

COMMITTEE PRIORITIES

- ⇒ The Work and Pensions committee focuses on scrutinising the Government's welfare policies, in particular Universal Credit on which the committee has already launched two inquiries. This will be especially relevant given the steep increase in unemployment as a consequence of coronavirus.
- ⇒ Stephen Timms is newly elected as chair, replacing Frank Field.
- ⇒ In his manifesto, Mr Timms highlighted his extensive experience in government, including as a Minister of State at the Department for Work and Pensions in the New Labour governments, and as Chief Secretary to the Treasury under Tony Blair. His knowledge of financial services issues suggests he might pay more attention to the sector than previous chairs.
- ⇒ Mr Timms also said he would look at pensions policy. He has stated that the committee's previous work on auto-enrolment and pensions dashboard should continue and he would welcome a cross-party consensus in favour of collective defined contribution pensions. The committee may revisit areas of more direct relevance to our industry, such as transparency over costs and charges.

Chair profile



Rt Hon Stephen Timms MP

Labour / East Ham – Intake 1994 (by-election)

timms@parliament.uk

Under the last Labour government, Stephen Timms held a number of ministerial posts including Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Financial Secretary to the Treasury as well as a DWP Minister. During Ed Miliband's leadership, Mr Timms was re-appointed Shadow DWP Minister for five years. He was also a member of the committee for Exiting the EU from 2016 to 2019.

Member profiles



Shaun Bailey MP

Conservative / West Bromwich West – Intake 2019

shaun.bailey.mp@parliament.uk

Prior to his election in December 2019, Shaun Bailey worked as a trainee solicitor for Barclays Bank, having worked for several law firms beforehand. Mr Bailey won the West Bromwich West seat with a Conservative majority of 3,799 – this constituency has never had a Conservative MP before. He is a member of the Blue Collar Conservatism caucus, a group focussed on championing and empowering working class communities.



Selaine Saxby MP

Conservative / North Devon – Intake 2019

selaine.saxby.mp@parliament.uk

Prior to entering Parliament, Selaine Saxby founded an events company which raised money for breast cancer. She later retrained as a secondary school maths teacher and taught in Devon. Ms Saxby has pledged to work to improve local job opportunities by supporting the farming economy, tourism, manufacturing and retail in Devon.



Nigel Mills MP

Conservative / Amber Valley – Intake 2010

nigel.mills.mp@parliament.uk

Nigel Mills is a former Chartered Accountant and worked as a tax adviser for 12 years, including advising businesses on international tax issues and especially on inward investment into the UK. He is a seasoned member of select committees and prominent Brexiteer. Mr Mills is also currently a member of the Future Relationship with the EU committee.



Dr Ben Spencer MP

Conservative / Runnymede and Weybridge – Intake 2019

ben.spencer.mp@parliament.uk

Ben Spencer was selected to contest the Conservative safe seat of Runnymede and Weybridge after the sitting MP, Philip Hammond, had the whip withdrawn along with 21 other Conservative MPs and announced that he would not seek re-election. He was previously a psychiatrist and leads the Conservative Health – Mental Health Special Interest Group.



Rt Hon Sir Desmond Swayne MP

Conservative / New Forest West – Intake 1997

swayned@parliament.uk

Sir Desmond was Parliamentary Private Secretary to David Cameron during his time as Opposition Leader and then for two years when Cameron was Prime Minister. He has also served as a Government Whip and International Development Minister.



Siobhan Baillie MP

Conservative / Stroud – Intake 2019

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Prior to entering Parliament, Siobhan Baillie was a councillor in the London Borough of Camden. Ms Baillie is a qualified family law solicitor, attending law school at weekends whilst working as a legal secretary. She is the first woman to represent the constituency of Stroud in Parliament.



Neil Coyle MP

Labour / Bermondsey and Old Southwark – Intake 2015

neil.coyle.mp@parliament.uk

Neil Coyle has been a member of the Work and Pensions committee since 2016. Having nominated Jeremy Corbyn as a candidate in the 2015 Labour leadership election, a year later he wrote an article with Jo Cox stating that he regretted his decision and then resigned from the shadow cabinet. Prior to being an MP, he was a Councillor in the London Borough of Southwark.



Debbie Abrahams MP

Labour / Oldham East and Saddleworth – Intake 2011 (by-election)

abrahamsd@parliament.uk

Debbie Abrahams served as Shadow Secretary of State for Work and Pensions from June 2016 to March 2018. Prior to this, she was a Shadow Work and Pensions Minister. Previously, she also sat as a member of the Work and Pensions committee from 2011 to 2015.



Steve McCabe MP

Labour / Birmingham, Selly Oak – Intake 1997

mccabes@parliament.uk

Under Ed Miliband's leadership of the Labour Party, Steve McCabe was a Shadow Education Minister. Prior to Labour leaving government in 2010 he served as a Government Whip.



Chris Stephens MP

SNP / Glasgow South West – Intake 2015

chris.stephens.mp@parliament.uk

In addition to his position on the committee, Chris Stephens is the SNP Spokesperson for Fair Work and Employment. Mr Stephens has sat on the Work and Pensions committee since September 2017. He joined the SNP when he was 16, is the secretary of the SNP Trade Union Group and is a member of their National Executive Committee.

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