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## Election for Chairs of Select Committees

Candidates

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29 January 2020



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# Introduction

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This booklet lists all the candidates for the Select Committee Chair elections.

The elections will take place on Wednesday 29 January between 10am and 4pm in Committee Room 16. The election is governed by Standing Order No. 122B.

Candidates who are unopposed are included in this booklet but will not appear on ballot papers on 29 January: they will be elected as Chairs automatically.

The candidates are listed by committee, in alphabetical order. All candidates are required to sign 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 of supporters from their own party, except in the case of chairs allocated to the Scottish National Party when five such names are required.

Candidates for the Backbench Business Committee require signatures of between 20 and 25 Members, of whom no fewer than 10 shall be members of party presented in Her Majesty's Government and no fewer than 10 shall be members of another party or no party.

# Backbench Business Committee (non-Government)



# Ian Mearns

## Gateshead

### Supporters (Government party)

Bob Blackman, Mr William Wragg, Damien Moore, Robert Halfon, Mr Ian Liddell-Grainger, John Howell, John Lamont, Kevin Hollinrake, James Cartlidge, Bob Seely

### Supporters (other parties)

Mike Amesbury, Kate Green, Bambos Charalambous, Martin Docherty-Hughes, Ronnie Cowan, Pete Wishart, Brendan O'Hara, Allan Dorans, Patricia Gibson, Kirsten Oswald, Feryal Clark, Tonia Antoniazzi, Yasmin Qureshi, Mr Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi

## Relevant Interests

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None

# **Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (Labour)**





# Rachel Reeves

Leeds West

## Supporters (own party)

Hilary Benn, Lucy Powell, Jack Dromey, Kate Green, Dan Jarvis, Ms Lyn Brown, Stephen Timms, Carolyn Harris, Edward Miliband, Cat Smith, Annelise Dodds, Helen Hayes, Lilian Greenwood, Mrs Sharon Hodgson, Liz Kendall

## Supporters (other parties) (optional)

Greg Clark, Drew Hendry, Sir Robert Neill, Tom Tugendhat, Mark Pawsey

## Statement

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I hope you'll recognise the robust way in which I chaired the Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) Select Committee during the last Parliament. It was a strong Committee that worked well across party divides and played a key role in delivering both the energy price cap and legislation for the zero net carbon target.

Britain has a world-class, thriving private sector that needs championing and supporting with great policy. But when things go wrong I waste no time in holding those responsible to account, whether fault lies in government or business.

With the inquiry into the collapse of Carillion I shone a light on the corporate malpractice which is now subject to criminal proceedings, and while doing so uncovered systemic failings in the 'big four' accounting and audit firms. This I followed up with a specific inquiry which will lead to significant reform in that broken market too.

When Thomas Cook collapsed, tens of thousands of staff - many on low incomes - lost their livelihoods overnight. I sought justice for them by bringing current and former Thomas Cook bosses before the Committee to provide the answers before a public gallery packed with former workers. Holding the powerful to account is a key job of Select Committees and I've always seen it as the responsibility of Chair to do it unrelentingly with professionalism and rigour.

I'm standing for re-election as Chair so I can bring this experience to bear for the new Committee as we navigate the challenges that lie ahead in this crucial sector of our economy.

There's a lot for us to focus on: ensuring that our policies to tackle climate change are ambitious and effective; protecting jobs and investment across the UK as we leave the EU; in helping provide a check on corporate excess as well as government power. Crucially, when corporate failure occurs, that it is swiftly and thoroughly investigated so that Parliament, policy and business can learn the lessons and workers get the justice they deserve.

I believe my record shows I'm ready to meet any challenges the Committee will face as we focus on regional economic growth; financing energy infrastructure; business priorities for Brexit; the Glasgow COP26 conference; corporate governance reform in the aftermath of high-profile corporate failures; and on the recall of dangerous electrical appliances.

All of the MPs who served on the last Committee are supporting my re-election, which shows what a great team we were. I feel really honoured by the support in my leadership by those who I worked alongside and I very much hope that you'll consider lending me yours too.

## Relevant Interests

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None

# Defence (Conservative)



# Robert Courts

## Witney

### Supporters (own party)

Royston Smith, Steve Brine, Stephen McPartland, Ben Bradley, Chris Heaton-Harris, Michael Tomlinson, Craig Williams, Anthony Mangnall, Andrew Bowie, Dr Luke Evans, Huw Merriman, Lee Rowley, Mary Robinson, Siobhan Baillie, Dr Caroline Johnson

### Supporters (other parties) (optional)

Paul Girvan, Jamie Stone, Lilian Greenwood, Marsha De Cordova

## Statement

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After careful consideration, I have decided to put myself forward for the Chairmanship of the Defence Select Committee on Wednesday, 29th January.

The next Chair has huge boots to fill, with Julian Lewis having served the Committee with distinction and principle since 2014. And, at the beginning of a new decade, with an uncertain global landscape before us, the need for Britain to display leadership on the international stage could not be greater.

If the UK is to fully demonstrate the global leadership a free World requires, and our allies expect, we need to upgrade all levels of our nation's defence and hard power - increasing investment to strengthen the size and capability of our armed forces. It also means addressing the inadequacies of our procurement processes and improving our offer to personnel before, during and after service.

The upcoming Defence, Security and Foreign Policy Review presents the Government with an opportunity to address all of these issues, ensuring a UK defence policy able to tackle the threats of the modern World and achieve our wider geo-strategic ambitions.

This work will need an effective Defence Select Committee holding the Government to account every step of the way, led by a Chairman with the in-depth knowledge and tireless commitment required.

I believe I have the skills required to Chair the Committee effectively during this crucial time.

I have, in a relatively short time in Parliament, built up a reputation for understanding the intricacies of

procurement, being credited by the House of Commons Library with "leading the Parliamentary pressure" for a Combat Air Strategy in order to develop the next-generation aircraft to replace the Royal Air Force's Typhoon multi-role jets. The Government announced such as strategy in July 2018 as Team Tempest.

To expand my defence knowledge, I have completed the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme, both RAF and Royal Navy - and am this year enrolled on the Royal College of Defence Studies course.

I represent the largest base in the Royal Air Force - RAF Brize Norton, home to the UK's transport and air-to-air refuelling fleet - and approximately one quarter of the entire RAF. This gives me a uniquely valuable perspective: in Carterton, I represent a town that is intertwined with the RAF both in terms of economy and identity, enabling me to understand the challenges of housing, personnel retention, family welfare, and the Covenant in detail.

Furthermore, my background as a barrister would, I believe, be a helpful attribute for the Chair. Not only because I am used to analysing complicated issues and asking the right questions to reveal the answers, but because many of the key issues the Committee will deal with - from procurement to historic allegation against veterans - are as much legal issues as they are military.

I hope colleagues from across the House feel that I would be an effective Chair of this critical Committee and would be honoured if they offered me their support on Wednesday.

## Relevant Interests

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Hospitality from the APPG for the Armed Forces as declared on my Register of Interests; Air show tickets as declared on my Register of Interests; Council member of the Air League; Committee member of Combat Stress; Completed Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme, 2017-18 (RAF), 2018-19 (RN); Enrolled on the RCDS course 2019-20; Vice-chair of the APPG for Aerospace; Chair of the Aviation Heritage working group of the APPG for General Aviation.



# Mr Tobias Ellwood

## Bournemouth East

### Supporters (own party)

Mel Stride, Richard Fuller, Vicky Ford, Karen Bradley, Victoria Prentis, Sir Robert Neill, Jack Lopresti, Trudy Harrison, Sir Robert Syms, Rachel Maclean, Chris Loder, Sir Edward Leigh, Tom Tugendhat, Stuart Anderson, Richard Graham

### Supporters (other parties) (optional)

Stephen Kinnock, Jim Shannon, Mrs Sharon Hodgson

## Statement

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We are in a period of phenomenal global change, more widespread and profound than at any time outside of world war. Threats are increasing and diversifying. As some states become more authoritarian and others risk averse, I believe Britain should play a more influential role in defending and upgrading international laws and standards. But to yield our soft power with greater effect requires an upgrade in our hard power.

As Chair of the Defence Select Committee I would speak up with authority, passion and purpose for our brave service personnel in scrutinising Government's national security strategy.

The volatile and unpredictable decade ahead of us poses big questions for Britain, our leadership on the international stage and our subsequent defence posture. Rising China, resurgent Russia and Iran, extremism, creeping authoritarianism, cyber conflict and the geo-political consequences of climate change - all will dominate the 2020's. This Government's forthcoming Defence, Security and Foreign Policy Review is a timely opportunity to assess the widening spectrum of the threats we face, the aspirational role Britain seeks to play and the hard and soft power assets we require. This demands greater honesty about the true state of our forces, our procurement processes, our readiness, our resilience and crucially our willingness to step forward with our NATO and non-NATO allies. I would endeavour to see Parliament fully engaged in this Review and support calls for greater defence spending as

we upgrade our conventional competence and develop our cyber, space and information warfare strengths.

As Chair I would not just hold Government to account but improve communications with all MPs on defence matters and seek increased opportunities for defence and security to be debated in the House. I would establish simple fortnightly summaries and a more effective website covering pertinent defence developments. I also believe some Committee members should serve on the under-used NATO Parliamentary Assembly. Government departments do not work in isolation nor should Select Committees. I would seek greater collaborative work with the DIFD, FCO and Trade select committees to explore how defence objectives dovetail with wider UK geo-strategic ambitions. Away from operations I would also ensure fair examination is given to recruitment, training, family welfare and veterans' concerns.

I believe I have the right breadth and depth of experience to speak with commitment and knowledge on the issues within the Committee's remit. I have spent much of my Parliamentary career developing my interest in UK defence and security matters. A former regular soldier, I continue to serve as a reservist. I am also a pilot and have written extensively about Britain's place in the world, our stabilisation, littoral, cyber and space capabilities.

It would be an honour to lead the Defence Committee at such a critical time.

## Relevant Interests

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I continue to serve as an Army Reservist in 77th Brigade.



# James Gray

## North Wiltshire

### Supporters (own party)

Jack Brereton, Mr William Wragg, Bob Blackman, Angela Richardson, Darren Henry, Sir Desmond Swayne, Anne Marie Morris, Jane Hunt, Steve Double, Gary Sambrook, Julie Marson, David Morris, Craig Whittaker, Mr Robert Goodwill, Adam Afriyie

### Supporters (other parties) (optional)

Pete Wishart, Christian Matheson, Yasmin Qureshi, Chris Bryant

## Statement

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We live in an ever more dangerous world, in which Britain must play a leading role, especially post-Brexit. We must counter increased threats across the Middle East; destroy Daesh and military Islamic fundamentalists; contain Russia; support NATO as the key cornerstone of our national defence; maintain the continuous at sea nuclear deterrent; work closely with our main ally, America, and defend these shores and Britain's interests around the Globe. To do all of that and so much more, we need stronger and better equipped Armed Services; we need technologies and capabilities for modern warfare, especially Cyber; we need better procurement systems and a sleeker MOD.

The Defence Committee must play a key role in all of that. We must be tough and unrelenting in holding the Government to account; stimulating their thinking and standing up for our armed forces. All of that demands a strong and experienced Chair who will speak up with neither fear nor favour, and who will take the whole Committee with him on a collegiate and cross-party basis. It needs someone who will be wholly committed to the Committee and to Defence Policy, who neither views the chairmanship as a stepping-stone to greatness elsewhere, nor as some kind of compensation for loss of office, nor as a personal soapbox.

I hope that I have those credentials. I offer total dedication to defence and our service people. I spent seven (pretty undistinguished) years as a Gunner in the Honourable Artillery Company. I am the long-standing Chairman of the APPG for the Armed Forces, and of the Armed Forces Parliamentary Trust/Scheme. A former Shadow Defence Minister (resigned over Iraq), I was a member of the Committee for some years (chaired enquiry into Arctic warfare), am a member of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, a Graduate of the Royal College of Defence Studies, and a former visiting Fellow of St Anthony's College, Oxford. I am the author of several books (most recently 'Who Takes Britain to War?' And 'Full English Brexit.')

The World is a dangerous and confusing place; Britain must punch above her weight from a military and diplomatic perspective; the House of Commons Defence Committee has a crucial role in ensuring that we do; and its Chair must be determined and committed to that task.

I hope that you will, for all of those reasons, be ready to vote for me to be Chair.

## Relevant Interests

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Served as private soldier in Honourable Artillery Company (TA), 1977/1984; Chair of APPG for the Army, 2004-2010, then founding Chair of APPG for Armed Services, 2010 to date; 2013: Revived Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme as charitable trust and chaired it since (seconds 30 MPs to Armed Services every year); Member, NATO Parliamentary Assembly, 2017-date; Chairman, 1922 Defence Committee; Shadow Defence Minister, 2000/2001; Attended Royal College of Defence Studies, 2003; Visiting Parliamentary fellow of St Anthony's College, Oxford, 2005/6; Patron, Mutual Support (ex-military Multiple Sclerosis) and Recruit for Spouses (Military spouse employment assistance); Patron of Operation Christmas Box (delivers ammo box lookalikes to all service people currently deployed overseas on Christmas Day).



# Adam Holloway

## Gravesham

### Supporters (own party)

Sir Roger Gale, Gareth Johnson, Bob Stewart, Alec Shelbrooke, Mr Richard Holden, Paul Holmes, Andrew Bridgen, Gagan Mohindra, Mark Pritchard, Tom Randall, Lee Anderson, Gareth Davies, Julian Knight, Sir Christopher Chope, Chris Grayling

### Supporters (other parties) (optional)

Mr David Lammy, Mr Khalid Mahmood

## Statement

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With **four decades of first-hand experience of conflict zones** I believe I am best placed to Chair this Committee. I would bring this experience to question any Government fairly and forensically, through a considered understanding of the complexities of modern conflict.

### Schoolboy

- At 18 I travelled with the Afghan Resistance (then they were fighting the Russians).
- Cambridge University holidays: 1st state of emergency Soweto; in a war economy Nicaragua.

### Soldier

- Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, Commissioned Grenadier Guards.
- Captain inside Iraq during the First Gulf War.
- First-hand experience of military parachuting, reconnaissance, close air support, working with allies, casualties, prisoners and of upholding the Geneva Convention.

### War Reporter

- Award-winning undercover investigative documentary maker for ITV, including amongst the victims of ethnic cleansing in central Bosnia.
- c.5 months living homeless on streets of London, Birmingham and New York, especially including veterans with mental health/addiction problems.

• ITN News at Ten war correspondent covering a chunk of the horrifying siege of Sarajevo for ITN and CNN, and Iraq in the 2003 Gulf War.

### As MP / Chair

- Afghanistan c.15 independent visits: from the beginning I pointed out the folly of a mission that has cost so many British, Afghan and other lives.
- Iraq including to Kurd / ISIS forward positions + Mosul during fighting for 3 hours.
- Libya frontline past Benghazi & Tripoli in immediate aftermath of regime collapse.
- Syria 2x visits: to meet Assad; this September to visit the Kurds who lost 12,000 men and women fighting ISIS until they were hung out to dry by President Trump.
- Defence Select Committee – 6 years / Foreign Affairs Committee – 2 years.
- Prior to this election, Chair APPG Drones / Chair 1922 Home Affairs Committee.

I will champion the Committee's independence, push for informative visits, build cross-party teamwork to constructively help any Government (& their Civil Service advisors) to not forget their first duty to protect our peoples, and our duty of care to our service personnel. We would ensure that no one forgets that you only use violence in support of clear political objectives.

## Relevant Interests

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None





# Sir Bernard Jenkin

## Harwich and North Essex

### Supporters (own party)

Penny Mordaunt, Sir Iain Duncan Smith, Sir Mike Penning, Philip Dunne, Mr Mark Harper, Kate Griffiths, Alicia Kearns, Tracey Crouch, Suella Braverman, Mr Steve Baker, John Redwood, Giles Watling, Sara Britcliffe, Dr Liam Fox, Cherilyn Mackrory

### Supporters (other parties) (optional)

Kate Green, Emma Lewell-Buck, Ronnie Cowan, Mr Kevan Jones, Martin Docherty-Hughes

## Statement

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### What the new Defence Select Committee should do

The Defence Select Committee's core purpose is to conduct robust scrutiny of ministers, officials and service chiefs in order to help create conditions where the public can have justified confidence in UK defence. Scrutiny should be positive and forward looking, holding government to account to promote learning and improvement.

