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May axes Cameron allies in ruthless cabinet cull

Gove, Morgan and Letwin sacked as state-educated ministers dominate top team

Francis Elliott Political Editor
Sam Coates, Lucy Fisher

Theresa May scythed through David Cameron's allies in a bloody cull that consigned nine members of his former cabinet to the back benches yesterday.

In a purge more brutal than Harold Macmillan's "night of the long knives" in 1962, Michael Gove, the justice secretary; Nicky Morgan, the education secretary; John Whittingdale, the culture secretary; and Oliver Letwin, the cabinet office minister, joined George Osborne in being sacked.

In their place Mrs May appointed a top team with the smallest number of privately educated ministers since the end of the Second World War as she put substance behind her One Nation rhetoric.

The prime minister will visit Scotland today to confront the demands for a second independence referendum that have increased since the decision to leave the European Union, which was opposed by most Scots. Speaking before talks with Nicola Sturgeon, the first minister, Mrs May underlined her "commitment to preserving this special union that has endured for centuries".

"I believe with all my heart in the United Kingdom — the precious bond between England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland," she said. Mrs May will also visit Ruth Davidson, the Scottish Conservative leader.

The sweeping changes left just four full members of the cabinet ending the day in the same jobs. Five cabinet ministers were sacked and four resigned. Mrs May rewarded allies and ministers who served under her as home secretary.

Patrick McLoughlin, the former miner who became Tory party chairman yesterday, led a charge of blue-collar Conservatives that included promotions for Greg Clark as the head of a new department of business, energy and industrial strategy.

Justine Greening becomes the first education secretary to have had all her secondary education at a comprehensive. Just five of Mrs May's new cabinet, or 30 per cent, were privately educated — the lowest proportion for more than

half a century. The one Old Etonian, Boris Johnson, endured a difficult debut as foreign secretary when he was booed during his first engagement, a Bastille Day reception at the French embassy.

Mr Johnson, Brexit's most powerful advocate, was branded a liar and a "borderline racist" by EU ministers and diplomats. France's foreign minister, Jean-Marc Ayrault, said that Mr Johnson had told "lies" during the EU referendum campaign while Frank-Walter Steinmeier, his German counterpart, called the former mayor of London's behaviour before the vote "monstrous". "To be honest, I find this outrageous," he said of Mr Johnson's appointment. "It's not just bitter for Great Britain. It's also bitter for the EU."

Mr Johnson tried to brush off the reaction. "After a vote like the referendum result on June 23, it is inevitable there is going to be a certain amount of plaster coming off the ceiling in the chancelleries of Europe," he said, adding that he had received a "charming letter" from Mr Ayrault.

Another of Mrs May's new cabinet, Andrea Leadsom, also faces questions. It can be revealed that she said it would be "sensible" not to appoint a man to look after young children because of the danger they might be a paedophile.

Mrs Leadsom, who was given the environment and rural affairs brief, made the comments last Friday while she was still running for the leadership. During the same interview she said that being a mother gave her a "very real stake" in the future of the country, causing a furore that forced her to withdraw from the race.

Today *The Times* reveals that in a discussion of the challenges faced by parents seeking childcare she also said: "As an employer we're not — let's face it — most of us don't employ men as nannies, most of us don't. Now you can call that sexist, I call that cautious and very sensible when you look at the stats. Your odds are stacked against you if you employ a man. We know paedophiles are attracted to working with children. I'm sorry but they're the facts."

Meanwhile it emerged last night that Mr Cameron tore up the rulebook on



Boris Johnson at the French embassy in London last night. He was heckled by guests when he tried to offer reassurances that Britain "was not leaving Europe"

DANIEL LEAL-OLIVAS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Junk food ban dropped after ministers bow to lobbyists

Chris Smyth Health Editor

The fight against child obesity has been left in the hands of food companies in a watering down of ministers' promises after lobbying by the industry.

