



**House of
Commons**

**Elections for the Chairs of the
Business, Energy and Industrial
Strategy (BEIS) Committee and
the Committee on Standards**

Candidates

6 May 2020

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Introduction

This booklet lists all the candidates for the elections for the Chairs of the Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee and the Committee on Standards on Wednesday 6 May 2020.

The election is governed by the temporary Order agreed by the House on 22 April 2020. The Order of the House of 16 January 2020 allocated the Chairs of these Committees to the Labour Party.

The candidates are listed in alphabetical order. All candidates are required to submit a statement indicating willingness to stand for election and declare any relevant interests. Each candidate's entry in the booklet prints any further personal statement that has been submitted by that candidate.

Candidates are required to provide 15 signatures from their own party.

Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) Committee



Stella Creasy

Walthamstow

Nominated by (own party)

Fleur Anderson, Lisa Nandy, Ian Murray, Jim McMahon, Chris Bryant, Karl Turner, Florence Eshalomi, Feryal Clark, Chris Evans, Siobhain McDonagh, Debbie Abrahams, Vicky Foxcroft, Nadia Whittome, Wes Streeting, Alex Davies-Jones

Nominated by (other parties) (optional)

Tobias Ellwood, Richard Fuller, Huw Merriman, Chris Stephens, Caroline Lucas

Statement

I'm asking for your support to become the next Chair of the BEIS Select Committee to be able to ensure the concerns of British businesses are heard clearly and immediately as Parliament addresses the Coronavirus crisis.

Whether Directors of their own Limited Companies, owners of businesses which are not eligible for rate relief, those on zero hour contracts whose employers refuse to furlough them or those who have applied for loans through the CBILs scheme that have yet to be processed, our constituents need our help. And they need our help now – decisions on whether to continue or to go into insolvency are being made in the coming days and weeks, not months.

The BEIS Select Committee has a vital role to play – offering a unique and unparalleled forum into which the needs of our residents, local businesses and communities can be given voice loud and clear as part of scrutinising Government policy. Where boardrooms who are choosing to furlough staff but avoid tough questions on executive pay can be held to account. Where banks struggling to pass on the help desperately needed by small businesses can explain how to accelerate help. Where new models for the world of work don't fit can be clarified so that support can be arranged.

As a former Shadow Business Minister and participant in several Select Committees, as well as with a background in the not for profit sector, I have the experience and the independence to ensure the Committee can be the constructive forum our

constituents – and our representatives- need. My track record as a parliamentarian is one of results- and working across the House to achieve them. Whether leading the fight against legal loan sharks, tax avoidance or for the rights of women in Northern Ireland, it has been through collaboration across the benches that change has been achieved.

Each of us is taking calls on a daily basis from those at the sharp end of these challenges; Never more has our nation needed us to work together to ensure these schemes deliver for them. In recent years the BEIS select committee has proved itself a powerful advocate for just that, helping to highlight the lessons from the collapse of Carillion and provide a voice for the workers of Thomas Cook. As this crisis continues, it is even more imperative the Committee effectively scrutinises the Government and feeds back on these key areas. When it subsides, we need to concentrate on areas including emissions targets and energy security, the challenge of red tape, procurement and our work life balance.

Together we can ensure the BEIS Select Committee is a powerful force in real time for effective policy making and parliamentary scrutiny; showing our constituents how their concerns are being heard and acted upon and impacting the support they need. I ask for your support to be able to lead the above and ensure we have a BEIS Select Committee which is back in business to back British business.

Relevant Interests

Please see Register of Members' Financial Interests.



Ms Angela Eagle

Wallasey

Nominated by (own party)

Mike Amesbury, Kevin Brennan, Ms Karen Buck, Sarah Champion, Janet Daby, Julie Elliott, Mary Glendon, Andrew Gwynne, Meg Hillier, Sir George Howarth, Dame Diana Johnson, Christian Matheson, Alison McGovern, Tulip Siddiq, Daniel Zeichner

Nominated by (other parties) (optional)

Angus Brendan MacNeil, Neil Gray, Mel Stride, Sir Charles Walker, Mr Ian Liddell-Grainger

Statement

The country is facing the unprecedented challenge of a global health pandemic which has engendered a worldwide economic crisis, the scale of which has not been witnessed since the 1930s.