Having always had a deep interest in defence, I served as Shadow Secretary of State for two years, and then four years on the defence committee. I also bring my experience as Chair of the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee (PACAC) to the Defence Committee, following our reports on national strategy, government contracting and procurement, and the lessons of Chilcott.

The most immediate question is the UK's future relationship with our European neighbours, as we leave the EU. There is consensus that the UK should have a strong new partnership with European defence within the Nato framework. If Nato cannot guarantee peace and security for us Europeans, then what will? Nato also does not interfere with the strategic and operational independence of its members, and Nato does not preclude cooperation with the EU and its member states on military operations, training, defence doctrine and procurement. So while reinforcing the primacy of Nato, and the importance of our other bilateral defence relationships, such as with the US, how will the government proceed?

UK defence policy must recognise the shift of power from West to East. The democratic world is facing China's challenge to the international order, Russian aggression, hybrid warfare, global terrorism, failed states and volatility in the Middle East. The potential for nuclear weapons proliferation is unlikely to be confined to Iran and North Korea in the longer term.

All this requires new thinking about what defence policy really should be and how the government spends its defence budget. Massing a large arsenal of weapons and systems at great cost is no good if the UK finds itself dealing with threats we never anticipated. UK national strategy has to be more about being ready for what we cannot predict or anticipate in a world where change is ever faster and technology is creating whole new realms of human conflict.

The Committee's programme should build on the work of its predecessors, and draw on the work of other committees, like PACAC. So as well as completing inquiries on major projects and global terrorism and I would also ask the Committee to monitor defence negotiations with the EU, shadow the foreign policy and defence review, and scrutinise MoD capability, particularly on procurement. DSC must also hold the government to account for its promises to armed forces personnel and veterans. As a Vice President of Combat Stress, the mental welfare charity for armed forces personnel, I attach particular importance to this.

## Relevant Interests

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Vice-President of Combat Stress (the armed forces mental health charity).

# Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (Conservative)





# Damian Collins

## Folkestone and Hythe

### Supporters (own party)

Mr John Whittingdale, Tracey Crouch, Penny Mordaunt, Damian Green, Jason McCartney, Mrs Maria Miller, Alex Chalk, Nickie Aiken, Gagan Mohindra, Gillian Keegan, Adam Afriyie, Mr Richard Holden, Andrew Griffith, Vicky Ford, Rob Roberts

### Supporters (other parties) (optional)

Julie Elliott, John Nicolson, Jo Stevens, Christian Matheson, Mrs Sharon Hodgson

## Statement

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I believe select committees have the power to show the House of Commons at its best. They are where we can work across party lines, following the evidence presented to our inquiries and holding to account not only the government, but also important organisations from outside of Westminster.

For the last three and a half years it has been my privilege to Chair the Digital, Culture, Media and Sport select committee, and I am standing for re-election to that position. The committee champions issues that affect our lives every day and celebrates the intrinsic value of culture and sport to society. We also have a responsibility to stand up for the public interest.

During my time as Chairman, we have held to account major tech companies like Facebook and Google, calling for greater action against harmful content and more transparency on how people's data is collected and used. We challenged the BBC on equal pay for its employees and free license fees for the over 75s, the Football Association about representing the interests of fans against bad owners of clubs, and held inquiries looking at how we combat racism and homophobia in sport. We campaigned to stop rip-off touts buying and selling tickets online, and to support live music venues with relief on business rates. In one of our most recent inquiries on Immersive and Addictive technologies we also highlighted the issue of video games addiction and called for the use of 'loot boxes' in video games to be classified as a form of gambling. I hope the Committee can also complete its report on the way contestants

may have been exploited on reality TV, with particular reference to The Jeremy Kyle Show.

There are major challenges that the committee should focus on over the next few years, and I would highlight five in particular. Firstly, high speed broadband has become a necessary tool for everyday life, and we need to make sure full fibre broadband is delivered to every home and business by 2025. Secondly, in an era of digital content on demand and the rise of companies like Netflix, we need to understand what license fee payers want from the BBC and how it should be funded to deliver this. Thirdly the UK should create a system of independent regulation to ensure social media companies act against harmful content and face real penalties if they don't. Fourthly, we need to review the current gambling regulations, including those related to promotions and marketing, to protect more vulnerable people from harm. Finally, the integrity and enjoyment of sporting competition requires effective governance to safeguard the long-term interests of both athletes and fans.

I also believe it's important that select committees get out around the UK. Under my chairmanship we held live hearings in Sunderland, Dundee, Belfast and Manchester. I want us to hold more of these, including in Leeds where Channel 4 is establishing its new national headquarters and Coventry which will be the next UK City of Culture.

## Relevant Interests

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Trustee of Shepway Sports Trust (unremunerated); Chairman of Step Short, Folkestone's First World War centenary commemorations charity (unremunerated); author of *Charmed Life, the phenomenal world of Philip Sassoon*, which was published by Harper Collins in 2016.



# Julian Knight

## Solihull

### Supporters (own party)

Kevin Hollinrake, Robert Halfon, Neil Parish, Alicia Kearns, Mr Steve Baker, Dehenna Davison, Eddie Hughes, Simon Hoare, Philip Dunne, Martin Vickers, Michael Tomlinson, Giles Watling, Saqib Bhatti, Mr William Wragg, Andrew Bowie

### Supporters (other parties) (optional)

Jamie Stone, Holly Lynch, Dame Diana Johnson, Mr Khalid Mahmood, Jim Shannon

## Statement

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Over the past three years, I have seen first-hand what a vital role the DCMS Committee plays in holding the powerful to account.

In the last Parliament my colleagues and I were able to call in senior figures from powerful institutions such as the BBC and Facebook, putting their actions under the glare of parliamentary scrutiny and allowing MPs to be a powerful force for change.

But I also saw where we need to do more. I was proud to serve on the International Grand Committee on Fake News and Disinformation, but there remains much work to be done to ensure not only that social media is properly regulated during elections but that its broader dangers are properly understood, and protections put in place.

And as the MP for a town which is still afflicted by so-called internet ‘not-spots’ – which blight communities up and down the country – I am acutely aware that the Committee didn’t hold a single session on broadband in the last Parliament.

I am standing for Chair of the DCMS Committee because I have the experience needed to build on what we have achieved over the past few years. I am the longest-serving Conservative member, except for the Chair, and prior to entering Parliament spent 17 years as a journalist in both print and broadcast media.

I am also the author of seven books, including the official ‘For Dummies’ guide to cricket. This gives me a unique perspective on to both sides of some of the biggest issues

under the Committee’s purview: sport and the media.

My priority if elected will be to refocus the Committee’s work on issues that matter out in the country, rather than what gets good write-ups in Westminster and the Media Guardian, and to throw our weight behind the drive to rebalance cultural investment between the regions.

On broadband, for example, I will introduce quarterly hearings where CEOs and senior executives from Openreach and other providers will be brought before MPs and held to account when they fail to deliver the up-to-date infrastructure our towns and rural communities deserve – modelled on those used by the Treasury Committee to scrutinise the banks after the financial crisis.

I will also put a strong focus regional tourism and especially local football clubs, which are often the beating heart of their communities and must not be overlooked by funding models which privilege elite, big-city cultural venues. We shall also press the UK’s sporting bodies to spread investment and competitions more equitably around the country.

The BBC is an issue close to my heart, and there is a hugely valuable role for the DCMS Committee to be a critical friend to the Corporation as it tries to find a new, sustainable model and role in the years ahead. I propose that we serve as an unofficial ‘Royal Commission’ on the future of the Corporation, taking the lead and forging a cross-party consensus which can win support both across the House and beyond it.

## Relevant Interests

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I am paid royalties every six months by Wileys the publisher for books I authored between 2006 and 2014, the amount varies; I have received hospitality from the England and Wales cricket board at test matches and the cricket World Cup in July and August 2019; I am the co-treasurer of the Lords and Commons cricket club; I received funding for flights and hospitality from the club to help with the costs of a cricket tour to Holland in 2019; I am Vice Chair of the APPG for Broadband and Digital Communication and of the APPG for Sport.

# Education (Conservative)



# Robert Halfon

## Harlow

### Supporters (own party)

Sir Charles Walker, Nickie Aiken, Mr David Davis, Mr William Wragg, Sir Iain Duncan Smith, Richard Fuller, Philip Dunne, Christian Wakeford, Dr Liam Fox, Edward Timpson, Dr Julian Lewis, Danny Kruger, Sir Mike Penning, Tracey Crouch, Damian Hinds

### Supporters (other parties) (optional)

Catherine McKinnell, Marion Fellows, Ian Mearns, Ian Paisley, Lucy Powell

## Statement

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I have always believed that education and skills provide a real ladder of opportunity for our young pupils, would-be apprentices, students and adults wishing to re-skill. A good education can transform the life chances of millions, especially those from the most disadvantaged backgrounds.

Despite some great improvements in standards, with almost 2 million more children in good or outstanding schools, and significant advances in phonics (the proportion of six-year-olds passing the phonics check increased from 58% in 2012 to 82% in 2018), too many are being left behind - particularly, white working-class pupils, children with special education needs and children in care.

Disadvantaged pupils are 19 months behind by the time they do their GCSEs. Some groups are particularly vulnerable. While the average national Attainment 8 score is 46.5, rates for pupils with SEN statements/EHC plans are 13.5, looked after children: 18.8, and white working-class pupils: 28.5.

Everyone should have access to a good school. Yet, a child living in one of England's poorest areas is 10 times more likely to go to a sub-standard school than one living in its richest areas.

To support the profession and the development of local teachers, we should incentivise highly-commended initial teacher training providers to work with disadvantaged schools, offer teaching bursaries, retention payments and salary bonuses.

Moreover, although the Government has introduced some important reforms in terms of building an apprentice and skills nation, with the Apprenticeship Levy and T-Levels, we still have a significant skills deficit. The Fourth Industrial Revolution presents major

challenges, too; some estimates suggest that up to 28% of jobs done by 16- to 24-year-olds could be lost to automation by 2030.

Previously, as Education Committee Chair - working closely with fellow members of all parties - we made a real effort to set out these challenges and took steps to overcome them.

Our Committee examined early years and early intervention, excluded children and quality Alternative Provision, special educational needs, school and college funding, value for money in higher education and reform of the Apprenticeship Levy, alongside strong support for degree apprenticeships. We had a real impact on Government policy, both by influencing the debate but also through our recommendations.

If re-elected as Chair, I will continue to work with colleagues to champion skills, social justice, standards and support for the teaching profession. These should be the interlocking foundations of the Government's education programme.

Early intervention, children in care, the role of free schools, adult and lifelong learning, vocational education and FE are just some of the areas which I hope the new Committee will examine over the coming months and years.

Our Committee can continue to have a significant role as an influencer of policy, a place of original thought and a group that holds the Executive and quangos to account.

If the Education Committee can help pupils, apprentices and students climb up each rung of the ladder of opportunity to the very top, then we will have really made a difference.

## Relevant Interests

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Minister of State for Skills and Apprenticeships (former, June 2016-June 2017); Honorary Vice President, Jewish Leadership Council (June 2019-present); Workers' Educational Association, Parliamentary Patron (June 2019-present); Member of the Advisory Council, the Institute for Ethical AI in Education (November 2018-present); Member on the Steering Board, The 5% Club (February 2019-present) - apprenticeships;; Patron, Open Road - Essex/Harlow (October 2010-present); Doctor Honoris Causa (Honorary degree), University of Craiova; Avanta Politician of the Year Award; FE Week AAC Award - special recognition for services to FE and skills; Freeman of the Livery of the Clockmakers' Company; Patron of Home-Start, Harlow; (all apart from ministerial position unpaid).

# **Environmental Audit (Conservative)**



# Philip Dunne

## Ludlow

### Supporters (own party)

James Brokenshire, Penny Mordaunt, Theo Clarke, Richard Fuller, David Morris, Derek Thomas, Alicia Kearns, Tracey Crouch, Sir Bernard Jenkin, Clare Coutinho, Gagan Mohindra, Damien Moore, Damian Hinds, Mr Andrew Mitchell, Mr William Wragg

### Supporters (other parties) (optional)

Dame Diana Johnson, Yvette Cooper, Sir Jeffrey M Donaldson, Ruth Jones, Chris Stephens

## Statement

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We face a pressing climate emergency. The public quite rightly expect the government to address the challenges we face right now. This is a huge agenda, which will be one of the defining policy areas of this Parliament.

Measures to reduce consumption of fossil fuels, to cut emissions and protect the natural world, will impact on much of how we live our lives: how we travel (public and private transport), how we live and work in buildings (heat and energy use), how much and what we consume (food, clothing, consumer and industrial goods) and how we use our land and oceans (sustainable farming, fishing and forestation).

The EAC scrutinises performance against this whole agenda, since it looks across government, rather than shadowing an individual department, and looks beyond to the environmental impact of public and private sectors.

This is why I am standing for Chair. I profoundly believe we have an obligation to leave our environment in a better state than we found it.

My interest stems from representing the Ludlow constituency since 2005, unarguably one of the most beautiful in England, comprising 600 square miles of farmland and forestry, half in Shropshire Hills AONB.

I am Species Champion in Parliament for the rare Wood White butterfly. My constituency hosts one of England's last breeding grounds for Freshwater Pearl Mussels and one of few southern breeding sites for Curlew. I helped successfully fend off a large development of part of the Mortimer Forest near Ludlow. Shropshire is fifth among leading English counties generating renewable energy.

I helped deliver a community hydro-electric generation scheme in Ludlow.

I joined the EAC two years ago, my first act on ceasing to be a Minister (in Defence and then Health). Aside from Mary Creagh - who was an excellent Chair in the last Parliament - I had the best attendance record on the Committee since joining.

I have sought to shine a light on issues profoundly impacting our environment, but not so visible to the public. I led the EAC investigation into hand car washes, which pollute watercourses, but also revealed modern slavery in our midst. I raised adaptation for climate change through better NHS preparedness for heatwaves, more transparency to encourage Green Finance and greening of UK export finance, in improving biodiversity, air, water and soil quality.

The coming task is significant. I would work collaboratively with colleagues to encourage individual interests of members. A focus would not just be on problems, but on solutions: seeing how British innovators in the technologies of tomorrow can build on existing UK world leading strengths in finance, green energy and engineering.

We have a huge opportunity to showcase our international leadership at the 2020 UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow in November. I hope the EAC can push the agenda for the government, local authorities, and local communities to lead the way internationally to commit to action on climate change and help the UK become one of the first countries to reach net zero emissions.

## Relevant Interests

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Family farm in Herefordshire (please see Register of Members' Financial Interests); Member of the National Trust, Shropshire Wildlife Trust, Woodland Trust, CLA, NFU.





# Dr Matthew Offord

## Hendon

### Supporters (own party)

Martin Vickers, Neil Parish, Mel Stride, Sir John Hayes, Scott Mann, James Gray, Mrs Sheryll Murray, Royston Smith, Rehman Chishti, Craig Williams, Jason McCartney, Lia Nici-Townend, Michael Tomlinson, Dr Caroline Johnson, John Stevenson

### Supporters (other parties) (optional)

Alex Sobel, Kerry McCarthy, Edward Miliband, Dr Alan Whitehead, Anna McMorrin

## Statement

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As a London MP, it is often easy to become detached from nature. Growing up on the beaches of Cornwall as a lifeguard, my passion for the environment has always been an important part of my life – from becoming a qualified sailor and scuba instructor, through to my academic studies and life as an MP, joining the Environmental Audit Committee (EAC) in 2012.

During my time in local government I was Cabinet Member for the environment and since my election to Parliament in 2010, I have asked **hundreds** of questions to the Government in this area – everything from recycling and waste, to trees and biodiversity.

As a Green Conservative, protecting our environment for future generations has always been a core belief of mine. So, for me it is a significant opportunity and a privilege that this Committee now falls under the Chairmanship of the Conservative Party. During my time in Parliament, the Chairmanship of the Environmental Audit Committee has always fallen under the Labour Party, and I pay tribute to my former colleague Mary Creagh, who was a fantastic Chair and oversaw some of our Committee's most important work.

Therefore, as the **longest serving** Conservative Member of the EAC, I have decided that this Committee needs experience and commitment more than ever before. I have been directly involved in numerous enquiries and delegations where I have taken my work on this committee from the corridors of Westminster to the Arctic Circle and questioned Secretaries of State, Ministers, Civil servants and business leaders.

Some people may stand as Chairman of a Select Committee for the position or the status it brings, however, my commitment to the environment and, indeed the EAC itself, has been unwavering.