Manufacturers will not be forced to make products healthier and no concrete measures to curb marketing of unhealthy products have been included in a long-delayed blueprint on tackling obesity.

A ban on junk food at shop checkouts has been dropped and an end to advertisements for unhealthy food before the 9pm watershed has not been included in leaked drafts seen by *The Times*.

Jeremy Hunt, who kept his job as health secretary yesterday, faces a battle with his new cabinet colleagues to "put the teeth back" in the plan, which was due to be published next week after wrangling between the culture and business departments as well as No 10.

The documents show how pledges of strict action were removed from the strategy amid industry pressure and the distraction of the EU referendum. Companies will now simply be "challenged" and "consulted" over their pushing of unhealthy food, they suggest. Health experts condemned the move as "business as usual" that would fail to stem the obesity epidemic.

Already a third of children are too fat by the time they leave primary school. Senior doctors said that without a tougher strategy children would be condemned to a lifetime of illness ranging from heart disease to cancer.

Sources in the Department of Health emphasised that they hoped to persuade the new cabinet to strengthen the plan, even at the cost of delaying it until after the summer.

Action against child obesity was promised in the Conservative manifesto last year and Mr Hunt said that it would be "draconian". A clampdown on junk food advertising and forcing food companies to take sugar out of their products were singled out as priorities by advisers at Public Health England.

However, specific measures to restrict promotions, such as buy-one-get-one-free deals on unhealthy snacks, were blocked by other Whitehall departments, it is understood. Instead

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IN THE NEWS

Bank signals rate cut

Household finances are threatened by a significant slowdown in the economy, the Bank of England warned as it signalled a cut in interest rates next month. **Pages 2 and 39**

Lynx spoils big day

A couple due to be married at Dartmoor zoo have been told to keep the noise down during their reception to avoid scaring a lynx that escaped on to nearby farmland. **Page 3**

Men reject university

The number of men applying for university courses this autumn has fallen for the first time in five years, raising fears over a widening gender gap on campuses. **Page 13**

US offer to Putin

John Kerry, the US secretary of state, has offered President Putin the possibility of joint military action in Syria in return for Moscow backing a wider peace deal. **Page 32**

'Curse' at the Open

Phil Mickelson led the Open last night but blamed a golf "curse" after he came within half an inch of the greatest round in major championship history. **Pages 68-71, 76**



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Sister act

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Ben Macintyre

Remote-controlled policemen are heading for our streets
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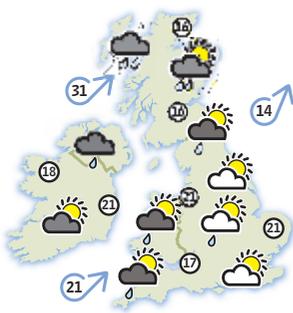


MindGames

All your favourite games and puzzles
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Today's weather



Rain will move from the west across northern areas. Cloud and showers elsewhere. Full forecast, page 63

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Brexit blow to family finances will be significant, says Bank

Philip Aldrick Economics Editor

House prices and family finances are under threat from a "significant" slowdown in the economy after Brexit, the Bank of England warned yesterday as it prepared for an interest rate cut in three weeks' time.

The Bank voted eight to one to leave rates on hold at 0.5 per cent this month but said "most members of the [rate-setting] committee expect monetary policy to be loosened in August".

The Bank takes its next rate decision on August 4, alongside its new economic forecasts, but painted a bleak picture for growth and jobs yesterday. In the minutes to this month's policy meeting, it said Brexit "could lead to a significantly lower path for growth" and "a softer employment outlook".

Philip Hammond, the chancellor, met Mark Carney, the Bank governor, yesterday and promised to work with the central bank on a co-ordinated plan over the summer to restore confidence to consumers and business.

In May the Bank had predicted 2 per cent GDP growth this year and 2.3 per cent next year and for unemployment to hold steady at about 5 per cent in

both years. Many economists now expect GDP growth to fall below 1 per cent in 2017 and unemployment to rise.

