

Briefing on DECC Secretary of State Ed Davey MP



Overview

Ed Davey has been appointed Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change following Chris Huhne's resignation this morning. Those in the energy sector will be hoping Ed is able to hit the ground running given the number of policy areas "up in the air". These include:

- The Green Deal and ECO (substantial pressure on Govt over viability of Green Deal)
- The Renewables Obligation (banding review underway, investors waiting anxiously)
- The Feed in Tariff (FiTs phase 2 consultation expected next week)
- The Renewable Heat Incentive (uncertainty over progress towards RHI phase 2)

Ed will certainly represent a different type of character to Chris Huhne at DECC, although he has held the energy brief before whilst Lib Dem Spokesperson for Department of Trade and Industry in 2006. Huhne was one of the bigger beasts in the coalition and a powerful advocate of the sustainable energy agenda – even if policy implementation did not always follow according to plan. Having met Ed during his time as DTI spokesman, the JDS Associates team expect him to be slightly less outspoken than Huhne, but he has a strong record on the environment.

In policy terms, major changes are unlikely in the short term. The thrust of policies such as Green Deal and Electricity Market Reform are set out in the coalition agreement and therefore unlikely to be amended. The replacement of a Liberal Democrat with another Liberal Democrat will also aid policy consistency. Ed can be expected to make his mark however and plaudits of his competency and capability have been numerous since the announcement was made.

Constituency: Kingston & Surbiton

Described as deep suburbia in outer south-west London, Ed's majority in Kingston and Surbiton, a seat he has held since 1997 was 7,560 in 2010 with the Conservatives in second place and Labour a distant third.

03/02/2012 Briefing

Biography

Ed lives in Surbiton where he moved to in 1995 with wife, Emily and son John. His background before politics was an economist and a management consultant. Ed states that his strong views on the environment were probably what pushed him towards becoming politically active, and joining the Liberal Democrats in 1989.

After becoming an MP, Ed held a range of spokesperson roles for the Liberal Democrats, including Treasury Affairs, Shadow for Office of Deputy Prime Minister, Education and Skills, Chief of Staff to Sir Menzies Campbell and Chairman of the Lib Dem Campaigns and Communications Committee.

Ed served in the coalition as Parliamentary Under Secretary for State at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills prior to his appointment at DECC. His responsibilities at BIS included Employment Relations, Consumer and Postal Affairs

ENDS

For more reaction on Huhne's resignation, please contact James Higgins on: 01564 77 1554 or james.higgins@jdsassociates.com