



BRIEFING PAPER

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Ministers who have held ministerial office for 20 or more years

Compiled by
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This note gives names and details of those individuals, in either House, who have spent twenty years or more in total in ministerial positions. The list only includes individuals who have served at least part of their time as a Minister since 1900. The list is ordered by the total cumulative amount of service as a Minister.

The position of a government minister is not a Parliamentary position. Ministers are not formally required to sit in either House, though it has long been a convention that they do so.

No. of years	Minister	Dates of office
29	Sir Winston Churchill	12 Dec 1905 - 11 Apr 1908: Under Secretary (Colonies) 12 Apr 1908 - 13 Feb 1910: President of the Board of Trade 14 Feb 1910 - 22 Oct 1911: Home Secretary 23 Oct 1911 - 24 May 1915: First Lord of the Admiralty 25 May 1915 - 25 Nov 1915: Duchy of Lancaster 17 Jul 1917 - 9 Jan 1919: Minister of Munitions (Supply) 10 Jan 1919 - 13 Feb 1921: Sec. of State for War and Air 13 Feb 1921 - 19 Oct 1922: Sec. of State for the Colonies 6 Nov 1924 - 4 Jun 1929: Chancellor of the Exchequer 3 Sep 1939 - 9 May 1940: First Lord of the Admiralty 10 May 1940 - 23 May 1945: Prime Minister 23 May 1945 - 26 Jul 1945: Prime Minister 26 Oct 1951 - 5 Apr 1955: Prime Minister 28 Oct 1951 - 28 Feb 1952: Minister for Defence (PM at same time)
28	Earl of Balfour (Arthur Balfour)	1885: President of Local Government Board 1886 - 87: Secretary for Scotland 1887 - 91: Chief Secretary for Ireland 1891 - 92 and 1895 - 1905: First Lord of the Treasury and Leader of the House of Commons 1902 - 03: Lord Privy Seal 12 Jul 1902 - 4 Dec 1905L Prime Minister 25 May 1915 - 5 Dec 1916: First Lord of the Admiralty 10 Dec 1916 - 22 Oct 1919: Sec. of State Foreign Office 23 Oct 1919 - Oct 1922: Lord President of the Council 27 Apr 1925 - 4 Jun 1929: Lord President of the Council
25	Richard Austin Butler (Rab Butler)	29 Sept 1932 - 28 May 1937: Parliamentary Under - Secretary for India 28 May 1937 - 24 Feb 1938: Parliamentary Secretary for Labour 25 Feb 1938 - 19 Jul 1941: Parliamentary Under - Sec. for Foreign Affairs 20 Jul 1941 - 2 Aug 1944: President of the Board of Education 3 Aug 1944 - May 1945: Minister for Education 25 May 1945 - 26 Jul 1945: Minister of Labour 28 Oct 1951 - 19 Dec 1955: Chancellor of the Exchequer 20 Dec 1955 - Oct 1959: Lord Privy Seal Dec 1955 - Oct 1961: Leader of the House 13 Jan 1957 - 12 Jul 1962: Home Secretary 13 Jul 1962 - 19 Oct 1963: First Sec. of State and Deputy Prime Minister 20 Oct 1963 - Oct 1964: Sec. of State for Foreign Affairs
24	Duke of Devonshire ¹ (Spencer Cavendish)	Mar 1863 - Apr 1863: Lord of the Admiralty Apr 1863 - Feb 1866: Under - Sec. of State for War Feb 1866 - Jul 1866: Sec. of State for War Dec 1868 - Jan 1871: Postmaster - General Jan 1871 - Feb 1874: Chief Sec. for Ireland Apr 1880 - Dec 1882: Sec. of State for India Dec 1882 - Jun 1885: Sec. of State for War 1895 - 1903: Lord President of the Council 1900 - 1902: President of the Board of Education 1902 - 1903: Leader of the House of Lords
23	Kenneth Clarke QC	13 Apr 1972 - 8 Jan 1974: Assistant Whip 8 Jan 1974 - 4 Mar 1974: Whip 7 May 1979 - 5 Jan 1981: Parliamentary Sec. for Transport 5 Jan 1981 - 5 Mar 1982 Under-Sec. for Transport 5 Mar 1982 - 2 Sep 1985: Minister of State for Health 2 Sep 1985 - 13 Jun 1987: Paymaster General (also Minister for Employment) 13 Jun 1987 - 25 Jul 1988: Duchy of Lancaster (also Minister for Trade) 25 Jul 1988 - 2 Nov 1990: Sec. of State for Health 28 Nov 1990 - 10 Apr 1992: Sec. of State for Education and Science 10 Apr 1992 - 27 May 1993: Sec. of State for Home Office 27 May 1993 - 1 May 1997: Chancellor of the Exchequer 12 May 2010 - 6 Sep 2012: Sec. of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor 6 Sep 2012 - present: Minister without portfolio (Cabinet Office)