The Bank said yesterday: "The uncertainty flowing from the referendum result was likely to depress economic activity in the near term."

It blamed its gloomy outlook in part on a forecast squeeze in house prices and household income. In May it had expected prices to grow about 6.5 per cent this year and incomes, after inflation and taxes, to climb by 1.5 per cent.

"Bank staff had revised down the near-term outlook for house prices," it said. The pound's collapse would increase inflation, it added, which "was likely to impart a drag on households' real income growth". The effect would be to hit household confidence and reduce the consumer spending.

A survey by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors provided further evidence that the housing market was in trouble. New buyer inquiries collapsed at their fastest rate since the 2008 financial crisis and expectations of future sales fell faster than since 1998.

The House of Lords economic affairs committee will warn today that more than 300,000 extra homes will need to

be built each year to tackle the "acute" housing crisis.

The government's target of one million homes by 2020 needs to be lifted by 50 per cent to meet a growing elderly population and rising demand, it will say. Although the government has set a target of 200,000 a year, last year only 142,000 were built.

The committee will call for new freedoms for local councils and housing associations to kickstart building saying that the cap on local authority borrowing should end.

Lord Hollick, the Labour chairman, will say that home ownership and renting is becoming unaffordable for many, arguing that "the only way to address this is to increase supply".

He will accuse the government of focusing too much on home ownership and will say that Theresa May must broaden her policy to ensure there are homes to rent. He will add: "It is very concerning that changes to stamp duty for landlords and cuts to social rent could reduce the availability of homes for rent."

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Leading article, page 31

Business, page 39

Care for incurable cancer is 'second rate'

Chris Smyth Health Editor

Thousands of patients with incurable cancer are condemned to second-rate care, a report today warns.

Patients are ignored by doctors, suffer delays in treatment and only get help when they go to A&E.

Progress in treating early stage breast cancer has made the NHS complacent about what happens if the disease returns, according to campaigners.

More than 50,000 cases of breast cancer are diagnosed in Britain every year, with screening and awareness campaigns meaning most are caught at a stage when tumours can be effectively treated with surgery and drugs.

However, thousands of women find their disease returning and spreading around the body and it is this that kills more than 11,000 a year. The charity Breast Cancer Care warned that a focus on the early stages means those women whose cancers return are often condemned to poor care.

A third of patients said doctors did

not listen to them when they spoke of dangerous symptoms, according to a survey of more than 800 women with an advanced form of the disease.

A fifth are wrongly treated for another condition, meaning months of delays before they see a specialist. The charity said doctors must be warned of red flag symptoms such as back pain, unexplained weight loss and nausea.

Patients described how they were made to feel they were "making a fuss" and told "everybody gets backache, you're at the age". One in 12 patients only found out they had advanced cancer when they went to A&E, suggesting the condition had been repeatedly missed.

Samia al Qadhi, chief executive of the charity said: "Today's report paints an extremely worrying picture. Our findings uncover the true extent of inadequate care for people with incurable breast cancer, from feeling they're not taken seriously when they raise concerns, to facing avoidable delays to a diagnosis, or being told the news in A&E. This is absolutely unacceptable.

Prompt diagnosis is crucial to help control severe symptoms and allow people with incurable breast cancer to make every day count."

Patients contrasted the "pink tsunami of support" when they first received a diagnosis with the "hushed, sympathetic voices" when they found out their cancer had spread, with women often told little about their outlook or options.

The charity said it was unacceptable that four in five patients under 45 only found out they had breast cancer when advanced disease was discovered, drastically limiting their life expectancy.

Mia Rosenblatt of the charity Breast Cancer Now, said: "Our health service is falling short for people with secondary breast cancer. The unique needs and concerns of these women are just not being sufficiently recognised by the health system. If we are to enable women to live well with secondary breast cancer, they need rapid diagnosis and immediate specialist care, not delays and unanswered questions."