I want to continue and build upon the work of the former Chair, such as taking more Committee meetings out of Westminster and visiting colleagues in their constituencies to see first hand the environmental problems they are facing.

I have never held ministerial office, so I will fearlessly hold the Government to account. As an individual who prides themselves on being independently minded and non-partisan, I will work with all my colleagues, no matter what party, to ensure that we do this.

Brexit for me is an opportunity to strengthen, not weaken, our environmental standards. We cannot afford to fall behind our neighbours in the EU and I will always work to ensure that this is the case. As the Government shapes its new environmental policy through the 25 Year Environment Plan, I and any Committee that I lead will be at the forefront of holding them to account.

What has become increasingly apparent is that protecting our environment has never been more important, and so our work in this area has never mattered more. We need a Chairman of the EAC who is **passionate, independently-minded, trusted** and with a **track record** of delivering in this area. I hope that I can be that person.

## Relevant Interests

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None

# **Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Conservative)**





# Neil Parish

## Tiverton and Honiton

### Supporters (own party)

David Duguid, Anne Marie Morris, Mr Mark Harper, Mel Stride, Mrs Sheryll Murray, Richard Drax, Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown, Dr Matthew Offord, Chris Loder, Fiona Bruce, Mr Owen Paterson, Dr Caroline Johnson, Fay Jones, Bim Afolami, John Stevenson

### Supporters (other parties) (optional)

Jim Shannon, Alan Brown, Angus Brendan MacNeil, Mary Glindon, Kerry McCarthy

## Statement

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As Chair of the Environment Food and Rural Affairs Select Committee from 2015-2019, I sought to lead inquiries which would provide practical answers to the difficult questions we face.

From cutting plastic and food waste, to improving animal welfare, air quality and designing a first-class fishing and agriculture policy, select committees can make a real difference. I believe an evidence-based cross-party approach can help both scrutinise and influence government policy for the better.

Over the course of this Parliament, we will reshape agriculture, environment and fisheries policies for decades to come. At this crucial time, I believe we need experienced voices at the table to ensure our new policies are workable.

Now that the Government has a large majority, the political landscape in Parliament is clearly different. But we cannot afford to get complacent. Select committees

can (and must) be a pain for government, but our inquiries and recommendations can be useful too.

Outside the EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), we can look again at how to support our industries domestically, as well as our rural and coastal communities, for the first time in nearly 50 years. It will be a challenge - and a significant opportunity for this Parliament to get its teeth stuck into.

As someone who has farmed since the age of 16, led the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee in the European Parliament - and been Chair of the Efra Committee here since 2015, I hope I can be of real assistance to this Parliament.

That's why I am running to be re-elected Chair of this vital select committee. Now more than ever, we need practical experience and effective scrutiny to ensure legislation is fit for the future.

## Relevant Interests

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Family farm in Somerset, please see Register of Members Financial Interests.

# Exiting the European Union (Labour)



# Hilary Benn

## Leeds Central

### Supporters (own party)

Stephen Timms, Rachel Reeves, Dan Jarvis, Lucy Powell, Seema Malhotra, Yvette Cooper, Kate Green, Margaret Beckett, Edward Miliband, Stephen Kinnock, Pat McFadden, Olivia Blake, Florence Eshalomi, James Murray, Stephen Doughty

### Supporters (other parties) (optional)

Chris Stephens, Hywel Williams, Sir Peter Bottomley, Mr Jonathan Djanogly, Richard Graham

## Statement

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**In the light of the general election result and the UK's departure from the EU at the end of this month, the Select Committee on Exiting the European Union will now have a new focus.** As well as looking at the operation of the Withdrawal Agreement, I think its main priority should be to scrutinise the crucial negotiations that are about to start with the EU on our future partnership.

**The issues to be covered in these negotiations will affect many of the industries and services that we represent as MPs,** including tariff and barrier-free trade in goods, access to European markets for services, immigration arrangements from the EU and future co-operation with our European neighbours in areas such as science and research, transport, consumer safety, data transfer, foreign policy and security. This is a very wide range of matters on which the Government will be seeking to reach agreement by the deadline of 31st December of this year.

With the forthcoming abolition of the Department for Exiting the European Union, it remains to be seen which other Government department will be taking the lead on this, but I want to ensure that whatever the new structure Parliament is able to play a full and proper part in the process of scrutiny.

Since being elected as Chair of the Select Committee in 2016, and again in 2017, I have tried to build consensus amongst colleagues from all parties, although all of us who have served on the Committee will recognise that at times this has been a bit challenging! If I am re-elected, I intend to continue to have a Vice-Chair chosen by Conservative members of the Committee.

**In undertaking the role, I am keen that the Committee should continue to take evidence from a wide range of witnesses and from all parts of the UK, including the devolved administrations.** I will also look to draw upon the relationships I have developed as Chair over the past three years, both here in the UK and in Europe, as well as on my experience as a Cabinet Minister in DFID and DEFRA and as a negotiator for the UK internationally.

**I would be very grateful for your support.**

## Relevant Interests

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None

# Foreign Affairs (Conservative)



# Crispin Blunt

## Reigate

### Supporters (own party)

Duncan Baker, Mr Steve Baker, Claire Coutinho, Mrs Flick Drummond, Sir Iain Duncan Smith, Ruth Edwards, Nick Fletcher, Chris Green, Mark Logan, Mark Menzies, Mrs Maria Miller, Damien Moore, Sir Mike Penning, Dr Dan Poulter, Henry Smith

### Supporters (other parties) (optional)

Clive Lewis, John Nicolson, Tommy Sheppard, Sam Tarry, Sammy Wilson

## Statement

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If elected to Chair the Foreign Affairs Committee again in this Parliament it would almost certainly represent the pinnacle and culmination of my Parliamentary career. It would be supported by four decades of military, departmental, ministerial, Parliamentary and Committee experience. With an established record of a proper independence of mind, my positions would carry the even greater confidence of being arrived at on the evidence without half an eye on my political future.

When I chaired the Foreign Affairs Committee 2015-17, in a happier Parliament than the last, the committee's profile was significantly raised making constructive, timely and authoritative contributions on the key issues of the day, reinforcing the Committee and therefore Parliament's voice on foreign affairs.

That Committee shaped the debate on airstrikes against ISIL in Syria, receiving the first Prime Ministerial response to a Select Committee inquiry ever; it successfully recommended that the Treasury protect the FCO's budget; and it pressed the FCO to restore the prominence of Human Rights in British diplomacy after it claimed this "was not one of the top priorities".

As Chair I delivered Committee consensus and, despite the Committee being as profoundly divided on Brexit as every other properly representative institution, we successfully produced three unanimous reports on the issue. We also reported unanimously on contentions issues such as our intervention in Libya, Political Islam and our relationships with Russia and Turkey.

I also sought to grow the capacity of the Committee and its members by involving members' parliamentary staff in the normal private business of the Committee. I would like to reinstate this.

The immediate agenda of the FAC should be dominated by the Government's review of foreign, defence and security policy, as well as consideration of the future security and foreign policy relationship with the EU. My last public contribution as FAC Chair in 2017 was on this very subject and over two years later remains current. This set out a model for an enhanced framework participation agreement between the UK and the EU on foreign affairs and former Foreign Secretary Lord Hague described it as the best proposal he had seen, in evidence to the House of Lords.

The various crises in the Middle East will no doubt continue to loom large in the Committee's work and my long-standing interest and experience in this region is relevant. However, over the course of this Parliament the UK will need to establish its new role in the world post-Brexit. Respect for the international rule of law, human rights and justice form a strong part of my background. Against these values I hope the Committee under my chairmanship will test the development of Britain's new place in the world. It would be a profound honour for me to lead this Committee into this exciting and creative period for British Foreign Policy. I hope my colleagues will agree that my four decades of adult public service are an appropriate preparation to discharge this responsibility properly for Parliament.

## Relevant Interests

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Chaired recent inquiry panels into detention of Saudi women's rights activists and Mohammed Morsi; independent diplomat and expert witness in trial of John Letts and Sally Lane; recent visits to Iraq and Syria, Jamaica, Washington DC, Bahrain (all declared in Register of Members' Financial Interests).



# Bob Seely

## Isle of Wight

### Supporters (own party)

Alexander Stafford, Paul Holmes, Elliot Colburn, Chris Loder, Mr Ian Liddell-Grainger, Ben Bradley, James Grundy, Craig Whittaker, Jack Lopresti, Giles Watling, James Cartlidge, Mr Robert Goodwill, David Warburton, Julian Knight, Adam Holloway

### Supporters (other parties) (optional)

Dr Lisa Cameron, Daniel Zeichner, Ian Mearns

## Statement

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### How I would improve the Foreign Affairs Select Committee

I am running to chair the Foreign Affairs Select Committee. What difference would I make and how can we do our work better? Here are my answers to some key questions:

#### 1. What's my style of leadership?

I will champion the Foreign Affairs Committee as a vehicle for independent, collegiate inquiry into foreign policy. I will encourage a free-thinking approach that focuses on problem solving. We need to question conventional wisdom, rather than just accept it.

#### 2. My suggested focus for the Committee?

Scrutiny, Scrutiny, Scrutiny. We need to focus on our bread and butter job of scrutinising the FCO. We do not spend enough time in the FCO itself. We need to know the department better. When I am Chair, my first task will be to write to the Foreign Secretary to find out how we can engage more with the department better and ensure MPs on the Committee understand it more.

#### 3. How will I support fellow Committee members?

First, under my plans to reform the Committee, everyone will be given the opportunity to chair evidence sessions, giving everyone 'senior' committee experience, regardless of rank.

Second, I will share media responsibilities to encourage all members of the team to speak on behalf of the Committee.

Third, I want everyone on the Committee to be a foreign policy expert, regardless of their base of knowledge when they are voted on.

#### 4. How will the FAC engage with the Foreign and Security Review?

The Committee must be engaged in this critical debate. It needs to ensure that Parliament and the views of Parliamentarians are listened to.

Leaving the EU should mean more democracy and clearer accountability, not less.

#### 5. How will I work with other Committee Chairmen?

Several Government departments are engaged in overseas policy. We need to find a way of working with others to ensure that we understand better the coordinated overseas work that Government does.

#### So why me?

- I was a foreign correspondent from 1990 to 1994, covering the collapse of the USSR (and occasionally Yugoslavia), after which I lived in the USA for a year before returning to the UK.
- For the decade prior to becoming an MP, I served in the UK Armed Forces in full time reserve service. I served in four campaigns in the past decade.
- For many years I have written academically on hybrid war, and specifically its Russian and Chinese versions. In the last Parliament I produced four reports on: defining hybrid warfare, on Huawei and Chinese high-tech in our critical national infrastructure, on Russian non-conventional warfare in Ukraine and my lead report on Global Britain. This is why I believe it is so important to have in-depth, well-researched reports.
- The Committee is working well but we can do better. I will offer expert, collegiate leadership to ensure that our Committee serves both its practical purposes of overseeing Government and its ethical purpose of serving Parliament and our people.

## Relevant Interests

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None



# Tom Tugendhat

## Tonbridge and Malling

### Supporters (own party)

Tracey Crouch, Conor Burns, Paul Scully, Simon Fell, Michael Gove, Andrew Bowie, Alex Chalk, Andrew Griffith, Robert Halfon, Bob Blackman, Mr Owen Paterson, Huw Merriman, Stephen Hammond, Theo Clarke, Alicia Kearns

### Supporters (other parties) (optional)

Alex Norris, Angela Rayner, Clive Efford, Stewart Malcolm McDonald, Mr Khalid Mahmood

## Statement

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Chairing the Foreign Affairs Committee for the past two years has been a great privilege. Bringing ideas from across Parliament and representing opinions from all sides, not just those in the room, has been demanding and challenging but also essential to ensuring we focus on what matters – promoting the interests of the whole of the UK.

At this moment of huge transition for Britain and the world, how we project influence, work with allies, and secure our goals is changing all the time. We need to be responsive, coordinated and draw from the skills of the whole United Kingdom.

One of the innovations we began in the last Parliament was to take the committee around the country. We visited Fife, Belfast, Southampton, Rhondda and more, listening to businesses, community groups and individuals about what they want from the Foreign Office and how we should be supporting the interests of our whole country. I would hope to increase these visits, reaching out from Westminster to groups who don't always feel our Parliament speaks for them, and working with members whether they are on the Committee or not.

Challenges from climate change to trade, peace-building and counter-terrorism will continue to confront us. I have my views on how we should address them, but the Committee will have to debate them, drawing on the expertise of the whole House.

While chairing the Committee in the past, I heard other views, listened to perspectives from members across the political spectrum and used those views to challenge the Government to find better solutions. This role of a committee is neither to be the government, nor the opposition, but through questioning and debate to find the best way forward for our country. I will hope to do that when the Committee is re-formed.

There are many topics deserving of our focus, starting with the urgent need for international cooperation on environmental degradation, the changing power dynamics in global influence, and the continuing, more immediate challenge, of confronting hostile states as they influence our own nation. The list of projects I would like to begin is long, and I look forward to hearing views and suggestions from others.

From listening to those reporting back, I am conscious that the Committee is a delegated body of the whole House and will look to serve every member to improve our foreign policy and ensure it responds to the needs of our people. Our attention to foreign policy will never have been more essential for the future wellbeing of those we represent. That's why I am standing as Chair for the Foreign Affairs Committee. I hope my credentials and experience as an independent voice will convince colleagues to lend me their support.

## Relevant Interests

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None

# Health and Social Care (Conservative)





# Jeremy Hunt

## South West Surrey

### Supporters (own party)

Gillian Keegan, Dehenna Davison, Mr David Davis, Mr Andrew Mitchell, Ms Nusrat Ghani, David Duguid, Dr James Davies, Tracey Crouch, Dr Caroline Johnson, Daniel Kawczynski, James Cartlidge, Alex Chalk, Richard Graham, Mr Robert Goodwill, Greg Hands

### Supporters (other parties) (optional)

Chris Bryant, Mr Alistair Carmichael, Dr Lisa Cameron, Rushanara Ali, Sir Jeffrey M Donaldson

## Statement

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Two years after relinquishing responsibility for the NHS I am standing to be Chair of the Health and Social Care Select Committee because I remain passionate about securing its future. Securing its largest ever funding settlement is my proudest political achievement. But too often NHS delivery doesn't match the high expectations we place on it. So I want to help Parliament secure positive and lasting change for the service we all care so deeply about.

I was the longest serving Health Secretary, and this experience of doing the job for so long is what makes me best placed to ask the searching questions that will truly hold the Government to account.

Too often party politics prevents us from having the right debates about the NHS. Throughout my career I have always tried to minimise this and focus on what matters. So I will have four priority areas if elected:

### Mental health

The NHS has made strides towards parity of funding and treatment for mental health conditions but many - particularly young people - wait too long for a diagnosis and treatment and there is still too much stigma around mental health. Unless we expand the capacity of the mental health system the Government will not meet its objectives and patients will continue to feel let down. So I want the Committee to do an annual report on Government progress in this area.

### Social care

We will never end the annual cycle of winter crises until we look after people better in the community. But there is still no sign of the radical and ambitious plans we need to overhaul social care. It will be expensive but without it we will let down both older people and the vulnerable adults who depend on it. I want the Committee to lead the way in scrutinising the proposals that come forward to make sure we finally get this right.

### Workforce

There was much debate in the election about the pledge for 50,000 additional nurses. In truth the NHS has never been good at long-term workforce planning which is why demand pressures mean it is currently bursting at the seams. I want the Committee to make sure the NHS and social care system implements a 10 year workforce plan so we can look hard-pressed staff in the eye and say there is a solution in sight.

### Patient safety

I had to deal with Mid Staffs, Morecambe Bay and Southern Health. But the terrible scandal at Shrewsbury and Telford shows we can never take our eye off the ball when it comes to patient safety. We need to end the blame culture that makes it so difficult for NHS staff to be open about mistakes and replace it with a learning culture that means problems are addressed quickly and not swept under the carpet.

This Parliament should be a decisive one for tackling the big issues facing the NHS. I want to use my experience to make sure this is exactly what happens.

## Relevant Interests

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Trustee of the charity Patient Safety Watch.



