



A GUIDE TO GOVERNMENT

December 2023

This briefing sets out the politicians and advisers in the Government and in Parliament who have decision-making responsibility relevant to community pharmacy policy matters, or who wield influence over such matters.

Issues in the NHS, and the wider health and care sector with an emphasis on prevention are high on the Government's agenda. Nevertheless without addressing the funding problems facing the sector, pharmacy services will be difficult to maintain in their current state, let alone expand.

This document is correct as of 21 December 2023.

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Politicians

Summary

This section sets out the figures in Government and Parliament who:

1. have an active role in deciding health policy and driving the direction of the Government in relevant areas of health and care;
2. have Opposition frontbench responsibility for relevant aspects of health and care policy;
3. sit in Parliament, and take an interest in health and care matters – including community pharmacy and have, or could have, influence over these decision-makers.

DHSC Ministers

Rt Hon Victoria Atkins MP Secretary of State for Health and Social Care



- First elected to Parliament in 2015, Victoria Atkins has previously had experience as a junior minister, working as Minister for Prisons and Probation. Prior to her appointment as Health Secretary, Atkins served as Financial Secretary to the Treasury.
- Atkins was appointed as Secretary of State for Health and Social Care by Rishi Sunak in the November 2023 Cabinet reshuffle, replacing Steve Barclay.
- Her appointment as Health Secretary caps several years of steady handling of briefs in junior ministerial roles, with Atkins being regarded by her colleagues as steady and competent.
- Victoria Atkins was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes at the age of three and has served as Vice Chair of the APPG for Diabetes and advocated on behalf of Diabetes UK. She has [championed](#) patients being at the centre of care and proper management of the condition.
- Two of the area with the highest [rates](#) of diabetes in England are in her constituency.
- Most recently in the House of Commons, on 5 December, Victoria Atkins mentioned pharmacy when [discussing](#) her priorities as Health Secretary, saying she wanted to reform the NHS and social care to make it “faster, simpler and fairer” and cited Pharmacy First as an example of this.
- Atkins has been warm towards striking junior doctors, speaking of her ‘respect’ for them, and she has said she wants to build a new relationship with the British Medical Association. She is also passionate about the NHS remaining free at the point of need.
- Atkins attended the CPE drop-in event on hypertension and her researchers have attended parliamentary events since.

Dame Andrea Leadsom OBE MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Primary Care and Public Health



- Andrea Leadsom was first elected to Parliament in the 2010 general election with a majority of more than 20,000.
- Prior to her parliamentary career, she worked in financial services, working at Barclays before moving on to various investment management funds. She served as a Councillor on South Oxfordshire District Council between 2003 and 2007.
- In October 2013, Leadsom was appointed by David Cameron to the Number 10 Policy Unit, with responsibility for part of the public services brief.
- Leadsom served as Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs from July 2016 until June 2017 and as the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy between 24 July 2019 and 13 February 2020.
- She served as Leader of the House of Commons in Theresa May's government, a position which she resigned from owing to the fact she no longer believed the government's approach would deliver Brexit.
- In her capacity as Early Years Healthy Development Adviser, to which she was appointed to in July 2020, Leadsom chaired a [review](#) resulting in a report published in 2021 into early years development which looked at improving health outcomes of babies and young children. The review informed the government's levelling up agenda, aiming to ensure every baby is given the best possible start in life.
- She contested the 2016 and 2019 Conservative leadership elections. Her platform during the elections was to deliver Brexit, an issue which she campaigned for passionately during the 2016 EU referendum.
- During Health and Social Care Departmental Oral Questions in December 2023, Leadsom [described](#) the Pharmacy First service as the "flagship Pharmacy First programme" and mentioned how it is alleviating pressures on primary care. In the same debate she also noted that in local authorities "we need mayors and integrated care boards supporting primary care."

The Rt Hon Andrew Stephenson CBE MP Minister of State at DHSC (Minister for Health and Secondary Care)



- Andrew Stephenson was first elected in the 2010 general election, with a majority of 3,585 votes. The seat had been previously held by Labour MP Gordon Prentice since 1992.
- Stephenson served as a councillor for Macclesfield Borough Council from 2003 to 2007.
- In July 2016, he became PPS to Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson having previously served as PPS to Minister of State for Security, Sir John Hayes.
- Stephenson voted for the UK to leave the European Union in the 2016 EU referendum.
- After the 2017 general election, Stephenson was appointed as an Assistant Government Whip by Prime Minister Theresa May.
- In February 2020, Stephenson was appointed as a Minister of State at the Department for Transport, responsible for HS2.
- In July 2022, Stephenson joined the Cabinet as Conservative Party Co-Chairman where he oversaw the process to select a new leader to replace outgoing Prime Minister Boris Johnson.
- In his capacity as Minister for Health and Secondary Care he is responsible for conditions such as diabetes and cancer as well as long-term conditions, NHS workforce and medicines and medicines regulation.
- In a draft delegated legislation committee in November 2023, on Draft Health Care Services (Provider Selection Regime) Regulations 2023 Stephenson [commented](#) on the importance of joined up care for patients, and the need for alignment of services in healthcare, with a view to remove bureaucratic barriers.
- He has been outspoken on prevention when it comes to catching early signs of cancer, [announcing](#) the launch of TRANSFORM in November 2023 – a nationwide screening study with Prostate Cancer UK which will involve hundreds of thousands of men.