Creative and innovative solutions from Government will be required to rescue rebuild and renew our economy. Rigorous select committee scrutiny can improve decision making and therefore the outcome for all our constituents as this crisis unfolds. Government works better and is kept on its toes by a strong, well functioning Parliament unafraid to call it to account, virtually or otherwise. As we are seeing with the Government's coronavirus support packages, there is all too often a gap between the policy intent of an announcement and the practicalities of administering those policies successfully. It is in revealing those gaps and engaging with stakeholders and the Government that Select Committees add value.

I am standing for Chair of the BEIS Select Committee because I have the experience of complex economic policy areas both in Government and Opposition to match the seriousness of the challenging times we face. This has given me a good feel for how Government works and what it can and can't do as we look beyond the pandemic and into the next stages of recovery.

I know from long Parliamentary experience the necessity of working across party lines to reach the consensus vital to increase the influence of Select Committee reports. This includes reflecting the views of smaller parties too. I have served on four different Select Committees, including on the Employment Select

Committee, the Treasury Select Committee and the Public Accounts Committee. Four years on the House of Commons Commission showed I can work successfully in an arena requiring consensus. Now is not the time for grandstanding or party political point scoring, and I will not do either if elected.

After rescue for our economy, it is important that opportunities are not missed in the renewal phase to implement a green transformation to ensure that our economy emerges fit for the zero-carbon challenge which comes next. Infrastructure investment will be crucial here.

If I was elected Chair, I would ensure that the committee continues to take account of the concerns of the Nations and Regions, which are often overlooked in a very centralised Whitehall system, yet are potential powerhouses of economic growth and development.

I would wish to see a special focus on our small and medium-sized enterprises, which are currently in peril, yet which provide the lion's share of employment opportunities. I would also like to explore the notion of a reinvigorated start-up regime to help new business germinate and grow following the pandemic.

I would ensure that the BEIS Select Committee would produce regular reports to all Members on the work of the Committee – like those produced by the Public Accounts Committee.

I believe I have the experience to make sure that the BEIS Select Committee maintains its crucial role and would be honoured to be chosen to lead it.

Relevant Interests

Please see Register of Members' Financial Interests.



Darren Jones

Bristol North West

Nominated by (own party)

Anna McMorrin, Ben Bradshaw, Ellie Reeves, Emma Hardy, Holly Lynch, Jess Phillips, Kate Green, Kerry McCarthy, Pat McFadden, Preet Gill, Sarah Jones, Seema Malhotra, Mr Stephen Morgan, Tonia Antoniazzi, Mr Virendra Sharma

Nominated by (other parties) (optional)

Greg Clark, Dr Liam Fox, Mr David Jones, Carol Monaghan, Wera Hobhouse

Statement

The BEIS committee will play a crucial role in tackling two of the most significant challenges facing our country: our economic recovery and tackling climate change.

My real-world business and legal experience, my expertise in energy policy and my track record of select committee leadership evidences my ability to fulfil this important role.

More importantly, perhaps, is my consistent track record of working on these issues collaboratively across the House in the best interests of the country. Now is not the time for tribal politics or point scoring.

That's why I'm so pleased to be endorsed by colleagues from across the whole political spectrum of the House of Commons. From Sir Bill Cash MP, David Jones MP and Dr Liam Fox MP to Greg Clark MP, Karen Bradley MP and Stephen Metcalfe MP; from Kate Green MP, Kerry McCarthy MP and Ben Bradshaw MP to Wera Hobhouse MP, Sir Norman Lamb and Carol Monaghan MP.

And it's why I was so pleased to be nominated by my party colleagues from across intakes and groupings with nearly 75% of my nominations coming from the Women's Parliamentary Labour Party.