# Anne Marie Morris

## Newton Abbot

### Supporters (own party)

Simon Jupp, Sir Edward Leigh,  
Tom Tugendhat, Craig Whittaker,  
John Redwood, Mrs Maria Miller,  
Mr Peter Bone, Neil Parish,  
Shaun Bailey, Sir William Cash,  
Damien Moore, Anthony Higginbotham,  
Mrs Sheryll Murray, Sir John Hayes,  
Rob Roberts

### Supporters (other parties) (optional)

Meg Hillier, Mr David Lammy,  
Jamie Stone, Jim Shannon,  
Dr Philippa Whitford

## Statement

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As a nation we are living longer, and mostly healthier and happier lives - and research scientists are uncovering treatments for diseases and conditions which, even a short while ago, would have been unimaginable. But too many patients are not getting access to these treatments either at all or in a timely way. Waiting times are too long for GP appointments and in A&E. Mental health provision is under resourced, and NHS dentists are fewer and farther between.

The lack of a fully funded social care system has put additional pressures on the health system and those that work in it. And while we are living longer, our later years can be extremely challenging. The government quite rightly recognises this and has promised change. Parliament through its Health and Social Care Committee has the serious responsibility of holding the government to account – and the NHS – to ensure not only that these promises are kept – but that the nation develops an NHS fit for the 21st century.

To be effective the committee must be well led, must be objective and impartial, and must be relentless in its constructive challenge to government. The new chairman must understand both the health and care “ecosystems”, be well networked in them and be respected by all the stakeholders – clinicians, patient groups, regulators, commissioners and providers of health and care. He or she must also have the respect and support of the NHS, the government, and opposition parties.

I am standing to be Chair of the Committee to deliver that leadership and that result without fear or favour, working with the whole House to deliver change. With 15 years’ experience in the health and care sector, I have built that network, and those relationships. I have the personal endorsement for this role from Sir Bruce Keogh, former medical director of NHS England, Professor Richard Parish, Chair of the National Centre for Rural Health and Care and a member of Public Health England and Ron Akehurst, Emeritus Professor Health Economics England, NICE committee member.

Being a member of the Health Select Committee, the health and social care lead inquisitor on Public Accounts Committee inquiries, chairman of 2 national inquiries into Rural Health and Care and Access to Medicines and Medical Devices and a regular speaker on both health and care issues at national conferences, have given me the knowledge and the network, building on my county council experience with oversight of health reform as chairman of Health Overview and Scrutiny.

Under my chairmanship, the Committee will be inclusive, opposition parties will have a clear voice and key roles to play. No individual or party has a monopoly of wisdom, or all the answers. APPG’s will have access to the committee and hopefully contribute to its work. Five key enquiries will address, social care, the integration agenda, parity of esteem for mental health, the wellbeing agenda, and most importantly our people and health and care delivery systems and structures. And that will just be the beginning.

## Relevant Interests

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None

# Home Affairs (Labour)



# Yvette Cooper

## Normanton, Pontefract and Castleford

### Supporters (own party)

Ms Harriet Harman, Kate Green, Janet Daby, Mr Toby Perkins, Stephen Doughty, Mr David Lammy, Rachel Reeves, Lilian Greenwood, Hilary Benn, Preet Kaur Gill, Naz Shah, Sarah Jones, Holly Lynch, Mr Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi, Mrs Sharon Hodgson

### Supporters (other parties) (optional)

Tim Loughton, Penny Mordaunt, Sir Charles Walker, Stuart C. McDonald, Rehman Chishti

## Statement

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I have been Chair of the Home Affairs Committee for three years and I know that for Select Committees to be effective, they need Chairs who can draw together a cross-party committee and build consensus at the same time as providing strong scrutiny and fair challenge to Government departments. They also need to draw on ideas from across the country as well as the experience, expertise and views of every committee member. That is what I have always striven to do and that's why I am standing for re-election as Chair of the Home Affairs Select Committee.

The work of the Home Office is more important than ever: keeping communities safe from crime, extremism and injustice, as well as protecting some of the most vulnerable in society.

Since I was elected Chair in October 2016, the Home Affairs Committee has pursued detailed and thorough cross-party work and published a range of unanimously agreed reports.

We have scrutinised not just the Home Office but related organisations, including the police, community organisations, social media companies and private sector contractors such as G4S over Brook House.

Our report on domestic abuse in the Votel100 year was one of the most widely read in the last session, calling for stronger action including new measures which have been adopted by the Government for the Domestic Abuse Bill.

Our Windrush inquiry identified the serious failings in Home Office operations which contributed to the injustices faced by the Windrush generation and we set out practical reforms that were needed, including

an early recommendation for a hardship fund and a compensation scheme which the Government set up in December 2018.

On serious violence we provided a platform for families whose lives have been devastated, as well as focusing on the action needed to tackle county lines, to boost prevention, policing and youth services.

Following the terrible terrorist attack on a mosque in Christchurch last March which was broadcast online, we challenged social media companies to take responsibility for extremist content on their platforms and held regular evidence sessions with executives to hold them to account in dealing with extremism and crime online.

The Home Office faces new challenges over the coming years, as patterns of crime and extremism are changing, hate crime is rising online

new policies are needed on security and immigration post-Brexit. Issues ranging from modern slavery and people trafficking to police complaints need scrutiny and attention.

I am keen for the Home Affairs Select Committee to respond to these challenges over the next Parliament both by scrutinising the Home Office's approach, and by shining a light on new and emerging approaches to tackling problems.

I am grateful to have the support of MPs from all the major parties, including Tim Loughton, Kate Green, Stuart McDonald, Janet Daby, Douglas Ross, Toby Perkins, Rehman Chishti and Stephen Doughty.

I would be very grateful for your support.

## Relevant Interests

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In addition to interests declared in the Register of Members' Financial Interests – Chair, Commission on Workers and Technology (a project in partnership with the Fabian Society and the Community trade union)

# Housing, Communities and Local Government (Labour)



# Mr Clive Betts

## Sheffield South East

### Supporters (own party)

John Spellar, Kate Green, Dan Jarvis, Alison McGovern, Helen Hayes, Lilian Greenwood, Mohammad Yasin, Justin Madders, Matt Rodda, Mary Glindon, Mike Amesbury, Rushanara Ali, Sarah Champion, Christian Matheson, Chris Evans

### Supporters (other parties) (optional)

Kevin Hollinrake, Neil Gray, Bob Blackman

## Relevant Interests

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None

# International Development (Labour)



# Sarah Champion

## Rotherham

### Supporters (own party)

Mrs Emma Lewell-Buck, Ian Murray, Mr Barry Sheerman, Mrs Sharon Hodgson, Lilian Greenwood, Meg Hillier, Gill Furniss, Holly Lynch, Karl Turner, Mr Steve Reed, Stephen Kinnock, Mr Toby Perkins, Tonia Antoniazzi, Jonathan Ashworth, Rachel Reeves

### Supporters (other parties) (optional)

Mrs Pauline Latham, Sir Robert Neill, Mr William Wragg, Anne McLaughlin, Douglas Chapman

## Statement

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As a parliamentarian, I have devoted much of my time toward campaigning locally and internationally on human rights, ending violence against women and girls, improving child protection, preventing disease and ending poverty. My work as an MP aligns with the overarching aims of DfID; to build a safer, healthier and more prosperous world for people in developing countries and the UK. I am keen to be elected as Chair of International Development to unite my passions and experience, enabling me to hold the Government to account on this crucial area.

Before becoming an MP, I was CEO of a Children's Hospice and for 12 years before that, CEO of an Arts Organisation that worked internationally, often with the British Council. I know how to Chair, to manage and to scrutinise. I have also seen from the inside how DfID funding changes lives. If elected as Chair, I would work with committee members to focus attention locally and globally on developing areas of concern. I would use my position to scrutinise the department, hold the Government to account and maintaining oversight of providers.

To date, I have been successful in Parliament because I forensically analyse a problem and work in a cross-party way to find, and implement, a solution. I will take the exact same approach as Chair of International Development.

Since being elected in 2012, I have travelled to a number of countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and the Caribbean to see exactly how aid is delivered, and have witnessed first-hand how properly funded, well

managed projects can transform lives. In Jamaica I met with young men, former drug gang members, who were being taught how to raise chickens and tropical fish as micro-businesses. Their pride in making their own money to support their families was palpable. In Uganda, I was brought to tears as I witnessed how UK funding had dramatically reduced child mortality through our immunisation programme. Further to that, the mothers were also offered contraception giving them control over their own reproduction.

My experiences have also led me to question how our money is being invested. I had the pleasure of visiting a small DfID funded community organisation in Mozambique that trained children orphaned by the AIDS epidemic to have careers as mechanics and seamstresses. A decision to change policy and only fund large scale, apparently more accountable charities, directly threatened its survival. Whilst I believe the large international charities are doing a fantastic job, I am mindful of the scandals of sexual exploitation and coercive control. Therefore I would also want to make sure providers are transparent and accountable in their delivery.

The British people are by nature charitable humanitarians. Whilst there is always debate surrounding the UK's commitment of 0.7% funding to Foreign Aid, I am in no doubt that for moral, humanitarian, security and soft diplomacy reasons our investment is justified and I will actively defend that position if elected as Chair of International Development committee.

## Relevant Interests

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Member of various international APPGs; executive member of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.





# Nia Griffith

## Llanelli

### Supporters (own party)

Kate Green, Siobhan McDonagh, Nick Smith, Daniel Zeichner, Ms Angela Eagle, Ms Lyn Brown, Mr Ben Bradshaw, Andrew Gwynne, Neil Coyle, Mr Stephen Morgan, Gerald Jones, Catherine McKinnell, Dame Margaret Hodge, Stephen Doughty, Alex Davies-Jones

### Supporters (other parties) (optional)

Mark Garnier, Selaine Saxby, Harriett Baldwin, Julian Knight, John McNally

## Statement

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I would be delighted to receive support from colleagues to become Chair of the International Development Select Committee.

It would be an honour to follow in the footsteps of my friend and colleague Stephen Twigg in scrutinising the work of the Department and working with all members of the Committee to make the case for the UK's strong and compassionate role in the world.

Here are my five priorities:

**Britain's Global Role** – as Shadow Defence Secretary since 2016, I have been outspoken on the need for Britain to use its considerable influence across development, defence and diplomacy to create a fairer and more secure world.

**The Climate Crisis** – global warming is a key driver of conflict and instability in our world. In government, I worked on the ground-breaking Climate Change Act 2008 and I am passionate in Britain taking a lead in efforts to solve the climate crisis.

**Defend Human Rights** – we have a responsibility to challenge the appalling persecution faced by minorities. Whether it is the Rohingya Muslims or Christians in the Middle East, we can use our significant influence to tackle discrimination head-on.

**Women and Girls** – women are especially at risk of violence and exploitation in conflict zones and sadly we know that the aid sector itself has failed them in recent years. I will work with government and the sector to advance meaningful gender equality.

**Spending Money Wisely** – I campaigned for the 0.7% commitment to be enshrined in law and I am very pleased that it has support across the House. I know that our constituents want that money to be spent wisely and I will make sure that taxpayers' money is always used in ways that genuinely alleviate poverty and reduce inequality.

I am not a partisan person. I believe in working cross-party, as I have done in my nearly fifteen years in the House. As a Labour Chair, I would support having a Conservative as Vice Chair of the Committee.

I have served in a number of frontbench and backbench roles, including in ministerial teams when Labour was last in government. I know the importance of having effective Select Committee chairs who are able to scrutinise and engage constructively with government policy.

## Relevant Interests

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Member of Amnesty International; Supporter of ActionAid.



# Kate Osamor

## Edmonton

### Supporters (own party)

Darren Jones, Florence Eshalomi, Sarah Owen, Claudia Webbe, Preet Kaur Gill, Cat Smith, Kate Hollern, Rachael Maskell, Tulip Siddiq, Sam Tarry, Abena Oppong-Asare, Marsha De Cordova, Lloyd Russell-Moyle, Bell Ribeiro-Addy, James Murray

### Supporters (other parties) (optional)

Jim Shannon, Chris Stephens, Tom Tugendhat, Bim Afolami, Mr Andrew Mitchell

## Statement

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I am standing to serve as the next Chair of the International Development Select Committee because I believe international development assistance from the UK is at a crossroads. If aid is to stay focused on the world's poorest, we need effective scrutiny like never before.

If elected, I will make sure the Committee holds government to account so that international development delivers effectively for the most marginalised. I will keep up pressure on aid agencies to reform and combat abuses of power and sexual exploitation.

Former Committee Chair Stephen Twigg leaves enormous shoes to fill. He demonstrated why any candidate must have not only detailed knowledge of the brief, but also the relationships with colleagues from across the House to get the Committee working constructively together.

I believe I am the right person to Chair the Committee effectively.

First, as Shadow Secretary of State for International Development (2016-2018) and as a backbencher, I have consistently held the government to account on international development. I challenged the government on the detail and effectiveness of aid spending by other government departments outside DFID. I called out aid agencies when they got it wrong, including for example Oxfam on sexual exploitation and Adam Smith International after allegations from BBC Panorama. I pushed too for a swifter response to the Caribbean hurricanes in 2017, and for DFID to be both 'greener' and better set up to tackle climate change.

Secondly, I have led aid policy formulation: I wrote the Labour Party's 2018 green paper, 'A World For the Many, Not the Few', in which I set out a vision for UK aid to reduce inequality and get back to focusing solely on helping the world's poorest. To do that, I convened and Chaired an expert Labour Task Force on International Development to take public testimony in Parliament from sector leaders and to scrutinise evidence from NGOs and social movements. I gave keynote speeches on that international development policy to the Institute for Development Studies, the Overseas Development Institute and the Global Development Institute.

Thirdly, I work constructively with colleagues from across the House of all political persuasions. I have seen DFID's and FCO's development and humanitarian work first hand, whether working collaboratively with Members from other parties on visits to countries like Ghana, Sierra Leone, Zambia, Iraq and Vietnam, or meeting with people left devastated by the hurricanes in Dominica and Barbuda in 2017. I am proud too to Chair the All Party Parliamentary Group on Nigeria, and to work with colleagues from all parties to strengthen Britain's relationship with Nigeria.

Ever since my parents came to Britain from Nigeria and brought me up with strong working class values, internationalism has been in my blood. I studied international development – what was then called Third World Studies – at the University of East London. I spent much of my career working in the NHS and on social justice issues like homelessness, but am not beholden to aid agencies. I hope you will support me as Chair.

## Relevant Interests

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None



# Yasmin Qureshi

## Bolton South East

### Supporters (own party)

Kim Johnson, Mick Whitley, Apsana Begum, Ian Mearns, Mr Khalid Mahmood, Peter Dowd, Afzal Khan, Alex Cunningham, Ms Karen Buck, Chris Evans, Grahame Morris, Lucy Powell, Mr David Lammy, Jon Cruddas, Mary Glindon

### Supporters (other parties) (optional)

James Gray, Sir John Hayes, Caroline Nokes, Ms Karen Bradley, Sir Charles Walker

## Statement

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As the UK renegotiates its place on the world stage, I believe that we must continue to lead internationally in setting the development agenda. However, the real good that the Department for International Development does needs to be explained and justified to those who fund it. That is why I would work to make DFID as accountable, comprehensible and accessible as possible.

The International Development Select Committee plays a key role in making sure that DFID is run strategically and efficiently. If elected as Chair, I would prioritise ensuring that all work the department undertakes is both economically and environmentally sustainable. I would also highlight and scrutinise the work DFID is doing to promote gender equality and democratisation around the world.

I believe that I would be a successful Chair for the reasons below:

I have extensive experience scrutinising government departments and legislation. Having entered this place in 2010, I have undertaken a wide variety of Parliamentary work and know from time spent on the Justice, Home Affairs and Foreign Affairs Select Committees the role they play in providing departments with direction. I also served for a year on the HS2 Hybrid Public Bill Committee, a process which involved frequent hearings with petitioners and close scrutiny of spending and planning that required up to six sessions a week. Since 2016, I have sat as a Shadow Justice Minister and led the Opposition's scrutiny of a variety of Government Bills and statutory instruments.

I understand the development sector well. Before entering Parliament, I worked as a Barrister and was seconded to the UN in Kosovo. I was tasked with setting up the Kosovan Ministry of Justice, computerising its legal system and putting together its budget. I developed first-hand experience of how development can fight gender-based violence. Working alongside international and local NGOs, we developed a legal framework to protect women and helped set up safehouses. This required cooperation with international bodies and the sensitivity to the local needs that is necessary for all effective aid work. It also reinforced my belief that money needs to be supplemented by clear strategy and the ability to work with charities and local businesses to foster stability.