Maria Caulfield MP

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Mental Health and Women's Health Strategy)



- First elected in 2013, she was selected for the constituency of Lewes in East Sussex by the Lewes Conservative Association, and at the 2015 general election she overturned a 7,647 majority and defeated the incumbent Liberal Democrat MP Norman Baker.
- Caulfield is a former NHS nurse and specialised in cancer research.
- On 17 September 2021, Caulfield was appointed Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Patient Safety and Primary Care in the second Cabinet reshuffle of the second Johnson ministry which included pharmacy in her remit.
- On 7 July 2022, she was appointed Minister of State in the Department of Health and Social Care with responsibility for women's health.
- Caulfield chairs a national oversight group overseeing maternity services nationwide to improve safety for mothers and their babies.
- In a debate in December 2022, on Strep A treatments and supply, Caulfield [commented](#) that "every day, we monitor the number of appointments with GPs, A&E visits, pharmacy visits and the impact that those are having on our stock levels of antibiotics".
- In a debate on workforce expansion in February 2023 Caulfield [mentioned](#) that "we have had a net increase of 1,400 pharmacists a year since 2016, and we are increasing the number of pharmacy technicians."
- In a September 2023 debate on Draft Human Medicines (Amendment Relating to Original Pack Dispensing) (England and Wales and Scotland) Regulations 2023, Caulfield [spoke](#) about reimbursements, saying "there are cost issues that community pharmacies will rightly want to iron out. That is why we have put a transitional arrangement in the SI: so that discussions with Community Pharmacy England on funding and reimbursement of costs can be hammered out before the SI is put into practice. That is the next stage. Once we have agreed to the SI, we will go into negotiations on pricing and reimbursement, so that the measures meet pharmacy's needs when it comes to costs; the aim is not to put costs on pharmacy by introducing these measures."

The Lord Markham CBE Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Minister for the Lords)



- Lord Markham was made a Peer in October 2022 to take up the role of Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at DHSC (Minister for the Lords) under Liz Truss. He was kept in the role by Rishi Sunak.
- As DHSC Minister for the Lords, he has responsibility for NHS finance which includes procurement and cost recovery.
- He was previously a Non-Executive Director at the Department for Work and Pensions from July 2020 – September 2022 and at the Department of Housing, Communities and Local Government from January 2013 – December 2018.
- Markham has extensive private sector experience. He was Chief Executive of Top Up TV between 2004 and 2015 and Strategy Director at ITV between 2003 and 2004.
- He was elected a Councillor on Westminster City Council whilst still a student in 1990, becoming Deputy Leader of the Council in 1995. He stood down from the Council in 1998.
- In a Health and Social Care update in the Lords in October 2022, he [said](#) that his first job was in a community pharmacy, saying that the sector “can be very valuable” in meeting appointment targets.
- Making a statement on the Urgent and Emergency Care Recovery Plan in February 2023, Markham [said](#) that “we really need to look to expand capacity in pharmacies” and also “what our colleagues in Scotland are doing.”
- In a debate on medicines at home in May 2023, he [commented](#) on supporting the delivery of Pharmacy First and its delivery of primary services. He stated that “technology will play a key part in that, both in terms of navigating the patient, when appropriate, to use the pharmacy and by allowing them to book pharmacy appointments.”
- In a debate in November 2023 in the Lords to mark the 75th anniversary of the NHS, he [described](#) the Pharmacy First scheme as being able to make a “material difference” in expanding the supply of places where you can get advice and treatment.
- In a debate on Sexually Transmitted Infections in December 2023, he [mentioned](#) the sourcing of PrEP saying that “There is an excellent pilot happening in Brighton at the moment, where you can get PrEP online, and I absolutely agree that we should look at Pharmacy First as a way to expand that even further.”

Ruth Edwards MP

Assistant Government Whip (Health)



- Ruth Edwards was elected as the Conservative MP for Rushcliffe at the 2019 General Election.
- Prior to her election, Edwards was Head of Commercial Strategy and Public Policy for BT. She has also previously worked as a parliamentary assistant to Sir Crispin Blunt MP while he was Shadow Minister for Home Affairs and Counter Terrorism.
- She was appointed an Assistant Government Whip in February 2023. In this role, she has responsibility for the Government's health agenda and acts as a liaison between DHSC Ministers and Conservative backbenchers.
- Edwards was previously Parliamentary Private Secretary to Secretary of State for Scotland, Alister Jack MP, between February 2020 and July 2022. She resigned this role in protest at Boris Johnson's handling of sexual assault allegations against Chris Pincher.
- In February 2020, Edwards led an adjournment debate on East Leake Health Centre, which is located in her constituency. She [said](#) that there is "huge opportunity to co-locate primary, social and community care services." Edwards also called for increased funding for primary care in rural areas.
- Edwards is a [supporter](#) of the J9 initiative, which aims to provide training to staff in the public and voluntary sectors to increase understanding and awareness surrounding domestic abuse. As part of this campaign, she [praised](#) on social media that victims can receive support in pharmacies by 'asking for ANI.'

