

# How does May's government differ from Cameron's?

Theresa May's cabinet comprises the fewest privately educated ministers since Clement Attlee's 1945 cabinet and the highest number of women of any previous Conservative administration, matching Blair's record of eight female MPs in top government posts

**Table 1** Cabinet facts: May and Cameron compared

Cabinet facts	Theresa May	David Cameron
Women	35%	32%
Black and ethnic minorities	9%	7%
Oxbridge graduates	44%	50%
Educated at a state school (including grammar schools)	70% (inc. 26% grammar schools)	57% (inc. 7% grammar schools)
Educated at an independent (private) school	30%	50% 2015 62% 2010 coalition cabinet
Educated at a non-selective state school	44%	43% 2015 21% 2010 coalition cabinet
Aged 40–49	43%	59%
Aged 50–59	35%	27%
Aged over 60	22%	14%

Figures on education taken from the Sutton Trust report. Other figures taken from the BBC website



## Bill of Rights

Theresa May is likely to drop Cameron's plans for a British Bill of Rights. The plans have been sent back to the Ministry of Justice to be reviewed.

## Government by Twitter

In a further distancing of the May regime from Cameron's government, a Downing Street official said May would end her predecessor's 'government by Twitter', with policy announcements no longer made on social media.

## Environment

- Theresa May infuriated green campaigners by scrapping the Department for Energy and Climate Change, created only 8 years ago.
- David Cameron had championed the department and supported green issues.
- Environmentalists accused the May government of downgrading climate change as a priority.

## Directly elected mayors

- Theresa May will abandon George Osborne's plans for directly elected mayors for city regions after the 2017 Manchester and Liverpool mayoral elections.
- She will also phase out Osborne's plans for a Northern Powerhouse.
- There are concerns that elected mayors would provide a platform for Labour moderates to get elected and revive Labour's electoral fortunes.
- May will focus on boosting the economy throughout England by focusing on regions outside the southeast.

## Grammar schools

- Theresa May's first significant domestic policy decision was that all comprehensive schools would be able to apply to become grammar schools.
- Existing grammar schools would also be allowed to expand and new faith schools would no longer have to select half their intake on the basis of faith.
- May, who briefly attended a Catholic school and was educated at a grammar school, hopes to increase the number of Catholic schools, arguing that they are more popular, successful and ethnically diverse than any other type of state school.
- May will insist, however, that new grammar schools take a proportion of pupils from lower-income households.
- David Cameron opposed the expansion of new grammar schools. May's plans are likely to face significant opposition from both the House of Commons and House of Lords.

## Junk food

May overruled health secretary Jeremy Hunt over the government's obesity strategy. She insisted that the economy must take priority. Plans to restrict advertising and promotional deals on junk food, as planned during the Cameron government, have been removed from her government's obesity strategy.

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Emma Kilheeny is a teacher of politics at Manchester Grammar School.