I believe in cross-party cooperation. If elected, I would be scrupulous in ensuring that I worked cross-party to achieve fair scrutiny. My time working on the APPG on Hormone Pregnancy Tests has involved extensive work with Members in every party. I hope those Members, as well as all those of the other APPGs which I chair, will agree that I am fair-minded and hard-working.

I have seen first-hand the life-changing impact of UK aid on visits to refugee camps in Cox's Bazar, Jordan and Turkey. As Chair, I will work to ensure that DFID continues to lead internationally and engages directly with the vital issues of climate change and gender inequality.

It would be an honour and a privilege to serve as the Committee's Chair and I hope that you will vote for me this week.

## Relevant Interests

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None

# International Trade (Scottish National Party)



# Hannah Bardell

## Livingston

### Supporters (own party)

Peter Grant, Chris Law,  
Margaret Ferrier, Kirsten Oswald,  
Amy Callaghan

### Supporters (other parties) (optional)

Mr Robert Goodwill, Gillian Keegan,  
Kate Osamor, Eddie Hughes,  
Caroline Lucas

## Statement

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I recognise the huge importance that International Trade has for businesses, industry and also families across the UK, but for many people a Select Committee can seem remote from their every day working and family lives.

Parliament and its inner workings must be more accessible and representative, so as Chair I would like to take the Committee around the UK to hear from businesses, industry and communities in as many constituencies as possible.

I will welcome ideas and feedback from colleagues and hold regular internal surgeries to meet and discuss issues in members' constituencies, effectively crowdsourcing topics for investigation and discussion in Committee and, further, holding public engagement sessions in schools and organisations around the UK.

I also believe there are significant opportunities to raise the profile of the Committee and work more closely with colleagues in devolved nations. Good work is being done by talented individuals across the UK and it would be remiss if we ignored exciting opportunities and best practise from elsewhere.

I would develop a clear communications plan and strategic roadmap for raising the profile of the Committee and its work, including providing bespoke information tailored to different sectors and areas, and work with the education services of all the Parliaments in the UK to deliver an engagement strategy.

Building on the outstanding reports and existing work of the Committee I would ensure a focus on fair, transparent and environmentally responsible trade. Diversity in trade is essential so I will ensure the

Committee focuses on both goods and service sectors and investigate how the UK Government and its agencies are supporting SMEs and minority groups to trade internationally.

I am very interested in inter-generational trade and would like to see the Committee looking at different demographics such as young people or silver entrepreneurs and exploring what more we can do to support them.

In keeping with my approach to making the Committee more representative and transparent, I will produce a regular newsletter to share our work.

As founder and chair of the APPG on Deaths Abroad and Consular Services I've proven that, with no secretariat or staff other than my constituency team, I've been a proactive and determined chair making sure families from many constituencies have been represented and supported to give evidence.

Aside from my work in TV and politics I've worked outside of politics, first for the US Department of State advising on trade, business and political policy and then three years in the energy sector; in both roles I worked internationally and saw first hand the importance of international trade policy and relations.

I have previously led on Trade policy for the SNP, working with a broad range of international trade bodies and organisations on myriad issues. My team and I worked hard to build strong working relationships with key individuals, businesses and organisations and I would relish the opportunity to further develop those as Chair of the Committee.

## Relevant Interests

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None



# Angus Brendan MacNeil

## Na h-Eileanan an Iar

### Supporters (own party)

Kenny MacAskill, Stewart Hosie,  
Ronnie Cowan, Douglas Chapman,  
Richard Thomson

### Supporters (other parties) (optional)

Tim Farron, Andrew Bowie,  
Matt Western, Mr Ranil Jayawardena,  
Karl Turner

## Statement

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I am standing for the International Trade Committee Chairmanship as clearly international trade and the governance of international trade is becoming an increasingly important issue for the United Kingdom. It is something we must get right for all parts of the United Kingdom; England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

In the last parliament I had a committee composed of Conservatives, Labour and DUP and we worked harmoniously together as we discovered and waded through many of the nuances of trade and trade agreements and upshots from these changes in trade.

I often joked in the last parliament that this month I know more about trade and Brexit than I did the month before and next month I will know more. I think this applied to all in the committee. We were always very grateful to the academic experts, industry experts and to the witnesses who came before the committee to help us illuminate what was ahead of us.

Of course, the new committee will sound warnings to government when necessary, we will hold government to account, but we will also help government agenda shape and look for ways forward when appropriate. Being the only member of my own political party on the committee and as Chair required a collegiate set of skills than most other Chairs might have. And my former committee was divided over remain and leave but I

think its important to foster an atmosphere of getting work done, allowing witnesses to speak and using their evidence to bring forward proposals.

There are many contacts in the international trade arena who were very useful not just to our committee but to subsequent committees also. In this parliament things will be changing completely, it will be a ramp up from the theoretical to the practical stage. I have already had contact with the Department of International Trade about just how we will scrutinise trade bills going forward and I know that a number of senior colleagues and new colleagues in the House from all parties are interested in being on the committee.

I look forward to working with all those who are on the committee and to receiving input from those not on the committee because at the end of the day whatever political persuasion you come from we have got to get this right because this is not about political parties, this is about the aerospace industry, pharmaceuticals, car manufacturers, food and drink exports, the entertainment industry and the ceramics industry amongst many other industries. Many outside the House will be watching the committee in this Parliament and so it is important we continue with the good reputation we had in the last parliament. I am ready to continue to help foster that and to achieve that end.

## Relevant Interests

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None



# Justice (Conservative)



# Steve Brine

## Winchester

### Supporters (own party)

David Morris, Mark Menzies, Robert Halfon, Harriett Baldwin, Suella Braverman, Mr William Wragg, Paul Holmes, Philip Dunne, Sir Mike Penning, Danny Kruger, Mrs Pauline Latham, Edward Timpson, Andrew Jones, Robert Courts, Jeremy Hunt

### Supporters (other parties) (optional)

Mr Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi, Mrs Sharon Hodgson, Debbie Abrahams, Sammy Wilson, Judith Cummins

## Statement

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Following the House agreeing the determination of chairs, I have decided to put my name forward to lead the Justice Select Committee.

I served on the JSC for my first term in this House (2010-2015) so am clear what role the Committee plays and the important job of scrutiny it performs.

However, following last month's General Election and a rejuvenated House of Commons, I believe it is time for an energetic gear change on the Committee corridor

### Manifesto

The new Government has some important manifesto commitments to keep our streets safe, turn people away from crime and end the cycle of reoffending. It has promised to create a prisoner education service and introduce tougher sentencing for the worst offenders as well as end automatic halfway release from prison for serious crimes.

And we have the commitment to add 10,000 more prison places, conduct a root-and-branch review of the parole system and, perhaps most significant of all, to establish a 'Royal Commission on the criminal justice process.'

It is in the interests of all our constituents that these promises become reality and the JSC under my chairmanship will hold Ministers to them. But more than that, it will call on the best expertise across the House to ensure this is done based on evidence and what works.

### Scrutiny

The JSC has an important role in examining the day to day work of the Lord Chancellor (and the Solicitor General), the Ministry of Justice, DPP and the Law Commission as it reviews current - and proposed - statute.

It also plays an important role in pre (and post) legislative scrutiny and needs to be strongly led to ensure good law gets made and remains effective.

This committee must remain credible and relevant; critical of Government when necessary, supportive and enabling where possible. Under my chairmanship the JSC will hold Ministers to account without fear or favour to serve good and effective Government.

Select Committees cannot be dry think-tanks, serving the interests of their chairman or members, they are integral to the work of a healthy Parliament and should have a grown-up professional relationship with the Executive.

### Experience

I have been a Minister (Public Health Minister from 2017-2019) and faced many Select Committee grilling's during that time. I hope I also showed an ability to work across the House as someone who is fair and (when necessary) robustly independent minded.

I have worked extensively – on this Committee – and I was, before entering the House, a successful journalist where putting the questions and getting to the truth was the day-job.

The JSC may not have traditionally been a high-profile Select Committee but I predict that will change in this Parliament; especially as the Government's Constitution, Democracy & Rights Commission takes shape. Under my chairmanship the JSC will have a confident and robust media performer to give wider voice to its work and scrutiny.

I hope to have your support and would, of course, be happy to speak to any Member with questions.

## Relevant Interests

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None.





# Sir Robert Neill

## Bromley and Chislehurst

### Supporters (own party)

Damian Green, Karen Bradley, Victoria Prentis, Alex Chalk, Stephen Hammond, Sir Edward Leigh, Royston Smith, Jeremy Wright, Mr David Davis, Paul Scully, David Simmonds, Penny Mordaunt, Anthony Browne, Sir Oliver Heald, Tom Tugendhat

### Supporters (other parties) (optional)

Sarah Champion, Rachel Reeves, Joanna Cherry, Sir Jeffrey M Donaldson, Mr Alistair Carmichael

## Statement

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It has been a great privilege to Chair the Justice Select Committee since the 2015 General Election, during which time we have been incredibly active, publishing 22 reports in the last Parliament alone. With your support, I hope to continue that work.

Our inquiries have focussed on topics as diverse as prison safety, courts reform, bailiffs and the enforcement of debt, legal aid and the disclosure of evidence in criminal cases. All of these have been well received in the House and beyond, and have made a real impact upon policy. Indeed, we have achieved a series of considerable wins, not least the changes that have been announced to the probation system following our recommendations in 2018.

The policies the Committee scrutinises are important and complex. Having had a fulltime career for over 25 years as a barrister before becoming an MP, specialising in criminal work at every level, both prosecuting and defending, it is an area I know intricately and care about deeply. I believe this, my considerable experience on the Committee - both as its Chair and before, having served on it over a number of years previously - and my experience in Government allows me to achieve the maximum impact for the Committee's work, engaging positively with stakeholders outside of Parliament too, with many of whom I have developed a good working relationship.

Chairing the Committee demands commitment and a genuinely consensual, team approach. If re-elected, I will work to deliver robust and independent scrutiny, based firmly upon evidence, fully involving

all Committee members. I hope during my time in Parliament I have gained a reputation for being open, constructive, fair-minded and collegiate, something I believe is reflected in the nominations I have received from across the House, as well as from members of the last Parliament's Committee.

The justice sector faces a number of challenges and opportunities over the coming years, including pressures on our prison system, proposed judicial reform, problems with access to justice, and the impact of Brexit, particularly in terms of our future relationship with the EU on the operation of the legal system and the legal services sector. The Committee will benefit from an experienced Chair who can firmly but fairly manage this significant workload and hit the ground running.

As Chair, I would be determined to steer the Committee in a direction that continues to hold decision makers to account, scrutinises and influences government policy and encourages informed public debate. That requires a genuinely cross-party, non-grandstanding approach, as well as proper engagement with those at the coal face.

I am also keen to explore new ways of running our inquiries and gathering evidence to broaden the range of people and organisations we hear from. That includes looking to hold committee meetings and visits outside London and receiving video evidence for those witnesses who have difficulty travelling to see us. I would welcome feedback from all colleagues as to how we can continue to improve our work and my door will always be open. That is my commitment if re-elected.

## Relevant Interests

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Non-practising barrister; consultant to a law firm.

# Northern Ireland Affairs (Conservative)



# Simon Hoare

## North Dorset

### Supporters (own party)

Alex Chalk, Chris Heaton-Harris, Craig Williams, Huw Merriman, Andrew Bowie, Imran Ahmad Khan, Tracey Crouch, Tom Tugendhat, Oliver Dowden, Alex Burghart, Sir Desmond Swayne, Damian Hinds, Joy Morrissey, Alec Shelbrooke, Sir Roger Gale

### Supporters (other parties) (optional)

Conor McGinn, Tonia Antoniazzi, Chris Stephens, Carolyn Harris, Stewart Malcolm McDonald

## Statement

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Since being elected last June, I led two successful visits to Northern Ireland and an extremely useful one to Dublin. We made progress. As a committee, we kept cross-Party pressure on Government to deliver for the victims of historic institutional abuse, and it was a huge relief when this was restored at the end of the last Parliament. Committee Reports covering welfare, health, education and Libyan liability were well received and secured considerable media coverage. At the time of my election I pledged to make the Committee more open, and as a respected platform from which the wide range of Northern Irish views could be heard and debated. We made progress and, if re-elected, will continue that way of working.

In the last few weeks, some momentous events have taken place. Major changes to Northern Ireland social policy, authorised in Westminster for months are now in place. The General Election has brought to the Commons a wider range of elected views from Northern Ireland. This is great news and can only help deepen the understanding of Northern Irish affairs within Parliament. Of even greater importance has been the restoration of Stormont. It's long over-due and we must recommit to ensuring that the governance vacuum, which the people of Northern Ireland endured for three years, can never repeat itself. The restoration of Stormont allows the Committee to refocus from

having to fill the scrutiny gap on devolved policy areas. That said, we must recognise that Westminster cannot merely say to itself 'devolution restored, Northern Ireland can get on with it'. If there are any lessons to be learned from the last three years, it is that devolution, in the Northern Ireland context, need to be nurtured and fostered by Westminster to allow deeper roots to take hold. The Committee will have an important and subtle role to play here. I will want the Committee to build a strong relationship with the Executive and MLAs.

Clearly, the Committee will be focused on shaping the right Brexit solution for Northern Ireland. The fundamental challenges are not to undermine the twin pillars of The Belfast Good Friday Agreement and the integrity of the United Kingdom. With sensitivity and understanding, the Committee will play its part in the pressing need to identify a solution to the issue of the prosecution of Veterans. However it is done, it must command respect and trust from all quarters. I envisage collaborative work with the Justice and Defence Select Committees.

I very much hope that my candidacy will secure the strong, cross-Party support that it did when I was elected last year. My commitment to, and enthusiasm for, Northern Ireland remains. My pledge to work with all interested parties to secure the very best for the people of Northern Ireland is unequivocal.

## Relevant Interests

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None



# Jack Lopresti

## Filton and Bradley Stoke

### Supporters (own party)

Bob Stewart, Giles Watling, Dr Julian Knight, Paul Scully, Sir Mike Penning, John Howell, James Gray, Mr Jonathan Djanogly, Mark Logan, Mr Mark Francois, Dr Julian Lewis, Mr David Jones, Royston Smith, Chris Grayling, Mr Ian Liddell-Grainger

### Supporters (other parties) (optional)

Jamie Stone, Ian Murray, Gerald Jones, Catherine McKinnell

## Statement

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The Northern Ireland Select Committee needs a Chair who will hold the Government to account, provide real scrutiny of decisions made in Westminster and Stormont, and not to give the Government an easy ride.

Our country is emerging from a period of political torpor which has seriously eroded trust in democratic politics. The three-year hiatus without a functioning Government at Stormont, has at the very least delayed and diminished the long process of overcoming sectarian tensions which we all hoped had been put behind us. The people who send us to represent them will expect us to ensure that democracy is re-energised for the good of all our fellow citizens, however they voted.

I've had the privilege of serving on this committee for several years in the previous three Parliaments, since my election to Parliament in 2010. During this time, I initiated an enquiry into the operation of the military covenant in Northern Ireland. I have also served as a member of the Defence Select Committee and the Welsh Affairs Select Committee.

I have seen government up close as a PPS in DFID, MOD and DEXEU which were useful experiences in chairing a committees that hold Government to account. I have also maintained an active interest in the affairs of Northern Ireland, presenting a petition to No 10 Downing Street expressing concern at the treatment of our Northern Ireland Veterans. I have also raised this matter, on several occasions, at PMQs.

My priorities as Chair will be:

- To ensure the Government, particularly one currently with a large majority, is held properly to account.

- To initiate a wide-ranging enquiry into the Government's appalling treatment of veterans of the Northern Ireland campaign.
- To look at how best to re-balance the economy of Northern Ireland, to secure the maximum benefit from leaving the EU for all sectors of the economy and society, to attract inward investment and opportunities for creative industries, particularly high technology and the aerospace sector. A proper civil society is vital; Northern Ireland's unions long played a positive role in countering sectarianism and should be respected in the social dialogue they seek.
- To investigate the implementation of the military covenant in Northern Ireland.

But the Select Committee is not only a means of holding the Government to account, it also represents the opportunity for parliamentary colleagues to work together to serve the interests of our society. We should remember how far Northern Ireland has come since the Good Friday Agreement of 1998, but also be mindful of the challenges that still remain.

As Northern Ireland emerges from this three-year paralysis, the Select Committee has a role to play working with the Northern Ireland community in championing the causes that have the potential to be game changers – issues like integrated education and cross community housing.