Labour Shadow Ministers

Wes Streeting MP

Shadow Secretary of State for Health and Social Care



- Streeting has served as Shadow Secretary of State for Health and Social Care since 2021 and has been MP for Ilford North since 2015.
- Before entering Parliament, Streeting was President of the National Union of Students between 2008 and 2010. He then became a Labour Councillor for the Chadwell ward on Redbridge London Borough Council, becoming Deputy Leader of the Labour Group in 2011. He served as a Councillor until 2018, not seeking re-election on becoming an MP.
- Streeting is considered to be from the right of the Labour Party, nominating and supporting Owen Smith against Jeremy Corbyn in the 2016 Labour Party leadership election. He is also supported by Labour First, a network which represents moderate party members, and frequently speaks at their meetings.
- He previously served as Shadow Secretary of State for Child Poverty from May to November 2021, as Shadow Minister for Schools from 2020 to 2021, and as Shadow Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury from April to October 2020.
- In a debate in Parliament in June 2022 on access to GP services and NHS dentistry, Streeting [commented](#) that he “wholeheartedly agrees about the importance of looking at primary care as a whole and the really powerful and valuable contribution that community pharmacies can make, alleviating pressures on other parts of the primary care system, particularly general practice.”
- In January 2023, he [wrote](#) an opinion piece for the Financial Times where he said that pharmacies “need to be able to do more” which would take “the pressure off burnt-out GPs.” He said this will entail allowing “GPs to focus on things only they can do.”
- Speaking at an event hosted by healthcare think tank The King’s Fund in April 2023, Streeting reportedly [said](#) that pharmacies could play a “really big role” in his plan for a “neighbourhood health service.” He also said that Labour would increase the range of healthcare professionals working alongside GPs, naming pharmacists giving vaccinations as an example.
- In December 2023, Streeting [visited](#) Australia and Singapore and set out more Labour thinking around health and social care, including how to free up GP time by ending “pointless referrals” and cutting back red tape. He also said that the system was constrained by expensive drugs. He said he wanted to embrace technology to make the primary care system more “patient-focused”.

Preet Kaur Gill MP

Shadow Minister for Primary Care and
Patient Safety



- Preet Kaur Gill was elected as the Labour Member of Parliament for Birmingham Edgbaston in 2017.
- She was appointed Shadow Minister for Primary Care and Public Health in September 2023, having been Shadow Cabinet Minister for International Development between April 2020 and September 2023.
- Gill graduated from the University of East London with a BSc in Sociology and Social Work. Prior to her election to Parliament, she was a social worker specialising in child protection.
- Speaking in a Westminster Hall debate in September 2023 on community pharmacies, Gill [said](#) that it is “high time” to realise the potential of community pharmacies. She called for a “long-term strategy” to allow pharmacies to use their “talents, capacity, and expertise,” and in doing so, “fix the front door of the NHS.” She re-iterated that Labour would realise the potential of community pharmacies as part of their plan for a “neighbourhood health service.”
- Upon the announcement of the Pharmacy First service in November 2023, Gill [said](#) that the scheme doesn’t “acknowledge that many pharmacies have had to close their doors for good.”

Baroness Merron Shadow Lords Spokesperson for Health



- Baroness Gillian Merron has been the Labour Spokesperson for Health in the House of Lords since May 2021. Formerly Member of Parliament for Lincoln between 1997 and 2010, Merron was Minister of State for Public Health between June 2009 and May 2010.
- Prior to entering politics, Merron worked in local government and as a trade union official.
- In a February 2023 Lords debate on healthcare in rural areas, Merron [said](#) that it is a “good thing” that pharmacies can now provide more clinical services, but raised her concern that such services are not available for rural patients who use dispensing GP practices.
- In a Written Parliamentary Question tabled in November 2023, she [asked](#) what assessment the Government has made of other conditions the Pharmacy First service could cover. Responding, Lords Health Minister Lord Markham said that “no assessment has been made.”

Christian Wakeford (Bury South) Assistant Opposition Whip (Health)



- Christian Wakeford was elected in the 2019 General Election as a Conservative MP, and crossed the floor to the Labour Party in January 2022.
- Wakeford serves as an Opposition Whip in the House of Commons. In addition to overseeing a group of backbench Labour MPs, Wakeford also acts as a liaison between the Shadow Health Team and Labour MPs. This role sees him attend Shadow Health Team meetings.
- Prior to his parliamentary career, Wakeford held several political roles. From 2015 to 2016, he was a House of Commons case worker for Conservative MP Andrew Stephenson.
- Wakeford vehemently opposed Covid vaccine passports in September 2021. He defended the government over allegations of cronyism in the procurement process for personal protective equipment and Wakeford also backed amendments to the Health and Social Care Bill, put forward by Labour MP Dan Carden, to implement minimum unit pricing to help tackle harm caused by alcohol addiction.
- Wakeford has been a supporter of pharmacy, attending several CPE parliamentary events including the hypertension event in November 2022 and the winter pressures event in December 2023.
- In a debate on budget resolutions and economic situation in March 2023, Wakeford [criticised](#) the lack of health focused commitments, saying there is “nothing for dentistry and nothing for health inequalities. If the Chancellor wanted to help the NHS, he would have found the money to pay for nurses and junior doctors, and to bring down waiting lists”.

In a debate in the Commons on the independent medicines and medical devices safety review in July 2021 he [spoke](#) about women’s health, noting that “It does appear that women’s health only seems to be paid any real attention when men talk about it. There are women going to their GPs who are not being listened to. There are women who have be

Steve Brine MP (Winchester)