The endorsement of previous Secretaries of State and Ministers from governments of all colours, and from current and former committee chairs, I hope is a testament to my pitch to colleagues.

It isn't for the chair to dictate what work a future committee should and shouldn't work on. It is right and proper that the select committee decides its priorities as a whole committee. That's why being a team player and helping lead an empowered team of equals is so important to this role.

All members know why the work undertaken by the BEIS committee is so important. Each of you will understand the challenges we're facing as a country, and the enormous task ahead of us for workers, businesses, the British economy and – especially in respect of climate change – the world.

From post-pandemic growth, supporting workers, understanding the impact of the pandemic on SMEs and our supply chains to making the best of Britain's leadership of COP, of British R&D and innovation and helping set out the best approaches to a new post-pandemic, post-Brexit industrial strategy that lifts the entire country, it's clear there's a great deal of work for the committee to do.

I couldn't be more excited at the prospect of chairing the BEIS committee and working with current and new members in the task ahead. I hope my experience, my endorsements, my nominations and my pitch to colleagues persuades many of you to vote for me. If I'm fortunate enough to win, I look forward to working with all of you in the future.

Relevant Interests

I maintain my practising certificate as a solicitor by way of a consultancy agreement with the law firm Kemp Little LLP, via my service company the Office of Darren Jones Limited. However, no legal advice is currently being given and there are no active clients which would require further declaration.

I am the chair of Labour Digital, a unincorporated membership association engaged in policy discussions related to technology and digital policy issues within the Labour Party, which has been in receipt of grant funding from the Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust Limited, Jason Stockwood (of Simply Business) and Zebra Technologies Europe Limited. The majority of these funds have been used to employ a paid intern for Labour Digital, employed directly by the Labour Party.

I am the chairman of the Institute of AI – a global not-for-profit network of legislators interested in the regulation of artificial intelligence. This is an unpaid role.

My wife, Lucy Symons-Jones, is the Director of External Affairs at the Association of Decentralised Energy, which represents a number of energy-related businesses.

I am the co-chair of the Parliamentary Internet, Communications and Technology APP G (PICTFor) and the co-chair of the Parliamentary Group for Renewable and Sustainable Energy APPG (PRASEG).

Committee on Standards



Chris Bryant

Rhondda

Nominated by (own party)

Kate Green, Christian Matheson, Alex Sobel, Stella Creasy, Dame Diana Johnson, Sir George Howarth, Ruth Cadbury, Peter Kyle, Maria Eagle, Alison McGovern, Jess Phillips, Kevin Brennan, Ms Lyn Brown, Carolyn Harris, Kerry McCarthy

Nominated by (other parties) (optional)

Jeremy Hunt, Andrea Leadsom, Mel Stride, Jack Lopresti, Layla Moran

Statement

Kate Green, retiring Chair of the Standards Committee, ‘I have nominated Chris because he is a passionate advocate for parliament and will robustly defend its Standards system.’

Geoffrey Clifton Brown, Clive Betts and Neil Gray, ‘We served on the Finance Committee with Chris and we know he is a thoroughly impartial Chair who puts party politics to one side to get the business done.’

Jeremy Hunt, ‘No one has demonstrated greater independence and willingness to go against the flow as an MP than Chris...and this is a role that needs those qualities perhaps more than any other.’

It would be wrong to have a manifesto for the post, as the whole point of the Committee is that the MPs and lay members act as an independent adjudicator on complaints about Members brought to the Independent Commissioner on Standards. Its hallmark must be scrupulous fairness. This is especially true following the work on bullying and harassment done by Dame Laura Cox and Gemma White QC.

However, I believe I have the skills necessary to do a good job on behalf of the House.

- I know the rules inside out, having served as Deputy Leader and Shadow Leader of the House, having been an MP since 2001 and having written a two-volume history of Parliament. As I said when I stood for Speaker, I have a copy of Erskine May by my bedside.
- I was an efficient and impartial chair of the House’s Finance Committee from 2017 to 2019.

