

John Hayes MP



Minister of State for Transport

Constituency: [South Holland and the Deepings](#), East Midlands

Majority: 21,880

Party: Conservative



Westminster
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Relevant contributions

Whilst Hayes has made no directly relevant contributions, his experience at the Department for Energy and Climate Change, and his role advising the Prime Minister at the Cabinet Office, will stand him in good stead as he tackles his new brief.

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Responsibilities

The Minister of State for Transport has responsibility for rail strategy (including overall fares policy); London - including Crossrail; HS2; international and European engagement; and aviation – including the Air Accident Branch.

Parliamentary Career

Shadow Minister for Schools 2000-01;

Opposition Pairing Whip 2001-02;

Shadow Minister for:

Agriculture, Fisheries and Food 2002-03,
Local and Devolved Government (Housing and Planning) 2003-05,
Transport 2005,
Vocational Education 2005-09,
Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education 2009,
Universities and Skills 2009-10;

Minister of State for:

Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning, Departments for Business, Innovation and Skills and Education 2010-12,
Energy, Department of Energy and Climate Change 2012-13;
Minister without Portfolio (Senior Adviser to the Prime Minister), Cabinet Office 2013-

Past Select committees

Member: Agriculture 1997-99,
Education and Employment 1998-99,1999-2000,
Education and Employment (Education Sub-Committee) 1999-2000,
Selection 2001-02,
Administration 2001-02

Party posts

Former chair, Young Conservatives;
Vice-chair:
Conservatives Against Federal Europe,
Conservative Party 1999-2000;
Member, 1992 Group;
Joint chair, Cornerstone Group 2004-

Profile

A right-wing trade unionist minister of working-class origins and socially-conservative views who has served under two Liberal Democrat Secretaries of State, John Hayes transferred to the Department of Energy and Climate Change in 2012 after two years as Minister of State for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning.

But because of his campaigns against wind farms in his own constituency his new boss Ed Davey stripped him of his predecessor's responsibility for renewable energy policy, taking over that portfolio himself.

It was not a marriage made in heaven, and it was not long before the first row. Hayes said the country had enough onshore wind farms and they could no longer be imposed on communities. He was quickly slapped down by Davey, who said there was no change in Government policy.

Six months later, he was moved out of the Department to become Minister without Portfolio at the Cabinet Office, charged with advising the Prime Minister on relations with the Parliamentary Party and heading off the increasing criticisms of backbenchers.

But his work on opposing onshore wind farms won him *The House* magazine award as Environmental Campaigner of the Year in 2014.

An admirer of Iain Duncan Smith, he held a number of frontbench posts in the opposition years, briefly reaching the Shadow Cabinet as Shadow Agriculture Minister in 2002.

He slid slightly down the hierarchy under Michael Howard, but shadowed Schools, Transport and Housing and Planning at various times.

In the leadership contest of 2005 he supported Liam Fox and then David Cameron, who appointed him Shadow Minister for Vocational Education. In 2009 his brief changed to Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education as number two to David Willetts.

And he stayed with Willetts as Minister of State in 2010, finding himself in the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills headed by the Liberal Democrat Vince Cable.

In 2004 he was co-founder of the 50-strong Cornerstone Group, which he now chairs, set up to promote traditional social values under the banner of “faith, flag and family”. He called for a “moral capitalism” in the wake of the economic crisis. He opposes same-sex marriage and voted against civil partnerships and for a reduction in the time-limit for abortion to 12 weeks.

He published a number of polemical pamphlets attacking Labour, including a study of Tony Blair's parliamentary answers, claiming that more than 100 of them were inaccurate. He is a frequent contributor to newspapers and journals and has published pamphlets on Conservative values, housing, apprenticeships and higher education.

He was one of the few new Tories in the 1997 intake, a businessman who had tried twice before in hopeless North East Derbyshire, before getting his safe Fenland seat.

Born in Woolwich in 1958, son of a power station turbine driver and shop steward, he describes himself as “the personification of blue-collar Conservatism”. He grew up on a council estate, joined the Party at fifteen and chaired the student Conservative association at Nottingham University (where he appeared on University Challenge). He was also on the committee of the right-wing Federation of Conservative Students.

An arch-Eurosceptic, he initially supported John Redwood for the Party leadership in 1997, then William Hague, and Iain Duncan Smith in 2001. He earned the Speaker's rebuke in 1998 for shouting at Tony Blair that he was “Europe's poodle”.

He insists he gets on well with his boss Ed Davey on a personal basis. The slightly odd couple won a Spectator award for “double act of the year” and he also won *The House Magazine's* Minister of the Year award.

He is a member of the right-wing '92 Group and Conservatives Against a Federal Europe. He is also a fierce opponent of regionalism and devolution.

Educated at Colfe's in South London, then a grammar school, he supported the assisted places scheme in his maiden speech, and opposed the windfall tax.

He served for two years on the Agriculture Select Committee, and often spoke on farming and rural affairs. He retains an interest in these matters, especially over EU subsidies. He also served on the Education and Employment Select Committee. He has been active on all-party groups on disability and brain injury.

As a backbencher he was a regular speaker and prolific questioner with a florid and flamboyant turn of phrase, whose speeches included public services, referendums, local government, modernisation, fishing, disability and farm prices. He is a member of the National Farmers' Union, the Countryside Alliance, the British Field Sports Society and the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child. He is honorary chairman of the British Caribbean Association.

His low point was as Conservative campaign manager at the Romsey by-election in 2000 – the only Tory seat lost in that Parliament. He is, however, regarded as a highly effective campaigner who co-ordinated the Tory local government election campaigns of 1999 and 2001.

He initially trained as a teacher, but instead went into business as director of The Database (Nottingham) Ltd – employing more than 150 staff, and was a management consultant to schools, colleges and universities, and a part-time lecturer. Divorced from his first wife, he married for the second time shortly after his election in 1997 and has two sons.

He learnt boxing at school after intervening to defend a fellow pupil from bullies, and keeps up his boxing training.

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