Continued from page 1

Hunt defies the doctors

Doctors' cheers were silenced when Jeremy Hunt was reappointed as health secretary after rumours that he had been sacked. But there was gloating at the BBC when John Whittingdale, the culture secretary who clashed with the corporation, lost his job to Karen Bradley.

Mr Hunt arrived at No 10 with the BBC reporting that his tenure as health secretary was about to end. NHS workers greeted the reports as "the news 50,000 junior doctors have been waiting for" and cries of "break out the champagne". One said he was "doing a little jig around the room in joy". Mr Hunt later tweeted: "Reports of my death have been greatly exaggerated."

A "spontaneous cheer went up in the BBC newsroom when word of Whittingdale's sacking came through", Raymond Snoddy, a media commentator, reported.

the latest draft circulating in Whitehall says simply that "we will put in place additional targeted and proportionate measures to further reduce families' exposure to adverts for unhealthy foods", adding: "We will consult shortly on options for action."

In January the draft strategy had stated: "The food and drinks industry will be given six months to come up with plans to reduce overall sugar in products consumed by children by around 20 per cent in five years, including a 5 per cent reduction in year one." A legal maximum level of sugar in products was among the measures threatened if companies fell short.

The latest draft, circulated this week, removes any threats and says only that "the food and drinks industry will be challenged to reduce overall sugar in products that contribute to children's sugar intakes".

Sources said that lobbying efforts had become more successful with senior ministers distracted by the EU, while

the industry became less co-operative after it was angered by the surprise announcement of a sugar tax in March.

Graham MacGregor, director of Action on Sugar, said: "It's a pathetic plan and it won't have any effect on childhood obesity. Last year it was a really good plan but it's been gradually eroded. Theresa May has got to go back and revise this completely."

Neena Modi, president of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, urged Mr Hunt to "put the teeth back" in the plans. "If we're going to rely on the goodwill of industry then I have grave concerns that the strategy is likely to be ineffective," she said. Susan Jebb, who led efforts to broker a voluntary deal with the industry under the coalition, said that the strategy lacked a "plan B" if companies did not comply. "It sounds like business as usual," she said.

The Department of Health said: "Any suggestion that we are diminishing the ambition or measures we will take to reduce child obesity would be quite wrong at this point."

Dinner tonight

Gooseberry pie with almonds

The haunting flavour of almonds softens the sour blow of green gooseberries, making this pie with a buttery shortcrust pastry an old-fashioned treat. Serve hot with vanilla ice cream, warm with thick cream or cold with hot custard.

Serves 6-8
Prep 30 min
Cook 40 min
Ingredients: 400g flour plus extra for dusting; 150g butter plus extra knob; 50g lard; approx 6 tbs cold water; 750g green gooseberries; 2 tbs ground almonds; 2 tbs fresh breadcrumbs; 4-5 tbs caster sugar; 1 egg white
Sift the flour into a

mixing or food processor bowl. Cut the butter and lard into small pieces over the flour. Quickly rub the fat into the flour until it resembles damp breadcrumbs or pulse in the food processor. Stir or briefly pulse 2 tbs water into the mixture, continuing tentatively until the dough wants to cling together. Form into a ball. Chill, covered, for 30 minutes. Butter a 22cm flan tin with removable base. Dust with flour, shaking out excess. Set aside 1/3 of the pastry. Dust a work surface with flour, roll out the large piece of pastry and line the tin, leaving a generous overhang. Heat oven



to 220C/gas mark 7. Top and tail the gooseberries. Scatter almonds and crumbs over the base, then berries and sugar. Roll out a lid, place in position, trim pastry excess, smear with a little water and crimp the edges together with a fork. Whisk egg white and paint over the pie. Make a central steam hole. Bake for 10 minutes, reduce heat to 180C/gas mark 5 and cook for a further 30 minutes or until golden. Dust with sugar, stand on a tin to remove the collar.
Lindsey Bareham