Chair, Commons Health and Social Care Select Committee



- An MP since 2010, Brine was Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Public Health and Primary Care at the Department of Health and Social Care from June 2017 to March 2019. In this role, he had ministerial responsibility for pharmacy.
- As both a minister and backbencher Brine is known as someone who wants to see the evidence behind policy positions and interrogates the detail closely.
- He is a very close political ally of Jeremy Hunt, serving as his PPS when Health Secretary. Following Hunt's appointment as Chancellor he said on the radio that he "has the potential to be a fantastic Prime Minister."
- He went on to serve as a Health Minister but was sacked over his stance in opposition to a hard Brexit and subsequently also lost the Conservative Whip for a short period of time. This experience still influences much of his politics and his relationships on the backbenches.
- Brine was elected Chairman of the Health and Social Care Committee in November 2022. His [statement](#) upon his election said that the priority for the Committee is "how to deal with the backlog caused by the pandemic and the need to recruit a workforce now that's capable of meeting future demand."
- Brine was one of 24 Parliamentarians who signed a letter to the Prime Minister in July 2022, calling for action to prevent further closures to local pharmacies.
- In a debate on Access to GP Services and NHS Dentistry in June 2022, he [asked](#) for a ruthless focus on the wider primary care landscape and said that "when it comes to prevention, surely those people [primary care professionals] must be the front door of the NHS to ensure that the system is sustainable in the long term".
- In a debate on the Health and Care Bill in July 2021 he [commented](#) on the need to realise the potential of integrated care systems stating that "if they are going to work, general practice needs to embrace the wider primary care family, which means to finally recognise the potential of community pharmacy".
- In a debate on community pharmacy in September 2023 he [stated](#) that "pharmacies have huge untapped potential to transform the way patients access and receive healthcare services, and to support the building of a preventive healthcare approach."
- In an interview with The Pharmacist in October 2023 Brine [said](#) that integrated care boards do not have "enough" pharmacy representation.
- In November 2023, Brine [wrote](#) a guest blog for CPE on the Health and Social Care Select Committee's ongoing inquiry into pharmacy, which will explore the potential for transformation across the sector in the interests of patient care and to help reduce pressures on our overstretched NHS.

Jackie Doyle-Price MP (Thurrock)



- Jackie Doyle-Price was elected as the MP for Thurrock at the 2010 General Election.
- Doyle-Price is the Co-Chair of the Pharmacy APPG.
- She was formerly Chair of the Pharmacy APPG between 2020 and 2022.
- Following the 2017 election she was appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Mental Health, Inequalities and Suicide Prevention. In October 2018, she given additional ministerial responsibility for suicide prevention and co-chaired the Women's Mental Health Taskforce.
- Doyle-Price left government following the election of Boris Johnson as Conservative leader but returned as Minister of State for Industry when Liz Truss was elected as Prime Minister in September 2022. She left the government again following Rishi Sunak's appointment as Prime Minister.
- Writing in The Pharmacist in 2021, Doyle-Price [complained](#) that the "health establishment treats pharmacists as little more than glorified retailers". She commented on her fears that the healthcare system is "failing to make use of community pharmacy" and stressed her desire for pharmacy to have a more active role in primary care. Doyle-Price also criticised the contracting arrangements, saying that "the way the contracting system within the NHS works favours those who are employed directly by the NHS; which means independent contractors, such as pharmacists miss out."
- In an interview with InPharmacy in September 2020, Doyle-Price [noted](#), "I've always felt that pharmacies were a missed opportunity in terms of delivering better health care and better prevention."
- In a debate in the Commons in May 2023 on recovering access to primary care she [congratulated](#) the announcement on pharmacy and said that "we ought to be making more use of this massively skilled body of medical professionals, particularly to free up GPs. For many people, they are the front door to the NHS more than the GP surgery is. Could he confirm that, for the additional work that they will be doing to support our NHS, they will get some reward?".
- In her capacity as Chair of the Pharmacy APPG, Doyle-Price [introduced](#) a debate on community pharmacies in the Commons in March 2021. She made the case for fair and adequate funding for pharmacists, commenting that "This debate is a chance for me to make a plea that the Government and the NHS fully appreciate the contribution made by our community pharmacists and ensure that they are recompensed adequately for it." She further said that "It is not the job of independent providers in our pharmacy sector to be subsidising their NHS work through what they can sell."

Paul Bristow MP (Peterborough)



- Bristow was elected to represent Peterborough in 2019, winning the seat from the Labour Party.
- Before Parliament, Bristow founded a healthcare PR agency, PB Consulting, in 2010 which is now run by his wife under the name HealthComms Consulting.
- He is an Officer of the Pharmacy APPG.
- He has sat on the Health and Social Care Select Committee since November 2022, previously between March 2020 – May 2022.
- In July 2020 he [wrote](#) an article for the CAPX website, entitled “The public have got it right: it’s time to back our pharmacies.” He argued that “we need a solution on funding” and that he supports “proper integration” so that pharmacies can become “neighbourhood health and wellbeing centres.”
- Bristow [spoke](#) in a debate on independent pharmacies in July 2020, saying “some 71% of people think pharmacies should be able to expand their offering to take pressure off the NHS.”
- Bristow was one of the two MPs from the Health and Social Care Select Committee who attended and spoke at CPE’s Conservative Party Conference event in October 2023 entitled ‘*Delivering the PM’s NHS pledge: Does community pharmacy hold the key?*’
- Some of the key issues Bristow raised during the conference event included that pharmacy provided a consistent and reassuring presence during the pandemic. On changes to pharmacy, he said the system needs to be more efficient and less opaque and we need to recruit more pharmacists who are encouraged to operate at the top of their licences. He also stressed the importance of technology and AI to be utilised.

Dr Caroline Johnson MP (Sleaford and North Hykeham)



- Dr Caroline Johnson was first elected at a by-election in 2016, having qualified as a doctor in 2001 and becoming a Consultant Paediatrician in 2012. She continues to work as a part-time Consultant Paediatrician at Peterborough City Hospital alongside being an MP.
- She has sat on the Health and Social Care Select Committee since November 2022, and was previously a member between September 2017 and February 2018.
- A member of the European Research Group, she supported Boris Johnson for leader in 2019. She supported Kemi Badenoch initially for leader in 2022, then supporting Liz Truss when Badenoch was eliminated.
- She briefly served as Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Mental Health and Public Health in Liz Truss's Government from September 2022 to October 2022.