- 22 Earl of Halsbury and Viscount Tiverton² (Hardinge Giffard) Nov 1874 - Apr 1880: Solicitor General
1886 - 1892: Lord Chancellor
1895 - 1905: Lord Chancellor
- 22 Walter Long (Viscount Long) 1886 - 1892: Parliamentary Sec. to Local Government Board
1895 - 1900: President Board of Agriculture
7 Nov 1900 - 11 Mar 1905: President of Local Government Board
12 Mar 1905 - 4 Dec 1905: Chief Sec. for Ireland
25 May 1915 - 9 Dec 1916: President of Local Government Board
10 Dec 1916 - 9 Jan 1919: Sec. of State for Colonies
10 Jan 1919 - Feb 1921: First Lord of the Admiralty
- 22 Sir Austin Chamberlain 1895 - 1900: Civil Lord of the Admiralty
7 Nov 1900 - 7 Aug 1902: Financial Sec. to the Secretary
8 Aug 1902 - 5 Oct 1903: Postmaster - General
6 Oct 1903 - Dec 1905: Chancellor of the Exchequer
May 1915 - Jul 1917: Sec. of State for India
Apr 1918 - Jan 1919: Member of the War Cabinet without portfolio
10 Jan 1919 - 22 Mar 1921: Chancellor of the Exchequer
23 Mar 1921 - Oct 1922: Lord Pivy Seal and Leader of the House of Commons
6 Nov 1924 - June 1929: Sec. of State for Foreign Affairs and Dept. Leader of the House of Commons
Aug 1931 - Oct 1931: First Lord of the Admiralty
- 21 Viscount Swinton (Philip Lloyd-Greame till 1924; Philip Cunliffe-Lister 1935-55) 22 Aug 1920 - 31 Mar 1921: Parliamentary Sec. Board of Trade
1 Apr 1921 - Oct 1922: Sec. of Overseas Trade Department
24 Oct 1922 - January 1924, Nov 1924 - June 1929 and Aug 1931 - Oct 1931: President of the Board of Trade
5 Nov 1931 - 6 Jun 1935: Sec. of State for Colonies
7 Jun 1935 - 16 May 1938: Sec. of State for Air
8 Jun 1942 - 7 Oct 1944: Minister Resident in W. Africa
8 Oct 1944 - July 1945: Minister for Civil Aviation
31 Oct 1951 - 24 Nov 1952: Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for Materials
24 Nov 1952 - 7 Apr 1955: Sec. of State for Commonwealth Relations
1951 - 1955: Dept. Leader of House of Lords
- 21 Marquis of Salisbury (Lord Robert Cecil; Viscount Cranbourn) 1866 - 1867 and 1874 - 80: Sec. of State for India
1878 - 1880: Sec. of State for Foreign Affairs
June 1885 - Feb 1886 and June 1886 - 1902: Prime Minister
- 21 Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, Bt Feb 1868 - Dec 1868: Parliamentary Sec. to the Poor Law Board (during this period was Under-Sec. for the Home Department for a few weeks)
1874 - Feb 1878 and 1886 - 1887: Chief Sec. for Ireland
1878 - 1880: Sec. of State for the Colonies
1888 - 1892: President Board of Trade
1885 - 1886 and 1895 - 1902: Chancellor of the Exchequer
- 20 Lord Ashbourne (Edward Gibson) Jan 1877 - Apr 1880: Attorney General for Ireland
1885 - 1886, 1886 - 1892 and 1895 - 1905: Lord Chancellor of Ireland
- 20 Viscount Hailsham³ (Quintin Hogg) May 1945 - Jul 1945: Under-Sec. of State for Air
2 Sept 1956 - Jan 1957: First Lord of the Admiralty
13 Jan 1957 - 16 Sep 1957: Sec. of State for Education
17 Sep 1957 - 13 Oct 1959: Lord President of the Council
14 Oct 1959 - 26 Jul 1960: Lord Privy Seal
27 Jul 1960 - 31 Mar 1964: Lord President of the Council
1 Apr 1964 - Oct 1964: Sec. of State for Education
20 Jun 1970 - Mar 1974 and 5 May 1979 - 12 Jun 1987: Lord Chancellor
- 20 Lord George Hamilton 1874 - 1878: Under-Sec. of State for India
1878 - 1880: Vice-President of the Council
1885 - 1886 and Aug 1886 - 1892: First Lord of the Admiralty
1895 - 1903: Sec. of State for India

1 Served as leader of three political parties (as Leader of the Liberal Party in the House of Commons (1875–1880), as of the Liberal Unionist Party (1886–1903) and of the Unionists in the House of Lords (1902–1903))

2 Compiled of a complete digest of "Laws of England" (1905–1916), a major reference work published in many volumes and often called simply "Halsbury's"

3 Served twice as Lord Chancellor of the United Kingdom, like his father Douglas Hogg; the only father and son to both serve as Lord Chancellor

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