I believe that, under my Chairmanship, the Northern Ireland Committee can become a vital link between communities, their representatives and the Government, and that we can work for lasting peace, justice, and a thriving economy.

## Relevant Interests

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None

# Petitions (Labour)



# Dame Diana Johnson

## Kingston upon Hull North

### Supporters (own party)

Kate Green, Emma Lewell-Buck, Andrew Gwynne, Derek Twigg, Ms Karen Buck, Christina Rees, Jonathan Reynolds, Karin Smyth, Cat Smith, Kevin Brennan, Mike Amesbury, Ms Lyn Brown, Clive Efford, Charlotte Nichols, Barbara Keeley

### Supporters (other parties) (optional)

Andrew Percy, Tracey Crouch, Philip Dunne, Craig Whittaker, Mr Robert Goodwill

## Statement

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This committee is important for all MPs as it is responsible for listening to the concerns our constituents are raising and responding with an opportunity for parliamentary evidence gathering, scrutiny and debate.

Extending the outreach work of the committee would be a priority for me, building on positive perceptions of Parliament among the general public.

My approach to Chairing this committee would be as collegiate as possible, ensuring the strengths and interests of all members are used effectively. My track record in Parliament shows that I can work with MPs from across the House and get results.

I was first elected in 2005 for Kingston Upon Hull North. I have held a variety of posts in both Government and Opposition. These include Whip, Education Minister, Shadow Home Affairs Minister, Shadow Foreign and Commonwealth Minister and in the last Parliament I was a member of the Health and Social Care Select Committee. I have extensive experience of chairing All Party Groups including Haemophilia and Contaminated Blood, Music Education and Sexual and Reproductive Health. I was Backbencher of the Year 2018 and have worked cross party on the specific issues of contaminated blood scandal and women's healthcare for many years.

## Relevant Interests

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None



# Catherine McKinnell

## Newcastle upon Tyne North

### Supporters (own party)

Mary Kelly Foy, Pat McFadden, Alex Sobel, Alex Davies-Jones, Holly Lynch, Rosie Duffield, Meg Hillier, Alex Cunningham, Naz Shah, Sarah Jones, Preet Kaur Gill, Julie Elliott, Lilian Greenwood, Yvonne Fovargue, Gill Furniss

### Supporters (other parties) (optional)

Jack Lopresti, Paul Scully, Dr Lisa Cameron, Jim Shannon, Dr Philippa Whitford

## Statement

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It has been an honour to serve as a member of the Petitions Committee for the last four years and to have taken the lead on several important debates, and I am delighted now to have the opportunity to put myself forward for the position of Chair.

As someone first elected to Parliament in 2010, I feel my range of experience and positive working relationships formed right across the House will enable me to successfully lead this important Committee into the future.

I'm pleased to have the backing of the Committee's former Chair Helen Jones. Helen led the Committee from its establishment in 2015 until her retirement before the general election and I'm very grateful for her support to take the Committee forward.

Following my recent experience as interim Chair of the Treasury Select Committee, which I have also served on for the last four years, I am keen to take the lead on

working with colleagues on a cross-party basis to ensure the Petitions Committee remains an effective and respected body considering the ever-growing number of public petitions.

As Chair I would work hard to ensure all Committee members can lead on areas that are important or relevant to them, so that the Committee is as efficient, effective and productive as possible.

I am also keen on taking the Committee forward into the future by ensuring we continue to develop innovative and contemporary ways of reaching out, including live question sessions, such as the outreach session on online hate crime that I led on in Newcastle on behalf of the Committee. We can also learn from the best practice of similar committees in other democracies, including the UK's devolved nations and in Europe.

I very much hope that you feel able to support me.

## Relevant Interests

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None

# Procedure (Conservative)





# Bob Blackman

## Harrow East

### Supporters (own party)

Sir Charles Walker, Alicia Kearns, Mr Gareth Bacon, Greg Hands, Paul Scully, Nickie Aiken, James Gray, Sir Bernard Jenkin, Tracey Crouch, Stephen McPartland, Tom Tugendhat, Andrew Bowie, Sir Roger Gale, Mrs Sheryll Murray, Mr William Wragg

### Supporters (other parties) (optional)

Mr Virendra Sharma, Patricia Gibson, Hilary Benn, Ian Mearns, Sir Jeffrey M Donaldson

## Statement

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The Procedure Committee rose to prominence in the last Parliament due to the reform allowing those on maternity and paternity leave to record their votes via proxies and the process of Brexit legislation. The challenge then was how the House should operate with a minority government. The opportunity now is how to ensure that backbenchers can properly hold the Executive to account with a majority government.

There are 6 reasons why I request your support.

Experience – I served on the Procedure Committee for the last 4½ years and deputised for the Chair when he was unavailable. I have been in the forefront of reforms put forward by the Procedure Committee. I delivered the Homelessness Reduction Act as a Private Member's Bill and 4 private bills on behalf of Transport for London. I served 24 years as a Councillor in Brent and 4 years on the Greater London Authority.

1. Reform of House – Arrangements for proxy voting need to be checked to ensure are working as intended and consider their extension to those on long term sick leave or hospitalised. Sitting days and hours need to be reviewed and I would ask the committee to consult to ascertain a preferred position. The timing and method of recording votes needs checking. I would wish to examine if we can make the timing of votes more predictable, to help those MPs with caring responsibilities.
2. Scrutinising the Executive – We have moved from scrutinising a minority government to a majority one which brings new challenges. We have a report on the creation of a Budget Committee to oversee

government spending and, whilst the Treasury may have objections, we are the sole democracy without such oversight. The government will use delegated legislation more frequently and we need a proper sifting process to scrutinise this legislation. We introduced this measure to oversee the translation of EU law into UK law as Brexit approached.

3. Private Member's Bills – I believe that PMBs should be less of a lottery. Pre-legislative scrutiny on proposed PMBs would allow cross-party proposals with strong support to proceed. We previously suggested reform, but the government decided not to proceed.
4. Style - I will seek to work in cooperation with the Speaker, Government and all parties to achieve evolutionary change. I have demonstrated that I can work collaboratively with colleagues across the House to achieve change and all opinions are aired.
5. Support – I have support from across the House including Conservative, Labour, SNP and DUP members and across various intakes. I also have the endorsement of the previous Chair, Sir Charles Walker.

All this makes for a substantial amount of work! If elected, I will ask the Committee to review processes in other parliaments across the world and in our devolved parliaments and assemblies to see if there are reforms that could work. My approach is evolutionary rather than revolutionary and the Procedure Committee will need to garner cross-party support, so any changes are long lasting rather than temporary.

## Relevant Interests

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None



# Karen Bradley

## Staffordshire Moorlands

### Supporters (own party)

Mark Garnier, James Cartlidge, Victoria Prentis, Vicky Ford, Sir Robert Neill, Damian Green, Anthony Browne, Theo Clarke, Simon Hoare, Damian Hinds, Jeremy Wright, Jack Brereton, Suella Braverman, Mark Menzies, Kate Griffiths

### Supporters (other parties) (optional)

Sarah Champion, Carolyn Harris, Ms Lyn Brown, Gavin Newlands, Liz Saville Roberts

## Relevant Interests

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None

# Public Accounts (Labour)



# Meg Hillier

## Hackney South and Shoreditch

### Supporters (own party)

Kate Green, Sarah Champion, Mary Glindon, Jo Stevens, Peter Dowd, Chris Evans, Nia Griffith, Abena Oppong-Asare, Bridget Phillipson, Catherine McKinnell, Mr Kevan Jones, Yvonne Fovargue, Ms Lyn Brown, Lilian Greenwood, Feryal Clark

### Supporters (other parties) (optional)

Stewart Hosie, Dr Philippa Whitford, Ben Lake, Anne Marie Morris, Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown

## Statement

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The Public Accounts Committee examines the economy, efficiency and effectiveness of Government's management of spending.

I have shown over the last four and a half years as Chair that I can cover the ground (two inquiries a week on different subjects when the House is sitting) and involve MPs from across the House – confidentially and publicly. I have worked to support all committee members so they can contribute as effectively as possible.

In the past two and a half years the Committee published 119 reports covering a wide range of subjects.

I have lived up to the promise I made to involve MPs across Parliament, providing a weekly update on the Committee's work and encouraging colleagues to provide information to feed into the Committee's inquiries.

The work of the Public Accounts Committee is never done. Our important constitutional position and our track record is part of our strength. If elected I would expect to work with the new committee to quickly pick up where we left off at the General Election and continue our close scrutiny of Government spending, including:

- Defence spending and project management
- The many projects under the Ministry of Justice
- Spending and project management of HS2
- The cost and implementation of Brexit - whatever our views on the result of the referendum we need to make sure that taxpayers' money is wisely spent. This will build on our extensive work on preparedness for Brexit

- Education spending has been a recent focus of the committee's work. With the proposals on the funding formula we will need to examine how this will be implemented and how it will interact with existing calls for efficiency savings and any impact on capital budgets, particularly with many school buildings reaching the end of their useful life
- Special educational needs
- Continuing our scrutiny of health and social care budgets
- Continuing our focus on how well Government is managing cross-cutting issues and maintaining our focus on when a saving is simply shunting the cost elsewhere
- More pre-scrutiny of major programmes to highlight potential waste ahead of a project being introduced.

Every pound of public money saved is important as the political class continues to need to prove our trustworthiness to the electorate. An effective, active and hard-working Public Accounts Committee is a vital part of our political process. Our job is to look beyond the headlines to cost and implementation.

Over the last four years I have improved follow through so that any civil servant appearing before us knows that he or she will be recalled as we monitor progress on projects for which they are responsible.

I hope you will support my candidacy so that I can take up the role of Chair of the Public Accounts Committee again and continue to hold departments and agencies' feet to the fire to ensure our constituents, and taxpayers, get the value for money from Government they deserve.

## Relevant Interests

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None

# Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs (Conservative)



# Mr David Jones

## Clwyd West

### Supporters (own party)

Richard Drax, Philip Davies, Mr John Baron, Dr Julian Lewis, Mr Mark Francois, Craig Mackinlay, Mrs Andrea Jenkyns, Mr Steve Baker, Robin Millar, Mark Logan, Daniel Kawczynski, Mr Richard Bacon, Andrew Lewer, Mr Philip Hollobone, Fay Jones

### Supporters (other parties) (optional)

John Nicolson, Jonathan Edwards, Ian Paisley

## Statement

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The Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee (PACAC) has one of the widest-ranging remits of any of the Commons select committees. Its core functions are to keep under review the operation of the British constitution and the effectiveness of the Civil Service. In addition, it scrutinises the reports of the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman.

I was privileged to serve on the Committee throughout the whole of the last Parliament and much of the previous one, after years in government at the Wales Office and DExEU. Under the chairmanship of Bernard Jenkin it carried out hugely important work, producing reports on issues as varied as the relationship between ministers and civil servants, the authorisation of military force, the size of the House of Lords, the role of the Speaker and the work of the Electoral Commission.

The decisive outcome of the 2019 general election, and the large Conservative majority it produced, bring new challenges for the Committee, and probably an even more demanding workload. There can be little doubt that extensive constitutional change will inevitably follow once we have finally got Brexit done.

Indeed, the Queen's Speech could not have been clearer: central to it was a commitment to establish a Constitution, Democracy and Rights Commission, the purpose of which will be, according to the Prime Minister, "to restore trust in our institutions and our democracy." That is a noble ambition, but our experience of constitutional reform over the last two or three decades should teach us to tread carefully and be alert to the dangers of unforeseen consequences.

In that regard, PACAC will have an important role and tricky questions to consider. Is there to be further legislative and administrative devolution? Should the House of Lords be reformed and, if so, how? What should be the relationship between Parliament, the Government and the judiciary?

The Government has also made it clear that the Fixed-term Parliaments Act 2011 will be repealed, in accordance with its manifesto pledge. But is that constitutionally possible without replacing it with another Act of Parliament? Can an element of the Royal Prerogative, once superseded by statute, be revived?

These are but a few examples of the challenges we are soon to encounter. PACAC must be alert to them, and prepared to produce its own recommendations.

And then we have seemingly inevitable Civil Service reforms, with more political appointments and a likely radical overhaul of departmental architecture. PACAC will undoubtedly wish to take evidence on the proposals, scrutinise and advise.

The next three or four years are likely to witness the sort of extensive constitutional and administrative changes that can be pursued only by a government with a big majority and a matching appetite for reform. In such a context, scrutiny by a robust, alert and challenging PACAC will be of high importance.

I believe that I have the right experience, both within and outside government, to chair the Committee at such a crucial time. I do hope you will consider giving me your support.

## Relevant Interests

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None



# Mr William Wragg

## Hazel Grove

### Supporters (own party)

James Gray, Andrew Bowie,  
Bob Blackman, Dr James Davies,  
Chris Loder, Fiona Bruce,  
Penny Mordaunt, Robert Halfon,  
Jason McCartney, Scott Benton,  
Suella Braverman, Mary Robinson,  
Nickie Aiken, Mr Ian Liddell-Grainger,  
Simon Hoare

### Supporters (other parties) (optional)

Lillian Greenwood, Emma Hardy,  
Christian Matheson, Ian Mearns,  
Patricia Gibson

## Relevant Interests

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None

# Science and Technology (Conservative)





# Greg Clark

## Tunbridge Wells

### Supporters (own party)

Tracey Crouch, Jacob Young, Dehenna Davison, Mr David Davis, Danny Kruger, Rachel Maclean, Theo Clarke, Conor Burns, Andrew Bowie, Fay Jones, Siobhan Baillie, Martin Vickers, Nickie Aiken, Fiona Bruce, Anthony Browne

### Supporters (other parties) (optional)

Rachel Reeves, Jack Dromey, Carolyn Harris, Drew Hendry, Mr Alistair Carmichael

## Statement

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There is a huge opportunity for the Committee to raise the profile of science, technology and engineering at one of the most exciting times since the first Industrial Revolution.

Compared to the scale of the changes that are taking place, the work of the Science and Technology Committee could be better known. The Committee has a big role to play in championing and bringing to national attention the amazing people, companies, universities and colleges and research bodies that we have in every one of our constituencies.

The Committee also has a vital job in challenging the government, public bodies and companies to make sure we are making the most of the opportunities before us: investing in R&D, ensuring that we have access to the best talent, and making sure that we have more and better technical education, training and apprenticeships. We will not reap the benefits of our leadership in new technologies if we don't have a workforce trained and able to take advantage of the opportunities.

This is an area in which I have always been passionately engaged. As a Secretary of State, and as Science Minister, I helped transform the funding given to research and development - negotiating the biggest increase in the science budget in UK history, and getting the government to commit to boost R&D investment from 1.7% of GDP to 2.4% and then on to 3%. I also proposed and brought in the policy of net zero emissions by 2050.

I have been one of the foremost champions in Parliament of our regions. I have worked with Members in every part of the UK to negotiate Growth Deals, Town Deals and City Deals – beginning to reverse a century of

centralisation in Westminster and Whitehall.

I would chair the Committee in a consensual, but enthusiastic and energetic way, in particular proposing to:

1. champion and **raise the profile of one of our biggest global strengths** - UK science, engineering, and technology in businesses, colleges, universities and research institutes
2. give the Committee a big role in highlighting what is going on in members' constituencies – **meeting not just in Westminster but in all parts of the country**
3. emphasise the **opportunities for technology not only in manufacturing but also in food and farming, clean energy, life sciences and services like tourism and retail**
4. **drive the case for technical and vocational education and apprenticeships** to make sure we have the skills in the workforce to benefit from these opportunities, including driving participation among women and girls
5. **establish the UK as a global leader in the policy response to the impact of changing technology** on the ways we work, consume, get about, look after our health, and take leisure

I am known for working closely and well with colleagues across the House. Following this approach, I would like to make the Science and Technology Committee in this Parliament an effective force in bringing the benefits of science, technology and engineering to all of our constituents.

## Relevant Interests

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None



# Stephen Metcalfe

## South Basildon and East Thurrock

### Supporters (own party)

Tim Loughton, Caroline Nokes,  
Mr William Wragg, Gagan Mohindra,  
Henry Smith, Jack Lopresti, Vicky Ford,  
Eddie Hughes, Mike Wood, Paul Bristow,  
Karen Bradley, Angela Richardson,  
Paul Holmes, Mark Garnier, Lucy Allan

### Supporters (other parties) (optional)

Hilary Benn, Marsha de Cordova,  
Geraint Davies, Graham Stringer,  
Carol Monaghan

## Statement

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The UK has a proud scientific heritage. We lead the world in sectors like aerospace, automotive, AI and Big Data. Yet while the industry continues to deliver huge economic benefits to our country, pressing challenges remain that weigh us down from rocketing onto the global stage as the leading innovative force for the 21st century.