- As a member of the SCIPSA Committee (which normally accompanies the role) I regularly and repeatedly raised issues on behalf of MPs individually and collectively.
- I have always been scrupulously fair in my dealings with colleagues, regardless of party affiliation, working with others on issues as diverse as acquired brain injury, skin cancer and British relations with Russia.
- I have been through a media maelstrom and I know how important it is for the House – and especially the House’s Standards Committee – to act on the basis of evidence and hard facts rather than gossip and surmise.

The MPs on the Standards Committee also constitute the Privileges Committee, which adjudicates on questions such as the arrest of a Member on the parliamentary estate and the attendance or non-attendance of witnesses before select committees – a subject I have studied and written about in considerable depth.

In addition to those who have formally nominated me, I have the support of: Alberto Costa, Alex Davies-Jones, Alex Norris, Andrew Gwynne, Andrew Mitchell, Dr Andrew Murrison, Barbara Keeley, Clive Betts, Damian Collins, Damien Moore, David Davis, David Lammy, Sir Desmond Swayne, Sir Ed Davey, Edward Timpson, Emma Hardy, Feryal Clark, Geoffrey Clifton Brown, James Gray, John McDonnell, Kerry McCarthy, Martin Vickers, Michael Fabricant, Michael Gove, Neil Gray, Nia Griffith, Nick Thomas Symonds, Dr Philippa Whitford, Preet Kaur Gill, Robert Buckland, Simon Hoare, Steve Reed, Stewart Malcolm MacDonald, Tom Tugendhat, Wayne David, Yasmin Qureshi.

Relevant Interests

Please see Register of Members’ Financial Interests.



Yvonne Fovargue

Makerfield

Nominated by (own party)

Julie Elliott, Judith Cummins, Gill Furniss, Mrs Emma Llewellyn-Buck, Rosie Cooper, Mike Kane, Mr Kevan Jones, Sarah Champion, Peter Dowd, Mike Amesbury, Shabana Mahmood, Ms Harriet Harman, Naz Shah, Meg Hillier, Siobhain McDonagh

Nominated by (other parties) (optional)

Mr William Wragg, Tracey Crouch, Jim Shannon, Mark Fletcher, Andy Carter

Statement

Following Kate Green's promotion to the frontbench after ably leading the Standards Committee since 2018. I am standing for election as Chair.

There are no current Labour members remaining on the committee but I feel that my experience over the last 10 years as an MP and, prior to that, as a local Citizens Advice Chief Executive and as a councillor, sitting on the Appeals Committee, would assist me in steering this sensitive and complex area.

I have wide experience of working cross party, chairing the APPG on Debt & Personal Finance and leading an enquiry into Rent to Own companies which led to a full review and significant rule changes by the FCA.

Unlike other committees the Standards Committee involves lay members and the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards and I welcome this opportunity to involve non-Members. It is important that every stakeholder group feels able to be heard and have their expectations clarified and met. I believe that my long experience of working with volunteers, paid staff and lay management committee members would be invaluable.

It is vital that Members of Parliament have confidence in the ability of the committee to engage with a high level of respect, sensitivity and fairness while at the same time always being mindful of the public interest and expectations.

The public, rightly, expect the highest standards of conduct from elected representatives. The Committee's communications strategy should assist being as transparent as possible while at the same time not courting publicity for its own sake. Ultimately, the aim should be to give the public the confidence that the system of self-regulation works fairly and well.

I would wish to continue with the review of sanctions, linking it to the current rules and ensuring fairness and clarity around both so that elected members and the public are clear that the rules are well articulated to members and I would hope to discuss that further, particularly with the cohort of new members elected in 2019.

The reputation of Parliament and Parliamentarians is key to trust in democracy. In these difficult times I would defend and strengthen our system of self-regulation assuring both the public and elected members that the duties of a Member of Parliament are carried out to the highest possible standard.

Relevant Interests

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