



BRIEFING PAPER

Number 06579, 11 March 2020

Parliamentary Private Secretaries to Prime Ministers since 1906

Compiled by
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This List notes Parliamentary Private Secretaries to successive Prime Ministers since 1906. Alex Burghart was appointed PPS to Boris Johnson in July 2019 and Trudy Harrison appointed PPS in January 2020.

Parliamentary Private Secretaries (PPSs) are not members of the Government although they do have responsibilities and restrictions as defined by the [Ministerial Code](#) available on the Cabinet Office website. A list of [PPSs to Cabinet Ministers as at June 2019](#) is published on the Government's transparency webpages.

It is usual for the Leader of the Opposition to have a PPS; Tan Dhesi was appointed as Jeremy Corbyn's PPS in January 2020.

Further information

The [Commons Library briefing on Parliamentary Private Secretaries](#) provides a history of the development of the position of Parliamentary Private Secretary in general and looks at the role and functions of the post and the limitations placed upon its holders.

The [Institute for Government's explainer: parliamentary private secretaries \(Nov 2019\)](#) considers the numbers of PPSs over time.

Parliamentary Private Secretaries to Prime Ministers since 1906

Prime Minister	Parliamentary Private Secretary		Notes
Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman (1905-08)			
	Herbert Carr-Gomm	1906-08	Assistant Private Secretary
Herbert Asquith (1908-16)			
	Hon Geoffrey Howard	1908-09	Vice-Chamberlain of the Household 1911-1915
	Hon Charles Lyell	1908-15	Commemorated on the Parliamentary War Memorial
	Sir John Barran	1915-17	2nd Baronet of Chapel Allerton Hall
David Lloyd George (1916-22)			
	Sir John Barran	1915-17	2nd Baronet of Chapel Allerton Hall
	David Davies (Montgomeryshire)	1916-18	
	Hon Waldorf Astor	1918	2nd Viscount Astor of Hever Castle
	Sir William Sutherland	Jan 1919-Feb 1920; Dec 1916-18	
	Sir Philip Sassoon	1920-22	3rd Baronet; 'Baby of the House' when he entered the House in 1912 at 24yrs
Andrew Bonar Law (1922-23)			
	Sir John Davidson	1922-23	His wife Frances, Viscountess Davidson, succeeded him as MP for Hemel Hempstead in 1937
Stanley Baldwin (1923)			
	Sir Sidney Herbert	Aug 1923-Jan 1924	
James Ramsay MacDonald (1924)			
	Lauchlan MacNeil Weir	Jan-Nov 1924	Check date on WWBMP
Stanley Baldwin (1924-29)			
	Sir Sidney Herbert	Nov 1924-1927; Aug 1923-Jan 1924	1st Baronet of Boyton, Wiltshire 18 Jul 1936
	Hon Charles Rhys	1927-29	8th Baron Dynevor; Governor of the National Museum of Wales and President of Cardiff University ⁷
James Ramsay MacDonald (1929-35)			
	Lauchlan MacNeil Weir	1929-31	Author of The Tragedy of Ramsay Macdonald: A Political Biography
	Robert Morrison	Jun 1929-Aug 1931	1st Baron Morrison of Tottenham
	Sir Ralph Glyn	Aug 1931-Jun 1935	
	Sir Frank Markham	Aug-Oct 1931; 1931-32	Elected as a Labour MP for Rochester, a National Labour MP for South Nottingham and a Conservative MP for Buckingham
	Sir John Worthington	Dec 1931-Jun 1935	

Stanley Baldwin (1935-37)			
	Geoffrey Lloyd	Jun-Nov 1935	Created a life peer 6 May 1974, Baron Geoffrey-Lloyd, of Broomfield in Kent
	Sir Thomas Dugdale	Nov 1935-May 1937	

Neville Chamberlain (1937-40)			
	Alexander Douglas-Home	1937-40	Prime Minister Oct 1963-Oct 1964; Last PM to sit in the House of Lords

Sir Winston Churchill (1940-45)			
	Brendan Bracken	1940-41	
	Sir George Harvie-Watt	Jul 1941-Jul 1945	

Clement Attlee (1945-51)			
	Geoffrey De Freitas	1945-46	
	Arthur Moyle	May 1946-May 1951	

Sir Winston Churchill (1951-55)			
	Christopher Soames	1952-55	

Sir Anthony Eden (1955-57)			
	Robert Carr	Apr-Dec 1955	
	Robert Allan	1955-58	

Harold Macmillan (1957-63)			
	Robert Allan	1955-58	
	Anthony Barber	1958-59	
	Sir Knox Cunningham	1959-63	

Sir Alec Douglas-Home (1963-4)			
	Sir Francis Pearson	Nov 1963-Oct 1964	

Harold Wilson (1964-70)			
	Ernest Fernyhough	1964-67	
	Peter Shore	1965-66	
	Harold Davies	Jan 1967-Jun 1970	
	Eric Varley	Nov 1968-Oct 1969	

Edward Heath (1970-74)			
	Sir Timothy Kitson	1970-74	

Harold Wilson (1974-76)			
	William Hamling	1974-75	
	Kenneth Marks	Apr-Dec 1975	
	John Tomlinson	1975-6	

James Callaghan (1976-79)			
	Jack Cunningham	1976-77	
	Roger Stott	1977-79	

Margaret Thatcher (1979-1990)		
Ian Gow	1979-83	
Michael Alison	1983-87	
Archie Hamilton	1987-88	
Sir Mark Lennox-Boyd	1988-90	
Peter Morrison	1988-90	

John Major (1990-97)		
Sir Graham Bright	1990-94	
Sir John Ward	1994-87	

Tony Blair (1997-2007)		
Ann Coffey	1997-98	Resigned the Labour Party whip 18 Feb 2019 to sit an an Independent MP
Bruce Grocott	1997-2001	
David Hanson	2001-05	
Keith Hill	2005-07	

Gordon Brown (2007-10)		
Ian Austin	2007-08	Resigned the Labour Party whip 18 Feb 2019 to sit an an Independent MP
Angela E. Smith	2007-09	
Jon Trickett	2008-10	
Anne Snelgrove	2009-10	

David Cameron (2010-16)		
Sir Desmond Swayne	May 2010 - Sep 2012	
Sam Gyimah	Sep 2012 - Oct 2013	Resigned the Conservative Party whip 4 Sep 2019 to sit an an Independent
Gavin Williamson CBE	Oct 2013 - Jul 2016	

Theresa May (2016 to 2019)		
George Hollingbery	18 Jul 2016 - 21 Jun 2018	
Seema Kennedy	27 Jun 2017 - 4 Apr 2019	
Andrew Bowie	29 Dec 2018 - 24 Jul 2019	

Boris Johnson (2019 to present)		
Alex Burghart	25 Jul 2019 - present	
James Heapey	4 Aug 2019 - 17 Dec 2019	
Trudy Harrison	17 Dec 2019 - present	

Sources:

1. *British Political Facts*, 2011
2. *Who's Who of British Members of Parliament* Stenton and Lees, Vols II, III, IV
3. *Who's Who 2011*
4. House of Commons Library *Parliamentary Private Secretaries 1970-2000*
5. *Dod's Parliamentary Companion*
6. No 10 Website
7. Then the University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire

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