James Morris MP (Halesowen and Rowley Regis)



- James Morris was elected to Parliament in 2010 following his role as Chief Executive of the centre right local government Localis Think Tank, along with founding a computer software company.
- He has sat on the Health and Social Care Committee since October 2022.
- He was briefly Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Primary Care and Patient Safety with responsibility for community pharmacy between July – September 2022 in Boris Johnson's interim government.
- In an answer to a written question while pharmacy minister in September 2022, Morris [said](#) that DHSC is "considering how the role of pharmacists in the supply of medication can be expanded to provide treatment for specific conditions without requiring a GP consultation."

Lucy Allan MP (Telford)



- Lucy Allan was first elected to Parliament in 2015, having worked in investment management. While a Councillor on Wandsworth London Borough Council, she was a non-executive director of Wandsworth NHS Primary Care Trust.
- Allan has sat on the Health and Social Care Select Committee since November 2021.
- Her questions on the Committee revolve around barriers to retention of staff – such as tax, pension penalties, and mental health support. She also has an interest in the culture of the NHS, previously asking witnesses on the prevalence of racism, sexism, or bullying in the health service.
- Allan has campaigned continuously since election for the Princess Royal NHS Trust in her constituency to receive more funding. In September 2022, she was [successful](#) in securing £10 million from the Government for a new surgical hub at the hospital.
- In April 2020, she was [quoted](#) in the local press recognising the “enormous pressure” Covid-19 has placed on pharmacies, and praised the £300 million cash boost given at the time.

Chris Green MP (Bolton West)



- Chris Green was elected to Parliament in 2015 following a 20 year career as an engineer in the mass spectrometry industry.
- He has sat on the Health and Social Care Committee since November 2022.
- He is the Chair of the Health Infrastructure APPG and the Medical Research APPG. He wrote the foreword for a [report](#) by the Health Infrastructure APPG which calls for DHSC to “empower” ICSs with “resources, means, and expertise” to improve the equipment and facilities of the NHS.
- In December 2023, during a Health and Social Care Committee session on the Work of the Department 2023–24, Green asked the Health Secretary about the relationship between ICBs and pharmacies and how it could be improved.
- In a Westminster Hall debate on Covid-19 and community pharmacies in March 2021, he [stated](#) that the “significant costs” that pharmacies have faced “must be addressed,” further saying that “pharmacies and high-street chemists are an important part of how we want the health system to evolve in the future.”
- In a Westminster Hall debate on Vaccination and Public Health in June 2019, he [said](#) that “community pharmacies have a really important role” in delivering vaccinations due to being “uniquely positioned to help the NHS to meet its immunisation targets.”
- In a written question in November 2022, he [asked](#) what steps DHSC is taking to promote digital technology in the pharmacy sector, including “interoperability between GP and pharmacy systems.” In response, Neil O’Brien said that pharmacies are “receiving access to the full patient record,” with actions taken by pharmacists recorded.
- He attended CPE’s Parliamentary blood pressure check event in November 2022.
- In a debate on Pharmacy services in July 2023, he [asked](#) the Minister what recent progress had been made on “increasing the range of services in pharmacies”. Following the response, he mentioned the inefficiency of the practice of “split and snip”, suggesting pharmacies should be able to use their time more efficiently.
- Green chaired CPE’s Conservative Party Conference event in October 2023.

Elliot Colburn MP (Carshalton and Wallington)



- Colburn was elected to represent Carshalton and Wallington constituency in 2019.
- Prior to his parliamentary career, Colburn worked as a public affairs officer for South West London Health and Care Partnership.
- He is an Officer of the Pharmacy APPG.
- Speaking on pharmacy to the media, Colburn has said that funding of community pharmacy, the dispensing model and proper utilisation of pharmacists need to be looked at to enable community pharmacies to play a larger role in the prevention agenda. He has also [stated](#) that we need to achieve a 'pharmacy first' culture in the UK.
- He co-signed a letter to NHS England welcoming the news that initial discussions about access to pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) via community pharmacy had begun.
- In June 2022 he [asked](#) the then Secretary of State for Health and Social Care Sajid Javid what steps he is taking to ensure regular testing and post-treatment follow-up of hepatitis C and what role could be played by pharmacies.
- In July 2023 he attended the Pharmacy APPG's drop-in session, following which he [said](#) he was glad to join calls to ensure community pharmacies are "adequately funded, well-supported, and fit for the future."
- Colburn attended and spoke at CPE's Conservative Party Conference event in October 2023.

Sir Peter Bottomley MP (Worthing West)



- Bottomley has served as a member of parliament since 1975, first elected to Woolwich West, and then Eltham following its abolition. He moved to his current constituency, Worthing West at the 1997 general election.
- He has been Father of the House of Commons since December 2019.
- He was Private Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Norman Fowler, between September 1981 and June 1987.
- He is a trustee of Mind, the mental health charity.
- In May 2021 he [praised](#) pharmacy staff for their efforts during the pandemic.
- Bottomley has attended a number of CPE events including the launch of the Vision for Community Pharmacy and the winter pressures drop-in event in December 2023.

Peter Aldous MP (Waveney)



- Aldous has been the Member of Parliament for Waveney since 2010, before which he was a chartered surveyor in Norwich, and a Councillor on Waveney District Council.
- In September 2023, Aldous secured and led a [debate](#) in Westminster Hall on community pharmacies to address the pressures they face and their role in accessing primary care.
- He [praised](#) the sector in the Westminster Hall debate for delivering the vaccine rollout during the pandemic. He warned that if reform “is not carried out urgently, the steady stream of [pharmacy] closures will turn into a torrent.” Aldous also stressed that CPE’s 6-point-plan will allow the sector to fulfil its potential.
- In September 2023, Aldous [published](#) an Op Ed on community pharmacies in Parliament News following the debate in which he commented that the future of healthcare lies in pharmacies and he detailed the pressures pharmacies face.
- Peter Aldous has attended several CPE parliamentary events, most recently the winter pressures drop-in event in December 2023 and he has written to former Pharmacy Minister, Neil O’Brien MP on behalf of the sector.