All parties identified and committed to tackle the pressing scientific challenges of digital connectivity, Artificial Intelligence, R&D, big data and climate change at the recent General Election. With a majority Government pledged to embrace these cross-party challenges, it is essential that the Chair of the S&T Committee returns to experienced hands to hold the Government to account and promote the opportunities science can bring in every corner of our country. For example, Government must adapt legislation at the same lightning speed that technology is developed to ensure we do not miss out through out-of-date regulatory frameworks.

My passion for science led me to join the S&T Committee when I was a new MP in 2010. That same passion saw me gain the Chair in 2016, which I used to innovate the role of the Committee and how it communicated to the public as well as introduce vital contemporary topics into parliamentary antennae,

such as the power of AI. The 2017 Election saw the Committee move to Lib Dem hands and while I was unable to continue the work I had started as Chair, I have remained a steadfast Member and stand-in Chair ever since.

We have an opportunity to build on our record as a Science Super Power, but unless we inspire our children to join the mission, we will potentially forever pass up chances to turn potential scientists of the future into reality. To that end, a great focus of my Chair would be to ensure our skills base matches our ambitions; this is something I work towards in my constituency and want to see replicated in every constituency across the country.

I see the role of Chair as full-time job and pledge to serve for the whole Parliament and do not see it as a stepping stone into Government. I want to create a collegiate environment in which committee members and the wider Parliament are involved in setting the enquiry agenda. And, I want to continue to innovate in the way committees operate and who they receive evidence from.

I have the support of the last three Chairs of the Committee and members past and present. I would be most grateful if you would support me also.

## Relevant Interests

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Chair, Parliamentary and Scientific Committee, 2015-Present; Co-Chair APPG for AI, 2016-Present; Trustee, Newton Apple, 2015-Present; Board Member, Big Bang CIC, 2019-Present; acted as Government envoy during the Year of Engineering in 2018.

# **Scottish Affairs**

## **(Scottish National Party)**



# Pete Wishart

Perth and North Perthshire

## Supporters (own party)

Ian Blackford, Kirsty Blackman,  
Patrick Grady, David Linden,  
Hannah Bardell

## Supporters (other parties) (optional)

## Relevant Interests

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None

# Standards (Labour)



# Kate Green

## Stretford and Urmston

### Supporters (own party)

Rachel Reeves, Seema Malhotra, Vicky Foxcroft, Rosie Duffield, Jo Stevens, Janet Daby, Dame Diana Johnson, Bridget Phillipson, Ms Angela Eagle, Feryal Clark, Ms Karen Buck, Christian Matheson, Mr Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi, Bambos Charalambous, Mike Amesbury

### Supporters (other parties) (optional)

Sir Bernard Jenkin, Mrs Helen Grant, Sir Christopher Chope, Tracey Crouch, Deidre Brock

## Statement

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The reputation of our parliament depends on a strong Standards system and a Code of Conduct for MPs in which the public have confidence. As a member, and then Chair of the Standards Committee in the 2017-2019 parliament, I worked with colleagues cross-party to help reform our systems and processes, following a series of shocking and damaging reports about bullying and sexual harassment in Westminster in 2018. As a result of changes which parliament agreed a year ago, I am proud that we now have a system that is more independent and more robust.

But there is more to do to ensure that everyone feels confident that our parliament always insists that MPs act with integrity, and that we will never tolerate harassment, bullying and abuse. It's vitally important that this confidence is felt by the public, by all parliamentarians, by those who visit our parliament, and, crucially, by staff and contractors who work in parliament to support us in doing our job.

The Standards Committee will have a crucial role to play in helping to achieve that. As Chair, I would continue with the Committee's work to make our processes more transparent, to protect and support those who make complaints, to ensure an impartial, fair and timely process, and to protect the reputation of this House.

In doing so, I undertake to be accessible to colleagues from all parties, to ensure the Committee continues to work on a non-partisan basis, and to guarantee a fair hearing for anyone who is party to an investigation or complaint. I want all MPs to have full trust in the Committee and in its Chair. I am therefore honoured that my fellow Committee members in the previous parliament, and colleagues from across the House, are supporting me to continue in the role.

I hope you will consider supporting me in the election.

## Relevant Interests

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None

# Transport (Conservative)



# Robert Goodwill

## Scarborough and Whitby

### Supporters (own party)

Mr Mark Harper, Peter Gibson, Julian Sturdy, Sir Mike Penning, Greg Hands, Craig Williams, Julie Marson, Caroline Nokes, Andrew Bridgen, Suella Braverman, Sir Oliver Heald, Daniel Kawczynski, Jacob Young, Bob Blackman, Dr Caroline Johnson

### Supporters (other parties) (optional)

Hannah Bardell, Mr Kevan Jones, Mr Alistair Carmichael, Gavin Robinson, Carla Lockhart

## Statement

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I was elected to the House for Scarborough and Whitby in 2005, having previously been Deputy Leader of the Conservative Delegation in the European Parliament. I had spent 5 years on the Environment Committee of the European Parliament specialising in vehicle emissions and fuel quality. So, for example, I have an in-depth knowledge of the circumstances surrounding the Volkswagen emissions scandal, not only being involved in formulating the rules but later as a Minister when the proverbial hit the fan!

Immediately after my election to Westminster, I enjoyed 18 months on the Transport Select Committee. I joined the Shadow Transport team in 2007. Policies that I introduced to the manifesto during the years running up to the 2010 General Election included effective drug driving measures and the HGV levy for foreign trucks. These are now on the statute book.

The coalition delayed my arrival at the Department for Transport, but I served from 2013 to 2016 as a Minister there. I had responsibility at one time or another for virtually every aspect of the department's work. My experience as Aviation Minister for three years stood me in good stead when I moved to Immigration with Border Force in my portfolio.

The work of the Transport Select Committee will be vital as we tackle the two challenges of delivering effective transport solutions and, at the same time, meeting our Climate Change and air quality targets. This will be particularly important in the field of

aviation. Our rail network is carrying more than twice as many people than when privatised but too many passengers suffer the misery of delays, cancellations and overcrowding. With Northern and Trans Pennine serving my own Constituency, my inbox leaves me in no doubt about the improvements people expect.

Consideration of HS2 will be one of the Committee's most urgent priorities with cost overruns and value for money of the project in the news. As a Yorkshire MP, I also understand the frustrations of those in the North who feel they aren't getting their fair share of infrastructure investment.

Having served on three Select Committees and given evidence numerous times, I understand how important it is for the Committee to work as a team. I will not fall into the trap of hogging the sessions from the chair. I also promise I will not allow Ministers to get an easy ride if they fail to answer the questions – indeed I rather relish the poacher turned gamekeeper role!

I am one of the few MPs who have an HGV licence and used to drive chemical tankers as well as carrying our farm produce. I love classic cars and have a 1900 London Brighton veteran as well as two traction engines and a steam waggon.

I hope that colleagues agree that I not only have a wide experience of transport issues but have a passion for the engineering that kept us on the move in the past and will deliver the sustainability we need in the future.

## Relevant Interests

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None





# Karl McCartney

## Lincoln

### Supporters (own party)

Dr James Davies, Mr William Wragg, Derek Thomas, Sir Desmond Swayne, Richard Drax, Stephen Metcalfe, Scott Mann, Cheryl Mackrory, Craig Mackinlay, Ben Bradley, Jason McCartney, Robbie Moore, Lia Nici-Townend, Richard Fuller, Adam Afriyie

### Supporters (other parties) (optional)

Sarah Champion, Jonathan Edwards, Rosie Cooper, Ben Lake, Sammy Wilson

## Statement

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### Short Version

Marginal seat Member of Parliament for Lincoln (2010-17 and 2019 intake)

Transport Select Committee Member from 2012-2017

Brexit Select Committee 2016-2017

Executive Member of the 1922 Committee 2012-17, 2019-

Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission 2019-

Political and Professional Background:

- Effective Constituency Transport Champion
- Former Mgt Consultant in the Transport Sector
- From 1995-2000 at Corporation of London: tasked with 'keeping Crossrail alive'
- 2003-5: 2 years with Strategic Rail Authority: drew up protocols for franchising process after crisis managing the Kent Franchise process following Connex's removal
- 2005-7: 2 years with TfL (Properties) working towards Circle Line 'T-cup' service, increasing capacity to seven-car trains and all things 'underground' ahead of the Olympics
- Love classic cars - long-standing Member of Historic Vehicles APPG and various classic car clubs
- Served for 5.5 yrs on the Transport Select Committee from 2012-2017 so well versed in;
  - HS2
  - Heathrow
  - International hub airport issues
  - Franchise and commuter rail services
  - Aware of rail freight developments
  - Motorway 'All lane running' critic for some time
  - On the side of commuters (daily use of ECML from 2004-2010 )

### Long Version

Karl was born in Birkenhead in 1968, lived on the Wirral with his two brothers, Mother, a nurse, and Father, a pipe fitter and welder. He was also influenced by his wider family including both sets of Grandparents.

Karl worked for Transport for London and the Strategic Rail Authority. He later took an MBA at Kingston University Business School and then worked as a Management Consultant for a number of clients and agencies. In 1999 he received the Freedom of the City of London. He has been a Parish Councillor, a school governor and a Magistrate since 1999.

By "Putting Lincoln First", he has always been a strong advocate for the City and notable successes have been in seeking resolutions to the City's many transport issues. Since 2010, he has been able to secure funding for the East-West Link Road in the centre of Lincoln, the Eastern Bypass, dualling sections of the Western Bypass and a wide range of bottleneck and pinchpoint improvements. Karl has also helped secure more Direct Trains to London, improved cross-country train services and Level Crossing Footbridges in the City Centre.

In 2012 Karl was also elected onto the Transport Select Committee, which is charged by the House of Commons to examine and scrutinise the expenditure, administration and policy of the Department for Transport and its associated public bodies. Karl remained a Member of the Transport Select Committee until June 2017, having been re-elected to it after the 2015 General Election.

Karl was again elected by his colleagues as a member of the Exiting the European Select Committee (known colloquially as the 'Brexit Committee') in 2016. Also, during the 2015 - May 2017 Parliament Karl was a leading advocate in the House of Commons in tackling the educational underperformance of boys and the gender education gap, and also for ensuring there are curbs on false whiplash car injury claims.

## Relevant Interests

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None



# Huw Merriman

## Bexhill and Battle

### Supporters (own party)

Kevin Hollinrake, Gillian Keegan, Craig Tracey, Chris Loder, Karen Bradley, Tom Tugendhat, Victoria Prentis, Steve Double, Robert Courts, Mrs Maria Miller, Lee Rowley, Duncan Baker, Simon Hoare, Jack Brereton, Mel Stride

### Supporters (other parties) (optional)

Lilian Greenwood, Ronnie Cowan, Ruth Cadbury, Grahame Morris, Paul Girvan

## Statement

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I've been a member of the Transport Select Committee since 2015. I am nominated by Lilian Greenwood, the previous Chair, and all of my fellow Conservative, Labour, SNP and DUP committee members. My committee colleagues have had the chance to scrutinise me when I have deputised for Lilian.

I am standing because I do not believe that the Transport sector delivers value in the UK. Too many revolving doors and a lack of competition, accountability and responsibility causes our constituents to receive a poor service and provision.

We can do better. The Committee is respected across the sector. By coming up with ideas for change, we can make a positive contribution and improve transport for all. This will only happen if we find a way through the walls of resistance.

As Chairman of the Transport Select Committee I would:

- forensically probe the performance of government departments, agencies and industry;
- hold ongoing inquiries on long-term transport projects (such as HS2 and Heathrow);
- ensure we consider environmental, economic and community costs;
- seek ideas from MPs as to inquiry topics, bring the committee to constituencies impacted and communicate our key findings and recommendations so MPs can use in casework; and
- use my positive relationship with existing committee members to work as a team and ensure our inquiries cover areas which are relevant to devolved parts of the UK.

It's important that all modes of transport are scrutinised. Rail rightly gains attention in Parliament but three out of five public transport journeys are undertaken by bus. Routes are disappearing. I proposed, in our report, that a bus route should become an Asset of Community Value meaning, like pubs, the service would have to remain running for 6 months to encourage new providers to step in and save routes before they vanish. I've also championed changes to require bus services to be retained where essential public services, such as GP surgeries, are on a route.

To innovate, I've proposed legislation which would require transport operators to automatically repay compensation to customers. Train operators are compensated by Network Rail where it causes delays. Yet two-thirds of eligible rail passengers impacted by these delays do not claim. My bill would require the train operators to ring-fence this excess for technology which would allow the customer to tap on, and off, a train. Any compensation for a delay would automatically be credited to the customer without the need to apply for it (or even be aware). That same process should be available to airline and ferry passengers.

Having served for 5 years on the Transport Select Committee, under two brilliant chairs in Louise Ellman and Lilian, I understand the importance of this post in Parliament. Being on the Transport Select Committee has been the most fascinating aspect of my time as an MP. I am keen to continue, to take a step up and further represent all of us in Parliament.

## Relevant Interests

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None



# Martin Vickers

## Cleethorpes

### Supporters (own party)

Henry Smith, Crispin Blunt,  
Sir Gary Streeter, Mr Peter Bone,  
Alun Cairns, Mr Laurence Robertson,  
Harriett Baldwin, Julian Knight,  
Andrew Selous, Fiona Bruce,  
Andrew Percy, Bob Stewart,  
Dr Julian Lewis, Steve Brine,  
Mrs Pauline Latham

### Supporters (other parties) (optional)

## Statement

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I have taken a keen interest in transport issues throughout my entire adult life, both professionally and as a private individual.

Prior to becoming an MP, I spent 26 years on a unitary authority with 5 years as the cabinet member for the environment with a portfolio including highways and transport.

I also served as a member of the Yorkshire and Humber regional transport board and chaired the Hull and Humber city regions joint transport committee.

Half of my parliamentary career was spent on the Transport Select Committee. During this time, we produced major reports on HS2, Heathrow's third runway, the Volkswagen emissions scandal and rail safety. Looking to the future, major decisions are going to be taken in respect of HS2. If the go ahead is given, the Committee will want to keep a close eye on cost and progress. A particular interest in the Government's review into the franchising system will be essential. Furthermore, a review into the accountability of Network Rail must be prioritised to ensure sensible solutions that make best use of taxpayers' money.

Most of all we must ensure that we improve transport connections into our industrial and provincial towns to aid their regeneration and boost their economy.

I have Chaired the Rail APPG for over 5 years. Most recently we conducted an inquiry into the future of UK rail franchising which was submitted to the Rail Minister to consider alongside the Williams Review. I am also a Vice Chair of the Rail in the North APPG.

Representing a constituency with one of the country's major ports, I am very conscious of how vital the ports and maritime industry is to the UK economy. In 2018 I established and chaired the APPG for Freeports. We campaigned for freeport status for ports around the UK and played an influential role in getting freeports onto the Prime Minister's agenda.

In the last parliament, I worked closely with my former neighbour, Nic Dakin, on the Bioethanol APPG and, as an active member of the Group, I took part in an inquiry into the introduction of E10 fuel in the UK.

I have also served as a Vice-Chairman of the Conservative Backbench Transport Committee and a member of the ministerial transport support group.

## Relevant Interests

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None

# Treasury (Conservative)



# Mel Stride

## Central Devon

### Supporters (own party)

Neil Parish, Tom Tugendhat, Harriett Baldwin, Anthony Browne, Vicky Ford, Tracey Crouch, Robert Halfon, Fiona Bruce, Rob Roberts, Greg Hands, Andrew Jones, David Duguid, James Cartlidge, Damian Hinds, Jack Brereton

### Supporters (other parties) (optional)

Jonathan Reynolds, Kirsty Blackman, Ian Mearns, Karl Turner, Conor McGinn

## Statement

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### **I will reach out across the House in leading the Treasury Select Committee.**

I took 3 finance bills and the customs bill through the House. I understand the Treasury – how it consults, reaches decisions and translates them into legislation and action. That knowledge will be invaluable in leading the TSC to hold the department and Government fully to account and without fear or favour. I would also reach out across the House in the open spirit with which I worked when I served as Leader of the House. I am proud to have received nominations for my candidacy from both Jonathan Reynolds of Labour’s shadow treasury team and Kirsty Blackman the SNP’s economic spokesperson. They know that I work in a fair and open-minded manner including with opposition parties.

