

**Dr Andrew Murrison MP**



**Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Northern Ireland Office**

**Constituency:** [South West Wiltshire](#), South West

Majority: 10,367

**Party: Conservative**

**Westminster**

Dr Andrew Murrison MP  
House of Commons  
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**Political**

**Current posts**

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Northern Ireland Office 2014-

**Electoral history**

Member for Westbury 2001-10, for South West Wiltshire since 6 May 2010 general election

**Parliamentary Career**

Shadow Minister for:  
Public Services, Health and Education 2003-04,  
Health 2004-07,  
Defence 2007-10;  
PPS to Andrew Lansley as Secretary of State for Health 2010-12;  
Prime Minister's Special Representative for the Centenary Commemoration of the First World War

2011-;  
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (International Security Strategy), Ministry of Defence 2012-;  
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Northern Ireland Office 2014-

### Past Select committees

Member: Science and Technology 2001-05

### All-party groups (membership)

Member, [Global Uncertainties](#) Group

Member, [Iraq](#) Group 2013-

### Political interests

Health, defence

### Countries of interest

Morocco, Iraq

### Personal

#### Full Name

Andrew William Murrison

#### Parents

Son of William Murrison and Marion Murrison, née Horn

#### Educated

Harwich High School;  
The Harwich School

#### Further education

Bristol University (MB CHB 1984; MD 1995);  
Cambridge University (DPH medicine 1996)

#### Marital details

Married Jennifer Munden 1994 (5 daughters)

#### Armed forces

Surgeon Commander Royal Navy 1981-2000;  
Royal Naval Reserve 2000-;  
Served in Iraq (Operation Telic II) 2003

## Profession

Medical practitioner

## Non-political career

Principal medical officer, HM Naval Base Portsmouth 1996-99;  
Staff officer, Commander-In-Chief Fleet 1999-2000;  
Locum consultant occupational physician, Gloucestershire Royal Hospital and GP 2000-01

## Other organisations

Royal British Legion

## Publications

Tommy this an' Tommy that: the military covenant (Biteback, 2011)

## Awards

Gilbert Blane Medal 1994

## Date of birth

24 April 1961

## Recreations

Sailing, skiing

## Clubs

Warminster Conservative Club;  
Royal British Legion, Warminster Branch;  
Vice-president, Trowbridge White Ensign Association;  
Westbury Lions

## Languages

French

## Profile

A Surgeon Commander in the Royal Navy for nearly twenty years, and a Shadow Minister for seven, Andrew Murrison had to keep his powder dry when his party came to power in 2010.

In the July 2014 Cabinet reshuffle, Murrison replaced Andrew Robathan as Minister of State for Northern Ireland as David Cameron looked to bring fresh blood to his government in the run up to

the 2015 General Election.

Like several middle-ranking Conservative frontbenchers he had to make way for twenty Liberal Democrat ministers and settle for the job of Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Health Secretary Andrew Lansley.

But two years later he got his ministerial job, as junior Minister for International Security Strategy at the Ministry of Defence.

Health and Defence had been his career. He resigned his Royal Navy commission in 2000 after being chosen to replace David Faber in the reasonably safe Tory seat of Westbury, beating two former MPs, Derek Conway and Hugo Summerson, to the selection. After the abolition of the historic seat (created in the reign of Henry VI) he held the new and even safer seat of South West Wiltshire in 2010.

He served on the Science and Technology Select Committee throughout his first Parliament, and got his first frontbench post in 2003, as a Shadow Minister in the Health, Education and Public Services team. He was Shadow Minister for Health from 2004 to 2007 when he moved to be a Shadow Defence Minister.

He used his maiden speech to attack the proposed European force, which he said was a threat to NATO. He also attacked the closure of the last military hospital at Haslar and the move of the Royal Defence Medical College from Hampshire to Birmingham.

He bewailed the under-manning of the Royal Navy medical branch: "There are twenty-nine anaesthetists and there should be 120. There are eight orthopaedic surgeons, and there should be twenty-eight. There are three casualty doctors, and there should be twenty-three."

A member of the Bow Group, he supported Michael Portillo in the 2001 leadership contest. In 2005 he supported David Davis in the first round and David Cameron in the second.

He voted against the war in Iraq in 2003, saying the case for intervention had not been made. But unlike most of his parliamentary colleagues he experienced the war at first hand, called up as a naval reservist medical officer to serve for six weeks in southern Iraq. He returned to express his concerns that there seemed to be no clear exit strategy.

In 2008 he set up David Cameron's Military Covenant Commission and also ran a review into the mental healthcare of service people and veterans. He published a book *Tommy This an' Tommy That* on the Military Covenant in 2011.

In 2009 he had to repay £5,525 of his expenses claims, mostly for mortgage interest overpayments, after the audit by Sir Thomas Legg. He paid up although he thought he might have grounds for an appeal, and said he was mortified.

He says he took a huge pay cut on becoming an MP. He works twelve days a year as a medical reservist for a modest £1,717, and carries out weekly clinics for a health company in return for his medical indemnity insurance.

He chairs the All-Party Group on Morocco, and initiated debates on that country and on Western Sahara.

His main interests are, naturally, health, defence and the voluntary sector. He is married with five daughters, and enjoys sailing and skiing.

## Contact

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