Labour Backbenchers

Taiwo Owatemi MP (Coventry North West)



- Owatemi was a pharmacist prior to becoming an MP in 2019, working in the cancer unit at Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust.
- She has sat on the Health and Social Care Committee since March 2020.
- Her questions on the Committee revolve around training and mental health support. She has also asked why part-time training is not available for medical students, and what impact this has on retention.
- Owatemi became Chair of the Pharmacy APPG in November 2022.
- She [continues](#) to work as Locum Pharmacist for Tesco in Welwyn Garden City.
- Owatemi was interviewed for [an article](#) in the Pharmaceutical Journal in February 2020. In the interview, she decried medicine shortages and called for pharmacists to “do more in standing up for ourselves.” She also signalled her support for a state-owned generic drugs manufacturer which was included in the 2019 Labour Manifesto.
- She spoke [in a debate](#) on community pharmacies in June 2022, saying: “The pharmacy sector boasts a highly trained and clinically skilled workforce, who, according to the CPE, could free up to 40 million GP appointments each year.”
- She was quoted extensively in a [campaign](#) the Daily Mail were running to encourage readers to write to their MPs to “save our local pharmacies.” She said that “we need to harness the skills of our community pharmacy workforce fully” and that the current pay agreement means pharmacies “aren’t making enough money to survive.”
- During an opposition day [debate](#) on the NHS long-term strategy in January 2023, Owatemi said how the pharmacy sector is “crying out for more responsibility to reduce pressures on the rest of the health service.”
- Questioning Steve Barclay on the work of the Department for Health and Social Care as part of the Health and Social Care Select Committee in January 2023, Owatemi [drew attention](#) to how a Pharmacy First service would be more “beneficial” and “cost-effective” for patients. She asked Barclay why a decision on Pharmacy First has not yet been made since CPE put a fully-costed submission to the Department a year prior.

Sarah Champion MP (Rotherham)



- First elected in 2012, Champion was formerly Chief Executive of a Children's Hospice prior to her election.
- She is a member of the Pharmacy APPG.
- In March 2022, She asked [a written question](#) of Health Minister Maria Caulfield: "What recent discussions she has had with community pharmacists on how that profession can (a) support GPs and (b) help relieve the pressures on GP waiting lists."
- She urged DHSC in March 2022 to assess "the potential merits of introducing a pharmacy first scheme in England" in a [written question](#).

Peter Dowd MP (Bootle)



- First elected in 2015, Peter Dowd served as Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury between 2017 – 2020 during Jeremy Corbyn’s leadership.
- He is a Vice-Chair of the Pharmacy APPG.
- In December 2018, Dowd wrote an article on his website entitled “How local pharmacies are helping residents all-year-round”. He called for the Government to “make better use of this network of healthcare” by enabling them to offer a range of additional services.
- He led a debate in June 2022 on community pharmacies, saying “It is no exaggeration to say that the community pharmacy network is under huge strain and that pharmacy staff and businesses are coming under increasing and, indeed, unsustainable pressure.”
- In a Westminster Hall Debate on NHS Staffing Levels in November 2022, Dowd [raised](#) CPE’s action plan, calling it “straightforward” and saying it would enable “staff to feel wanted.”
- He attended Community Pharmacy England’s Parliamentary blood pressure check event in November 2022 and CPE’s Labour Party Conference event in October 2023 *entitled ‘The Heart of Primary Care: how can community pharmacies make Labour’s NHS fit for the future?’*

Rt Hon Sir George Howarth MP (Knowsley)



- First elected to Parliament in 1997, Howarth was Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Home Affairs between May 1997 – July 1999 and Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Northern Ireland between July 1999 – June 2001. In June 2023, Howarth [confirmed](#) that he will be standing down from Parliament at the next General Election.
- He is a Vice-Chair the Pharmacy APPG.
- In a Commons [debate](#) in April 2022 on the National Strategy for Self-Care, which Howarth opened, he asked his colleague Karin Smyth (Shadow Minister for Social Care) “Does she agree that in the past the potential of community pharmacies has been underused, just as the capacity of GP and A&E services has been overused?”
- In a [debate](#) on community pharmacies in February 2016, he drew attention to the fact that they “are unable to negotiate favourable deals on the drugs they dispense and, therefore, they are already at a disadvantage in market terms.”
- He attended CPE’s Parliamentary blood pressure check event in November 2022 and CPE’s Labour Party Conference event in October 2023.

Members of the House of Lords

Lord Clement-Jones CBE (Liberal Democrat)



- Lord Timothy Clement-Jones was elevated to the Lords in 1998. He was previously Chairman of the Liberal Party between 1986 and 1988, playing a major role in the merger with the Social Democratic Party to become the Liberal Democrats.
- He was the Liberal Democrat Lord's Health Spokesman from 1998 – 2004, then Spokesman for Culture, Media, and Sport from 2004 – 2010. He is currently the Liberal Democrat Lord's Spokesman for Digital, which he has held since 2017.
- He was Chairman of the London School of Pharmacy between 2008 and 2011, prior to the School merging with UCL.
- In a debate in a Grand Committee on the Medicines and Medical Devices Bill in October 2020, he [called](#) for the Government to utilise pharmacists for "their expertise in and knowledge of the community" by delivering more clinical services. He further said that pharmacists "are capable of taking on all kinds of clinical work" which would enable the health service to "deliver much greater capacity."
- He attended Community Pharmacy England's Parliamentary blood pressure drop-in event in November 2022.

