee over the course of the parliament.

Given his continued position as Chair, Halfon is expected to resurrect some unfinished inquiries from the last Parliament, including the examination of adult skills and lifelong learning, and the children's social care workforce. It will be also interesting to see whether last year's one-off session on knife crime evolves into something more substantive. Finally, it is unclear whether the Government will respond to the committee's unanswered report on special educational needs and disabilities. The new administration is under no parliamentary compulsion to do so, and moreover announced a "major review" into SEND funding and support in September last year

The Committee has not yet started to run or recommence any inquiries.

- **Chair - Robert Halfon (Con)**

- Fleur Anderson (Lab)
- Apsana Begum (Lab)
- Jonathan Gullis (Con)
- Tom Hunt (Con)
- Dr Caroline Johnson (Con)
- David Johnston (Con)
- Ian Mearns (Lab)
- Lucy Powell (Lab/(Co-op)
- David Simmonds (Con)
- Christian Wakeford (Con)

## Business Energy and Industrial Strategy select committee [membership](#)

The Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) Committee examines the administration, expenditure and policy for the BEIS Governmental department. Their scrutiny is widespread across business matters, energy and decarbonisation, regulation and industrial growth. Rachel Reeves has chaired the Committee since July 2017 and has been a popular figure in the role. She was appointed Chair of the Committee again in an uncontested election.

It would be fair to suggest that the Committee has been an influential force within business and energy matters across Government policy in recent years. The Committee's inquiries have included those on failing business (Thomas Cook, the UK steel industry, Carillion) and more policy focussed areas, such as the roll out of smart meters and Brexit and its implications for UK business.

Since the legislation of the Government's net zero target, the Committee has worked on an increasing number of decarbonisation inquiries, including smart meter roll out, clean growth strategy and carbon capture, usage and storage (CCUS). Whilst it is unconfirmed which inquiries will be continued, with Reeves retaining chairmanship, it is likely that incomplete inquiries would be continued. **Green energy and post- Brexit competition is likely to take a front seat of any new inquiries, if there are no large-scale changes to the machinery of Government.**

- **Chair - Rachel Reeves (Lab)**
- Alan Brown (SNP)
- Richard Fuller (Con)
- Nusrat Ghani (Con)
- John Howell (Con)
- Mark Jenkinson (Con)
- Peter Kyle (Lab)
- Pat McFadden (Lab)
- Anna McMorrin (Lab)
- Mark Pawsey (Con)
- Alexander Stafford (Con)

No current inquiries of interest.

## Digital Culture Media and Sport select committee [membership](#)

In the last Parliament, the DCMS Committee could make a legitimate claim to be the most influential committee in the House of Commons. Chaired with enthusiasm by Conservative MP Damien Collins, the Committee produced leading work on immersive and addictive technologies and online harms, helping to shape Government policy in these areas and more.

Collins was expected to easily win the chair once more, but, Julian Knight won a surprise victory. Collins was particularly interested in digital and tech issues as chair, adopting a slightly more back-seat role on topics that fit more traditionally into the “culture” brief.

In contrast, Knight has been extremely vocal on the role of the BBC, describing the licence fee as a “poll tax” and saying Government needed to act as a “critical friend”. Knight doesn’t mark a total break with Collins, however, having expressed his desire to see the DCMS Committee calling in the bosses of internet providers and holding them to account for the failures in their services.

- **Chair - Julian Knight (Con)**
- Kevin Brennan (Lab)
- Steve Brine (Con, Winchester)
- Philip Davies (Con)
- Clive Efford (Lab)
- Julie Elliott (Lab)
- Damian Green (Con)
- Damian Hinds (Con, East Hampshire, ex-SoS Education)
- Jo Stevens (Lab)
- Jon Nicolson (SNP)
- Giles Watling (Con)

No inquiries of current interest to BU.

## Health and Social Care select committee [membership](#)

The Health and Social Care Committee has seen its influence dramatically increase over the last Parliament, intervening on a number of high profile-cases. The sensitive issue of Brexit and its implications on the NHS workforce and medical supplies became and continues to be an important issue that continues to hold significant public and political interest. The committee undertook numerous inquiries which have helped shaped the narrative on public health issues. For example, the “drugs policy: medical cannabis” was influential in changing the Government’s approach to helping long-suffering children and families by liberalising the availability of medical cannabis.

Following the committee elections, Jeremy Hunt (Con, South West Surrey), who brandished his credentials as the former Secretary of State for Health and Social Care won the [Chair] vote. Commenting on his election, Hunt said that “over nearly a decade in frontline politics, the NHS has always been my greatest political passion, and I am honoured to have been elected Chair of the Health and Social Care Select Committee. I look forward to working with my committee to provide a strong, independent voice that supports health and social care services in a very pressured period.”

- **Chair - Jeremy Hunt**
- Paul Bristow
- Amy Callaghan
- Rosie Cooper
- Dr James Davies
- Dr Luke Evans
- James Murray
- Taiwo Owatemi
- Sarah Owen
- Dean Russell
- Laura Trot

No current inquiries of interest to BU.

## **Science and Technology select committee (Commons) [membership](#)**

Note – there is a Science and Technology select committee in the House of Lords.

The Science and Technology Committee is responsible for examining the work of the Government Office for Science. As GO-Science is a semi-autonomous organisation, this makes work of the Science and Technology Committee somewhat unusual. Underpinning its remit, however, is that Government policy and decision-making should be based on good scientific advice and evidence.

Greg Clark has been confirmed as the new chair for the Science and Technology Committee. He has said the committee *“has a huge role to play in championing the amazing people, companies, universities, colleges and research bodies across the UK,”* and this goes some way in demonstrating the potential scope of its work. The former Science and Technology Committee held inquiries in areas such as digital governance and the use of e-cigarettes. **It will be interesting to see where this new committee goes as we move further into an era where AI and big-data seem ever-more commonplace.**

- **Chair - Greg Clark (Con, ex-Sos BEIS)**
- Aaron Bell (Con)
- Chris Clarkson (Con)
- Katherine Fletcher (Con)
- Andrew Griffith (Con)
- Darren Jones (Lab)
- Mark Logan (Con)
- Carol Monaghan (SNP)
- Chi Onwurah (Lab)
- Graham Stringer (Lab)
- Zarah Sultana (Lab)

Details on the other committees can be viewed in the [Dods document](#).



JANE FORSTER

|

SARAH CARTER

Policy Advisor

Policy & Public Affairs Officer

66724

65070

Follow: [@PolicyBU](#) on Twitter

|

[policy@bournemouth.ac.uk](mailto:policy@bournemouth.ac.uk)