

Julian Brazier MP



Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Defence

Constituency: [Canterbury](#), South East

Majority: 6,048

Party: Conservative



Westminster

Julian Brazier TD MP

House of Commons

London

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Relevant contributions

- A brief selection of his relevant [contributions in the Commons can be found here](#).
- As a long standing member of the defence committee and former TA officer Brazier has been critical of the government's efforts to improve recruiting levels of the newly renamed Army Reserve.

Parliamentary Career

PPS to Gillian Shephard as:

Minister of State, HM Treasury 1990-92,

Secretary of State for Employment 1992-93;

Opposition Whip 2001-02;

Shadow Minister for:

Work and Pensions 2002-03,

Home Affairs 2003,

Foreign Affairs 2003-05,

Transport (aviation and shipping) 2005-10;

Co-chair, Prime Minister's Review of the Reserve Forces 2010-11;
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Defence 2014-

Past Select committees

Member: Defence 1997-2001, 2010-

All-party groups (office-holding)

Chair, [Reserve Forces and Cadets](#) Group 2010-

Chair, [Maritime and Ports](#) Group 2010-

Chair, [Adventure and Recreation in Society](#) Group 2013-

All-party groups (membership)

Member, [Lebanon](#) Group

Member, [Palestine](#) Group

Member, [Aerospace](#) Group

Member, [Adoption and Fostering](#) Group

Member, [Accident Prevention](#) Group

Member, [Cleaning and Hygiene](#) Group

Member, [Climate Change](#) Group

Member, [Eye Health and Visual Impairment](#) Group

Member, [Global Security and Non-Proliferation](#) Group

Member, [Greyhound](#) Group

Member, [Homeland Security](#) Group

Member, [Explosive Weapons of Conflict including Landmines](#) Group

Member, [Looked After Children and Care Leavers](#) Group

Member, [Prostitution and the Global Sex Trade](#) Group

Member, [Pro-Life](#) Group

Member, [Runaway and Missing Children and Adults](#) Group

Member, [Transatlantic and International Security](#) Group

Member, [Sport](#) Group

Member, [Transport Safety](#) Group

Member, [Street Children](#) Group

Member, [Stem Cell Transplantation](#) Group

Member, [Kosovo](#) Group 2012-

Member, [Defence and Diplomacy in the Middle East and North Africa](#) Group 2012-

Member, [Self-Build, Custom-Build and Independent Housebuilding](#) Group 2013-

Member, [Oman](#) Group 2014-

Party posts

President, Conservative Family Campaign 1995-2001;

Vice-chair, Conservative Party Listening to Churches Programme 2000-03;

Member, Cornerstone Group 2005-

Political interests

Defence, foreign affairs, economics, law and order, families, countryside

Countries of interest

Australia, Canada, Lebanon, Middle East, Russia, South Africa, USA

Non-political career

TA officer 1972-82;
Charter Consolidated Ltd 1975-84:
Economic research 1975-77,
Corporate finance 1977-81,
Secretary, board executive committee 1981-84;
Management consultant, H B Maynard International 1984-87
Captain in 21 SAS (Artists) 1989-92

Other organisations

President, Canterbury Sea Cadets 2009-

Publications

Co-author, Not Fit to Fight: The Cultural Subversion of the Armed Forces in Britain and America (Social Affairs Unit, 1999);
Ten pamphlets on defence, social and economic issues (with Bow Group, Centre for Policy Studies and Conservative 2000)

Profile

A right-wing former reserve SAS officer, Julian Brazier was a frontbencher for many years in Opposition but retired to the backbenches and the Defence Select Committee when his party came to power in 2010. He has announced that he will be defending his seat at the 2015 General Election.

Background

Born in 1953, son of an army officer, he was educated at Wellington College and read mathematics as a scholar of Brasenose College, Oxford. After university he worked as a management consultant.

His wife Katherine, daughter of a brigadier-general, works as his part-time executive secretary. They have three sons, including twins born in 1990.

Tall and lean, he keeps fit by regular running. He has written ten pamphlets on political themes, and sometimes travels abroad to give lectures at American and Australian universities.

Political career

Brazier led a hopeless assault on the Liberal stronghold of Berwick on Tweed in 1983, before finding a seemingly impregnable redoubt at Canterbury in 1987.

But he has had to fight to hold the fort. His majority dropped to a marginal 2,069 in 2001. It has recovered since, but he suffered a swing to the Liberal Democrats in 2010.

He was Parliamentary Private Secretary to Gillian Shephard for three years but stepped down to fight defence cuts in 1993.

For eight years he was a diligent and earnest backbencher, a keen defender of traditional family values. He has intervened on army matters, Bosnia, the sell-off of military housing (which he opposed), defence strategy, and the Territorial Army, in which he served for 13 years. He was a member of the Defence Select Committee from 1997 to 2001.

Pro-hanging, a monetarist and a Eurosceptic, he supported John Redwood's leadership bids in 1995 and 1997, and voted for Bill Cash's call for a referendum on Europe in 1996. But he said "No" to a referendum on continued EU membership in 2001 and did not join the big rebellion ten years later.

He has also raised policing, fur farms, ferries, PR, the promotion of family values, the homosexual age of consent, and his local hospital (on which he led five adjournment debates). Originally he was opposed to the Channel Tunnel. In 1996 he was voted Spectator Backbencher of the Year.

In 2001 he was made an Opposition Whip and a year later reached the frontbench as a Shadow Minister for Work and Pensions. It was to be the first of several fairly short postings to Home Affairs, Foreign Affairs and in 2005 Transport, speaking on aviation and shipping, a post he held for five years. He supported Iain Duncan Smith for the leadership in 2001 and David Davis in 2005.

A keen supporter of adoption and fostering, he co-founded the all-party group on the subject and was heavily involved in the Children and Adoption Act of 2002. But he objected to black and mixed-race children being removed from white foster parents, and adoption agencies being forced to accept homosexual couples.

In 2002 he was given a four-month suspended sentence and banned from driving for six months after the death of a motorcyclist in a traffic accident in Italy. He said he would carry the memory for the rest of his life.

In 2003 he voted for a fully-elected chamber, but four years later voted against it, and was one of the 91 Conservative rebels against the House of Lords Reform Bill in 2012. He described this and also the creation of same-sex marriage as "ridiculous fringe policies".

He came fourth in the 2007 ballot for Private Members' Bills and introduced a measure to increase Parliamentary accountability of the British Board of Film Classification including appeals against its decisions.

A practising Roman Catholic, he campaigns against violence in the media, abortion and embryo experimentation. He was president of the Conservative Family Campaign for six years and is a member of the traditionalist Cornerstone group. He voted against civil partnerships, to reduce the time-limit for abortions to 12 weeks, and for independent advice for women seeking abortions.

In 2010 he rejoined the Defence Committee and was elected to the Executive of the backbench 1922 Committee. David Cameron gave him a job co-chairing his review of the Reserve Forces and he also chairs the all-party group on the subject. In May 2014 he stood in the election for a new chair of the Defence Committee, following James Arbuthnot's resignation, which was won by Rory Stewart.

In July 2014, Brazier joined the government as Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Ministry of Defence in the final Cabinet reshuffle before the 2015 General Election.

Contact

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