Baroness Cumberlege CBE DL (Conservative)



- Baroness Julia Cumberlege was elevated to the Lords in 1990. She was Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Minister for the Lords) between 1992 and 1997 under Sir John Major, having previously been Chair of the Brighton Health Authority and the South West Thames Regional Health Authority.
- She was commissioned by the Government to Chair three national reports: Neighbourhood Nursing – A Focus for Care (1986), Changing Childbirth (1993), and Better Births – Improving Outcomes of Maternity Services in England (2016).
- In March 2023, she [secured](#) a House of Lords debate on the plans to make the “best use” of community pharmacies. The question was asked in her name by Baroness Hodgson of Abinger.
- She is a Vice Chair of the Pharmacy APPG.
- Cumberlege hosted a briefing on pharmacy for Peers in the House of Lords in May 2023, as well as the launch of the Vision for community pharmacy, developed by the King’s Fund and Nuffield Trust, in Parliament in September 2023.
- Baroness Cumberlege has raised pharmacy on a number of occasions in the House of Lords. She [spoke](#) in a debate on the Autumn Statement in 2022 stating that “pharmacies are facing unprecedented problems and the answer lies in sensible funding decisions.” She noted that the “financial crisis in pharmacy is caused by a funding model that is out of date and not fit for purpose” and called for a Pharmacy First model to be implemented.
- In a debate on eating disorder services for men in March 2023, she [said](#) that community pharmacies are able to provide men and women with advice on healthy lifestyles, including on diet. She urged the Government to introduce a properly financed “Pharmacy First” service.

Baroness Meacher (Crossbencher)



- Baroness Meacher was elevated to the Lords in 2006, having been Chair of the East London NHS Foundation Trust between 2004 – 2012.
- She is a Vice Chair of the Pharmacy APPG.
- She has a particular interest in drug reform and is the Co-Chair of the Drug Reform APPG, frequently raising the issue in Parliament.
- In a Lord's debate on the Police, Crime, Sentencing, and Courts Bill in September 2021, she [said](#) that drug laws are “dramatically increasing rather than reducing crime” with the UK having “the most draconian drug laws in western Europe.”

Lord Hunt of King's Heath (Labour)



- Lord Hunt of King's Heath was elevated to the Lords in 1997, having previously been the first Chief Executive of the NHS Confederation. He was also Chair of Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust between 2011 and 2014.
- On two occasions, Hunt has served as a Health Minister: as Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health between 1998 and 2003 and Minister of State for National Health Services Reform between January and June 2007.
- In a House of Lords debate in March 2023 on community pharmacies, Hunt [raised](#) that there has been a 30% real-terms cut in pharmacy funding since 2015 and that "many independent pharmacies are going to the wall." He criticised the Government for giving "platitudes" to the sector.



Ministers, Advisers, and Civil Servants relevant to CPE and community pharmacy

Please note that this guide covers ministers, advisers, and civil servants relevant to the pharmacy and healthcare sector.

Department	Position	Holder	Previous Responsibilities
Conservative Figures to Target			
No.10 Policy & Briefing Unit	Health Adviser	Bill Morgan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Founding Partner at Evoke Incisive Health (September 2013 – April 2022), later Senior Counsel (May 2022 – November 2022) Visiting Fellow at the King's Fund (May – October 2022). Special Adviser at DHSC (July 2020 – September 2012) under Andrew Lansley
	Head of Policy	Will Tanner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Director of Onward Think Tank which he co-founded with Neil O'Brien MP, Lord Finklestein, and Martyn Rose (May 2018 – November 2022) Deputy Head of 10 Downing Street's Policy Unit under Theresa May (July 2016 – July 2017)



	Economic Adviser	Douglas McNeill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economist for the Rishi Sunak Leadership Campaign (July 2022 – September 2022) • Special Adviser to Rishi Sunak as Chancellor (February 2020 – July 2022). • Special Economic Adviser to Theresa May (November 2016 – February 2020)
Department for Health and Social Care	Secretary of State for Health & Social Care	Rt Hon Victoria Atkins MP	
	PPS to the Secretary of State	Angela Richardson MP	
	Minister for Health and Secondary Care	Andrew Stephenson MP	
	DHSC Special Advisers	Robert Ede	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of Health & Social Care at Policy Exchange think tank (January 2021 – November 2022). • Account and then Associate Director (Health) at MHP Communications (October 2017 – September 2020) • Political Consultant at The Whitehouse Consultancy (October 2015 – October 2017)
		Fergus Cameron-Watt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Adviser to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for the Cabinet Office, Oliver Dowden MP (December 2022 – November 2023)



			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Account Manager, Hanbury Strategy (May 2022 – December 2022) Policy Adviser to Rishi Sunak's Leadership Campaign (July 2022 – September 2022)
		Caroline Elsom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Services, No 10 Policy and Briefing Unit (September 2022 – October 2022) Special Adviser to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Thérèse Coffey MP (December 2020 – September 2022) Head of Education & Enterprise, Centre for Policy Studies (November 2020 – December 2020); previously Senior Researcher (November 2018 – November 2020) Senior Parliamentary Researcher to Victoria Atkins MP (February 2017 – October 2018).
		Peter Wilson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freelance Public Affairs and Communications Adviser (2018 –2023) Deputy Director and Communications Adviser, UK Health Security Agency (2020 – 2022) Deputy Director and Communications Adviser, UK COVID-19 Testing Programme (2020)
	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Primary Care and Public Health	Rt Hon Dame Andrea Leadsom MP	