The new Chair must hit the ground running. As well as scrutinising the coming budget the committee’s early focus must be the economic implications of the trade deals that the Government will be pursuing with the EU, the US and others. The committee must play a key role in this area of scrutiny with a clear focus on the Government’s proposals for capitalising on the opportunities whilst managing the risks. I have a particular insight into post Brexit preparations around tariffs, customs and excise, having exercised strategic oversight of HMRC for 2 years and having served on cabinet committees tasked with preparedness.

My keen interest in Northern Ireland, having served on the Northern Ireland Select Committee is known across the House.

I would also wish to continue to look at some of the vital issues that the committee has already considered such as regional imbalances in the UK economy particularly given the important commitment the Government has made to levelling up across the regions. Further work needs to be undertaken on business rates (as someone who spent 20 years as an entrepreneur in the UK and the US I fully appreciate the importance of fair business taxation), fair banking and women in finance. My determination to address the high effective marginal tax rates still faced by those on Universal Credit (especially lower income families with children) is rooted in my commitment to social justice. The taxation of internet platform-based businesses where more remains to be done also requires further consideration. Another area to consider is the effectiveness of the £20 billion a year for business tax reliefs which has been under scrutinised and is money that could work harder for businesses right across the UK. I would of course also be guided by the priorities of the other committee members and colleagues more generally. Select Committees have a powerful role in ensuring that conclusions are reached on the basis of a thorough examination of the evidence and I will ensure that all issues considered by the committee are approached objectively.

The TSC is a vital committee. I believe that I can lead it so that colleagues from right across the House are heard and the committee works to its full potential.

## Relevant Interests

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Founder and shareholder in Venture Marketing Group Ltd (publisher, organiser or exhibitions and conferences); father owns Stride Ltd (Insurance Broker).

# Welsh Affairs (Conservative)





# Stephen Crabb

## Preseli Pembrokeshire

### Supporters (own party)

Fay Jones, Rob Roberts, Craig Williams, Dr James Davies, Sarah Atherton, Virginia Crosbie, Robin Millar, Suella Braverman, Victoria Prentis, Simon Hoare, Nickie Aiken, Tom Tugendhat, Mark Pawsey, Siobhan Baillie, Theo Clarke

### Supporters (other parties) (optional)

Sir Jeffrey M Donaldson, Jonathan Edwards, Stephen Timms, Joanna Cherry, Tonia Antoniazzi

## Statement

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Wales remains one of the least understood parts of the United Kingdom family and receives less national focus than any of the other Celtic home nations.

In terms of economic performance, Wales remains at the bottom of the league table of UK nations and regions. Despite remarkable falls in unemployment, Wales still suffers from poor infrastructure, low wages and the legacy of industrial decline. It is a part of the United Kingdom that should be at the front of the queue when it comes to the ‘levelling up’ of all parts of the country, to use the Prime Minister’s phrase.

I believe the Welsh Affairs Committee is well placed, not just to provide commentary on the actions of UK Government on behalf of Wales, but to be an engine of practical ideas and recommendations for making Wales a stronger and more successful part of the UK.

By drawing on the knowledge and passion of MPs from all parties, the WAC can help to shape a positive and optimistic agenda for Wales at a time of enormous change.

Government action on post-Brexit trade deals, the Shared Prosperity Fund, infrastructure investment and the climate challenge will all have an impact on Wales in the years ahead. The WAC will provide an essential forum for examining these actions and ensuring that the unique circumstances of Wales are understood by Ministers and officials who lead on these.

Having served in the Wales Office, both as a junior Minister and as Welsh Secretary, I have an in-depth knowledge of the Department, its role and status within Whitehall, and of the interface between UK and Welsh Governments.

In recent years I have spoken extensively at the Institute for Government, Institute of Welsh Affairs, and other bodies about devolution and the future of the Union especially in light of Brexit.

I want to put this knowledge to good use in helping the WAC to play a strong and effective role within the House of Commons. I intend to build on the excellent work of the previous Chair, David TC Davies, in making the WAC more visible within Wales and in building constructive relationships with committees in the National Assembly of Wales and with Welsh civil society.

In my first Parliament I sat on the Welsh Affairs, International Development and Treasury select committees, playing a full role in inquiries and always with one of the best attendance rates. In the last Parliament I was a member of the Exiting the EU Committee. I have always valued relationships with colleagues from across the House and I enjoy working across party divisions. As Chair of the Welsh Affairs Committee, I would do my best to foster a true Team Wales approach.

## Relevant Interests

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None

# Women and Equalities (Conservative)





# Caroline Nokes

## Romsey and Southampton North

### Supporters (own party)

Victoria Prentis, Vicky Ford, Siobhan Baillie, Fay Jones, Tracey Crouch, Rachel Maclean, Jackie Doyle-Price, Joy Morrissey, Penny Mordaunt, Jeremy Wright, Gillian Keegan, Mr William Wragg, Gagan Mohindra, Paul Holmes, Tom Hunt

### Supporters (other parties) (optional)

Yasmin Qureshi, Preet Kaur Gill, Mr Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi, Christine Jardine, Catherine McKinnell

## Statement

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Since it was established in 2015 the Women and Equalities Select Committee has performed a crucial role scrutinising the Government Equalities Office. It would be a real privilege to follow Maria Miller as Chair of the Committee, who oversaw a wide range of important inquiries in the 5 years since the Committee was formed.

If elected Chair I would like to make sure there is significant focus on disability issues, particularly with regard to the world of work. Between 2016 and 2017 I served in the Department for Work and Pensions, at a time when despite significant increases in the rate of employment, the disability employment gap remained stubbornly difficult to tackle. We have to do more to aid both employers and individuals to make sure necessary adjustments are made and pathways into not just work, but better work, are cemented.

But it is not just in achieving employment that people with disabilities are disadvantaged, too often that starts in school, and there is clearly a role for this Committee in being truly cross cutting, looking at education, employment, health inequalities, transport challenges. I believe there is a great deal to do, and hope very much to be able to get stuck in.

I was Parliamentary Secretary at the Cabinet Office in 2017 when PM Theresa May published the Race Disparity Audit. We need to make sure the inequalities identified in the audit continue to not just have a light shone on them, we need to make sure all Government Departments are acting to reduce and eventually eliminate them.

Even though we are now 20 years into the 21st Century there are persistent challenges for women in the workplace. Whether around the gender pay gap or protections after maternity leave there are still too many instances of female employees facing greater challenges than their male colleagues. It is not good enough, and we must be determined in continuing to shine a light on these inequalities and making sure Government addresses them.

Having spent the final 18 months of my ministerial career at the Home Office I saw first hand the work being done to tackle violence against women and girls. But there remain glaring discrepancies in the treatment of migrant women. I was proud to use one of my first contributions in the chamber as an ex-Minister to highlight the need for the Domestic Abuse Bill to treat migrant victims as victims first - there is more work to be done on that.

## Relevant Interests

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None

# Work and Pensions (Labour)



# Debbie Abrahams

## Oldham East and Saddleworth

### Supporters (own party)

Rosie Duffield, Mike Amesbury, Andrew Gwynne, Jim McMahon, Imran Hussain, Alex Cunningham, Paula Barker, Angela Rayner, Kim Johnson, Mick Whitley, Janet Daby, Marsha De Cordova, Holly Lynch, Sarah Champion, Alex Sobel

### Supporters (other parties) (optional)

Jim Shannon, Damian Green, Dr Lisa Cameron, Neil Gray, Peter Aldous

## Statement

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### **There are three main reasons I am standing to become Work and Pensions Select Committee Chair.**

Firstly, I feel passionate about our social security system – it has such a tangible impact on so many people’s lives.

Secondly, although there are significant challenges to the system, with a new Government, I believe there are also opportunities.

And finally, I believe I have wide-ranging skills, knowledge and experience that will enable me to Chair the Select Committee in a positive, collaborative and effective way.

**I believe Select Committees play an important role in holding Governments to account on their policy programmes, contributing to a healthy political system and democracy.** The Work and Pensions Select Committee is particularly important as the Government’s largest spending department, delivering support to around 20 million people many of whom are vulnerable. With increasing poverty across all age groups, from children to older people, it is right for the Select Committee to be investigating the part our social security system is playing to alleviate this.

**I have taken a keen interest in the work of the Department for Work and Pensions throughout my time in Parliament** - as a backbencher, a member of the Work and Pensions Select Committee and shadowing the Department from the Frontbench. My background as an academic and Director of Public Health research means I will always follow the evidence. As a former Chair of an NHS Trust for over 4 years and chair of several APPGs, including on Dementia and Health in All Policies, I have considerable experience of chairing groups with people from all political parties.

There are several challenges facing the Department, **including the roll-out of Universal Credit, future proposals** on the State Pension Age, support for UK nationals in the EU, EEA and Switzerland after Brexit as well as support for disabled people. All of these need to be addressed by the Select Committee in this session. I am committed to working with all members of the Select Committee in an inclusive and collaborative way to ensure we scrutinise Government policy while producing workable recommendations for Ministers.

My preferred chairing ‘style’ is to be:

**Inclusive** – ensuring all members contribute to the Select Committee’s priorities, helping to shape the inquiry work programme and evidence sessions

**Positive** – producing robust, evidence-based, timely inquiries, focussing on workable recommendations for Government

**Supportive** – supporting all colleagues on the Committee to develop their skills and expertise across the work of the Department, as recognising and value all contributions, including from Select Committee clerks and assistants

**Collaborative** – identifying joint inquiries to work with other Select Committees on cross-Departmental issues

**Engaging** – recognising the impact of the Department’s work on so many people’s lives, an outward facing Committee, meeting and holding evidence sessions across the country, to hear and value people’s lived experiences as part of our evidence-based approach.

I believe my track record shows that I can deliver, holding the Government to account in a constructive and meaningful way, while restoring confidence and trust in our democracy.

## Relevant Interests

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None



# Chris Bryant

## Rhondda

### Supporters (own party)

Nick Thomas-Symonds, Jo Stevens, Luke Pollard, Anna McMorrin, Lucy Powell, Tonia Antoniazzi, Mr Virendra Sharma, Kevin Brennan, Dan Jarvis, John McDonnell, Mr Toby Perkins, Ian Murray, Stephanie Peacock, Carolyn Harris, Jonathan Ashworth

### Supporters (other parties) (optional)

Jeremy Hunt, Mr David Davis, Simon Hoare, Hannah Bardell, Anne-Marie Trevelyan

## Statement

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Firstly, policy should always be evidence-based (especially when you are spending more than £220 billion a year) and the Select Committee system is a vital part of ensuring that parliament and government have the right evidence to hand. That requires the collaborative and cross-party approach I have adopted in my campaigns on Acquired Brain Injury, Assaults on Emergency Workers, Melanoma and human rights in Putin's Russia. It also requires an in-depth understanding of the powers and duties of committees, which I have honed through chairing the Finance Committee (2017-19) and sitting on the DDCMS (2001-05) and Foreign Affairs (2017-19) select committees since I was first elected in 2001.

Secondly, robust, insistent but respectful questioning of those who exercise power helps improve government decisions and policies and makes senior figures in the private sector prove their mettle. It was my question to the News of the World editor in March 2003 that eventually led to the phone hacking investigations. Ensuring that a committee gets to the nub of the issue and does not let a witness off the hook – but does so without ever hectoring or bullying – is a key responsibility of the Chair and I hope I showed in the Speakership election that I have the skills to chair the committee with fairness and with imagination.

Most importantly, though, having been Shadow Welfare Minister and representing a community that has long suffered from multiple levels of deprivation I know many of the areas of DWP policy that need urgent attention. Clearly that includes Personal Independence Payments

(including reviewing how assessments are carried out), the roll-out of Universal Credit, Carer's Allowance, the delayed review into the treatment of claimants with terminal conditions, developments in auto-enrolment, changes to the State Pension and Pension Credit, and tackling preventable work-related deaths and injuries. In addition, whilst the Committee must closely examine the details of social security policy, I would hope the committee would also tackle the over-arching issues of the rapidly changing structure of work and the enduring causes of poverty.

Many of these are fiercely contested areas of public policy and the decisions government and parliament make about them affect the lives of every MP's constituents. Few areas are more directly affected than mine in the Rhondda, however, where multiple layers of deprivation have restricted people's opportunities and perpetuated poverty ever since coal was discovered in the 19th century.

These can also feel like highly technical areas of public policy, but I hope to be able to distil the essence of the debate so as to enable a wider public understanding of and participation in the work of the committee. Several select committees have experimented with alternative means of working in recent years, for instance by holding joint enquiries with other committees. I would like to expand on this work.

It is the Committee members, not the Chair, who determine its direction, but as Chair I would always seek to enable the committee to proceed by consensus.

## Relevant Interests

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None



# Ms Karen Buck

## Westminster North

### Supporters (own party)

Yvette Cooper, Kate Green, Barbara Keeley, Louise Haigh, Ms Lyn Brown, Christian Matheson, Dr Alan Whitehead, Seema Malhotra, Mrs Sharon Hodgson, Florence Eshalomi, Gareth Thomas, Mr Barry Sheerman, Rushanara Ali, James Murray, Dame Diana Johnson

### Supporters (other parties) (optional)

Joanna Cherry, Sir Oliver Heald, Alex Chalk, Paul Scully, Nickie Aiken

## Relevant Interests

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None



# Stephen Timms

## East Ham

### Supporters (own party)

Hilary Benn, Dawn Butler,  
Rachel Reeves, Margaret Greenwood,  
Wes Streeting, Afzal Khan,  
Jonathan Reynolds, Gill Furniss,  
Mr David Lammy, Neil Coyle,  
Jon Cruddas, Pat McFadden,  
Abena Oppong-Asare, Ian Mearns,  
Mr Khalid Mahmood

### Supporters (other parties) (optional)

Sir Gary Streeter, Wera Hobhouse,  
Sir Jeffrey M Donaldson,  
Dr Ben Spencer, Richard Graham

## Statement

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An East London MP since 1994, I was PPS to the Minister for Employment in 1997, then Minister for Disability Benefits, for Pensions (twice) and, in 2008, for Employment. I was in the Cabinet as Chief Secretary to the Treasury in 2006-7. As Shadow Minister in 2010-15, I led Labour's Opposition team on the Bill which set up Universal Credit. Since 2015 I have served on the Education and Brexit Committees, and chaired the Parliamentary Labour Party's backbench DWP Committee.

I would bring to the Chair extensive experience of the social security system, an excellent track record of cross party working and a determination to overcome serious problems affecting our constituents.

### Universal Credit

Merging benefits to simplify the system was a good idea, but implementation has been problematic. Great care is needed now to avoid hardship in transferring claimants from their former benefits to Universal Credit. The Committee must play an important scrutinising role.

The five week delay before entitlement to benefit is leading to some serious debt problems. Foodbanks say the delay is a significant contributor to rising demand for their help. The design assumes that everyone claiming benefit has a month's salary in the bank from the job they have just left, but this simply isn't the case - for example, for those transferring from other benefits, the weekly paid or those on zero hours contracts.

Universal Support, a key element in the initial proposal for Universal Credit, has not been implemented. The Committee should consider what support is needed in future for people claiming the benefit.

### Disability

Claimant experiences of assessments for Employment and Support Allowance and Personal Independence Payment remain very poor. People are often refused benefit despite strong supporting medical evidence. They may eventually succeed on appeal, but only after a long and stressful delay, sometimes involving financial hardship.

We understand much better now than in the past how to support people who are out of work on health grounds, including where it's a mental health issue. I would like to see a target and plan to reduce the stubbornly high disability employment gap.

### Pensions

The Committee's important work in monitoring progress with auto-enrolment and the pensions dashboard must continue. I welcome the cross party consensus in favour of Collective Defined Contribution Pensions.

Too many of those taking advantage of pension freedoms have fallen prey to fraudsters. The Committee should review the protections and support in place for savers.

### Child Support

Decisions about child support will always be contested, but the system has been less high profile in recent years. It is a good time to review its current state, and to assess whether it is delivering the support which children need, and is accessible and fair to both parents.

### Health and Safety

The Committee should review the remit and resources of the Health and Safety Executive as people work for longer, and as Brexit will change how UK Health and Safety legislation is determined.

## Relevant Interests

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None



