

## George Freeman MP



**Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Minister for Life Sciences), Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and Department of Health**

Constituency: [Mid Norfolk](#), Eastern  
Majority: 13,856

Party: Conservative



### Westminster

George Freeman MP  
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### Relevant contributions

- A brief summary of his relevant contributions in the subject area can be [found here](#)

### Responsibilities

As this is a new role announced today the direct responsibilities are yet to be announced

### Parliamentary Career

PPS to Gregory Barker as Minister of State for Climate Change, Department of Energy and Climate Change 2010-12;  
Adviser on Life Sciences to David Willetts as Minister of State for Universities and Science 2011-13;  
Trade Envoy to the Philippines 2014-;  
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Minister for Life Sciences), Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and Department of Health 2014-

### Past Select committees

Member: Communities and Local Government 2010

### All-party groups (office-holding)

Chair, [Science and Technology in Agriculture Group](#) 2011-

### All-party groups (membership)

Member, [Children](#) Group

Member, [Environment](#) Group

Member, [Employee Ownership](#) Group

Member, [Micro Businesses](#) Group

Member, [Private Equity and Venture Capital](#) Group

Member, [University](#) Group

Member, [Connecting Communities](#) Group 2013-

Member, [American Football Group](#) 2013-

### Party posts

Founding member, 2020 group 2011-

### Councils, public bodies

Governor, Bevington Primary School 1995-96;

Board member, Greater Cambridge Partnership 2005-10

### Political interests

Constitution, crime, civil society, localism, rural economy, universities and innovation, biotechnology, healthcare reform

### Non-political career

Parliamentary officer, National Farmers Union 1990-92;

Founder, The Local Identity Agency 1992-97;

Director, Early Stage Ventures, Merlin Ventures 1997-2001;

Chief executive officer, Amedis Pharmaceuticals 2001-03;

Director, 4D Biomedical 2003-11;

Adviser to Norwich Research Park Venture Fund 2007-10;

Non-executive director, Elsoms Seeds Ltd

### Profile

An energetic academic entrepreneur with rural, horseracing and East Anglian credentials, George Freeman had four years to get to know his redrawn and very safe seat after being selected as a candidate in 2006. He has announced that he will be defending his seat at the 2015 General Election.

In the July 2014 Cabinet reshuffle, Freeman became Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Department of Health as Minister for Life Sciences.

He was born in 1967 on a farm near Newmarket where his father Arthur Freeman was a National Hunt jockey and trainer. Freeman went to Radley public school near Oxford and read geography at Girton College, Cambridge.

He spent five years at Westminster as a lobbyist for the National Farmers' Union, then another four years as a director of a venture capital company, before setting up his own business in Cambridge developing new medical technologies. He remained a director until the company was wound up in 2011.

He turned to active politics after experiencing the difficulties of bringing up a young family in London, and to fight crime and anti-social behaviour after being mugged by a gang of children. He contested Stevenage in 2005, reducing Barbara Follett's Labour majority with a 6.4 per cent swing. He was on the favoured 'A-list' for selection for a safe seat.

In a witty maiden speech he attacked centralism, big government and intolerant political correctness and said Mid Norfolk was well situated to become a hub of local entrepreneurial activity and new jobs.

He served briefly on the Select Committee on Communities and Local Government but was soon appointed Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Energy and Climate Change Minister Greg Barker.

He seemed in tune with his boss, and with David Cameron, as a fellow founder member of the 2020 Group of Tory MPs, which supports Cameron's modernising agenda against a right-wing backlash. But he was out of tune with both in his opposition to same-sex marriage, though he supports civil partnerships.

And his relationship with Barker ended in divorce: in September 2012 he was replaced as PPS by Laura Sandys and returned to the backbenches.

His other Government job was adviser on life sciences to the Universities and Science Minister David Willetts, which came to an end in 2013.

An active and normally loyal backbencher, he presented a Bill under the Ten-Minute-Rule to allow patients to get access to and update their medical records online. He said it would lead to a revolution in healthcare similar to the effect of the telephone and internet banking on personal finance. He launched a campaign called Patients 4 Data, and followed it up with a backbench debate in February 2014.

## Contact

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