HM Treasury	Chancellor of the Exchequer	Jeremy Hunt MP	
	Treasury Special advisers	Adam Smith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very close to Hunt politically – has been working with him in different capacities since 2006. • Involved in Hunt's 2019 and 2022 leadership bids. • Chief Executive Officer at Patient Safety Watch (2019 – 2022). • Special Adviser to Hunt at DCMS (2010 – 2012) • Chief of Staff to Hunt while Shadow Secretary of State for DCMS (2006 – 2010)
		Adam Memon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Adviser to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Sajid Javid MP (2021 – 2022) • Director of the Digital Markets Unit, Competition and Markets Authority (2021); Director of Economic Policy (2021 – 2021) • Special Economic Adviser to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sajid Javid MP (2019 – 2020). • Director of Research, Conservative Party HQ (2017 – 2019)
Cabinet Office	Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster	Rt Hon Oliver Dowden CBE MP	



	Special Adviser	Ed de Minckwitz	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner, Flint Global (September 2021 – November 2022); Director (September 2019 – September 2021) • Special Adviser, No.10 Downing Street (June 2015 – July 2019) • Head of Briefing, Conservative Party HQ (January 2014 – May 2015)
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Labour Figures to Target

Shadow Health Team	Shadow Health Secretary	Wes Streeting MP	
	Shadow Health Policy Advisers	Sarah Ellys Harrison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Liaison Manager at DHSC (May 2019 – October 2020) • Grants Adviser for Genetic and Molecular Sciences at the Wellcome Trust (September 2017 – March 2019) • PhD in Biological Sciences
		Tom Gardiner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trainee GP, City and Hackney GP Confederation (August 2022 – present) • Executive Committee Member, The Fabian Society (November 2019 – present) • National Medical Director's Clinical Fellow, NHS England (September 2021 – August 2022)



	Shadow Minister (Heath and Social Care)	Preet Kaur Gill MP	
LOTO's Office	Leader of the Opposition	Rt Hon Sir Keir Starmer KC MP	
	Head of Domestic Policy	Muneera Lula	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Political Adviser to Angela Rayner (June 2021– April 2022) Head of Labour Markets Trade Policy and Negotiations at BEIS (September 2020 – June 2021) Digital Delivery Lead at Health Education England (March 2019 – May 2019)
	Manifesto Lead	Ravinder Athwal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Head of Growth Strategy at the Treasury (January 2019 – September 2020)
Shadow Treasury Team	Shadow Chancellor	Rachel Reeves MP	
	Shadow Treasury Policy Advisers	Katie Martin (Chief of Staff)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Director of External Affairs for Citizens Advice (August 2017 – July 2021) Head of Philanthropic Partnerships at the Guardian (August 2016 – August 2017) Freelance Political and Communications Consultant (July 2015 – August 2016)
		Spencer Thompson (Economic Adviser)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principal Social Policy Analyst at the Greater London Authority (February 2018 – August 2020) Senior Data Analyst at Citizens Advice (September 2016 – February 2018)



			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior Economic Analyst at IPPR (June 2014 – August 2016)
		Neil Amin-Smith (Economic Adviser)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Former Senior Policy Adviser at the Treasury, Head of Universal Credit Policy and Analysis and Head of Growth Economics Analysis (September 2019 – April 2022)

NHS England			
Director of Primary and Community Care, NHS England	Amanda Doyle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In post since May 2022 Previously North West Regional Director of NHS England Top 50 list of most influential GPs and previously head of Lancashire and South Cumbria ICS 	
Director, Dentistry, Community Pharmacy and Optometry, NHS England	Ali Sparke	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deputy Director for Contracting and Integration until November 2021 Senior manager specialising in healthcare at Ernst & Young 	
Director of Medicines Policy & Strategy at NHS England	Claire Foreman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Former Head of Acute Programmes, Specialised Commissioning (Oct 2018 – Jun 2021) 	
Head of Unit, Community Pharmacy Policy at NHS England	Andrew Hobson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negotiations and policy team leader for DIT (2018–2021) 	



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commercial Policy Adviser at DHSC (2016–2018) Policy and management roles at DWP (Oct 2011 – March 2016)
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer for NHS England	David Webb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chief Pharmacist and Clinical Director for Pharmacy and Medicines Optimisation at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust (2018 – 2022) Regional Chief Pharmacist for NHSE&I in London (2013–2018) Director Of Regional Specialist Pharmacy Services For London, And East And South East England (2008–2013)

DHSC officials

Director General, NHS Policy and Performance Group	Matthew Style	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deputy CFO at NHS England and NHS Improvement Director of Local Government Finance (including adult social care) at the Department for Communities and Local Government Deputy Director, Public Services and Head of the Health and Social Care Team at HM Treasury Private Secretary to the Prime Ministers Gordon Brown and David Cameron
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Director of Primary and Community Health Care, Department of Health and Social Care	Dr Edward Scully	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In post since April 2020. • Deputy Director of Primary Care at DHSC 2017–2020 • Programme Director at NHS England for Operating Model (November 2016 – August 2017) • Spent 10 years at the Department of Health, starting as Assistant Private Secretary for the Secretary of State (2006) and becoming Deputy Director of Integrated Care between October – August 2016
Deputy Director, Pharmacy, Dental and Optical, Department of Health and Social Care	Alette Addison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In post since May 2021. • Head of Pharmacy Regulation and Development at DHSC (June 2017 – July 2020) • Various roles at the Department of Health and Social Care surrounding food regulation (2007–2014) • Head of Pharmacy Regulation and Development (June 2017 – July 2020)