

Tobias Ellwood MP



Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Constituency: [Bournemouth East](#), South West

Majority: 7,728

Party: Conservative



Westminster

Tobias Ellwood MP
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Relevant contributions

- A link to relevant contributions Tobias Ellwood [has made can be found here.](#)
- Ellwood has plenty of experience of the world, having served across the Middle East and Europe in the Green Jackets and has frequently pushed the government on military issues.
- He has regularly asked questions about Afghanistan, the military drawn down in that country and security across the Middle East.
- Recently Ellwood has questioned the government on policy in Ukraine and relations with Russia.

Responsibilities

Replacing Hugh Robertson, Ellwood will be responsible for; Middle East and North Africa, North America, counter terrorism, defence and international security.

Parliamentary Career

Opposition Whip 2005-07;
Shadow Minister for Culture, Media and Sport 2007-10;
PPS to:
Liam Fox as Secretary of State for Defence 2010-11,
David Lidington as Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office 2011-13,
Jeremy Hunt as Secretary of State for Health 2013-

Past Select committees

Member: Environmental Audit 2005-06,
Armed Forces Bill 2011

All-party groups (office-holding)

Chair, [Afghanistan](#) Group 2010-
Treasurer, [Indonesia](#) Group 2011-

All-party groups (membership)

Member, [United Arab Emirates](#) Group
Member, [Betting and Gaming](#) Group
Member, [Flags and Heraldry](#) Group
Member, [Homeland Security](#) Group
Member, [Jazz Appreciation](#) Group
Member, [Tourism](#) Group
Member, [Scout](#) Group 2012-
Member, [Football Club](#) Group 2012-
Member, [Severn Barrage and Tidal Energy](#) Group 2012-
Member, [America](#) Group 2013-

Party posts

Chair, Conservative Insight 2000;
Branch chair, South West Hertfordshire Conservative Association 1998-2003

Political interests

Defence, education, environment, tourism

Countries of interest

Afghanistan, Iraq, Middle East, USA, Yemen

Non-political career

Army officer, Royal Green Jackets 1991-96, served in Northern Ireland, Cyprus, Kuwait, Germany, Gibraltar and Bosnia;
Researcher to Tom King MP 1996-97;
Senior business development manager:
London Stock Exchange 1998-2002,
Allen and Overy 2002-04

Other organisations

CBI London Council 2000;
Treasurer, Bow Group 2000;
Member, Atlantic Council

Publications

Introduction to the Conservative Party Post-Conflict Reconstruction

Profile

A former Army officer, Stock Exchange manager and action man, Tobias Ellwood entered the House of Commons in 2005 at his second attempt, inheriting the not-quite-so-safe seaside seat vacated by David Atkinson. He had made it slightly safer by 2010.

A moderniser and former treasurer of the Bow Group, he backed David Cameron in the Party leadership contest, and was quickly appointed an Opposition Whip. In 2007 he was promoted to the frontbench as a Shadow Minister for Culture, Media and Sport.

But there was no ministerial post for him in the overcrowded Coalition Government, and he had to settle for the job of Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Defence Secretary Liam Fox. He lost that job when Dr Fox resigned in 2011 but got a new one a week later, as PPS to the Foreign Office Minister David Lidington.

Two years later, he moved to be PPS to the Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt. He is a member of the Parliamentary Delegation to the NATO Assembly and the Prime Minister's adviser on the NATO Summit to be held in Wales in 2014.

He was born in 1966 in New York, where his parents were working for the United Nations. He grew up in Germany and Austria and went to the International School in Vienna, returning to England to go to Loughborough University, where he was president of the students' union.

He then spent five years in the Army, reaching the rank of captain, and serving with the Royal Green Jackets in Northern Ireland, Cyprus, Kuwait in the first Gulf War, Germany, Gibraltar and Bosnia. He was ADC to Field Marshal Sir John Chapple.

He spent a year as a researcher for the former Cabinet Minister Tom King, who was then chairing the Intelligence and Security Committee, and then went to complete an MBA at the City University Business School. In 1998 he returned to New York to work on the campaign to elect Rudolf Giuliani as Mayor.

In 1999 he became senior business development manager at the London Stock Exchange. He was a member of the London council of the Confederation of British Industry.

He earned his campaigning spurs contesting hopeless Worsley, a safe Labour seat, in 2001, where he achieved a small swing to the Tories. He has been a parish and borough councillor in Hertfordshire. He tried for the nomination at Lancaster and Wyre in 2005, but was beaten by Ben Wallace. At Bournemouth he beat Ed Vaizey, now MP for Wantage, and moved to the constituency to work for the law firm Allen and Overy.

His elder brother Jon, a teacher in Vietnam, was killed by a car bomb in Indonesia in the Islamic attacks in 2002. He travelled to Bali to search for his brother, and complained of little help from the British Consulate. He threatened to take the Government to court for failing to give the appropriate warning to travellers and elicited a public apology from the Foreign Secretary Jack Straw.

He is concerned about compensation for British victims of terrorism.

Before his election he said he was convinced that the war in Iraq was wrong. He told the Conservative Party conference in Bournemouth that Tony Blair had misled the country about the threat from Saddam Hussein.

He campaigned on education, advocating the International Baccalaureate to replace A-levels, and on local issues such as the Liberal Democrat council's plans for housing development on Boscombe promenade.

In his maiden speech, he called for local decision-making, and suggested a levy on pubs and clubs to pay for the extra policing needed to deal with late-night drinking and yob culture. He was one of 47 Tory MPs who voted for the smoking ban in 2006. He served on the Environmental Audit Select Committee until his appointment as a Whip.

He has spoken on defence issues, law and order, the green belt, identity cards, the rights of householders. He chairs the All-Party Group on Afghanistan and called for the Afghan opium trade to be allowed to operate under licence, to avoid destroying livelihoods and helping recruitment to the Taliban.

He called for more people to tackle incidents of anti-social behaviour after being pelted with stones by a gang of youths he confronted on an estate in his constituency.

He made history in 2012 as the MP who first tabled a motion calling for the Clock Tower which houses the Big Ben bell to be renamed the Elizabeth Tower in honour of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. He won the support of more than half the House of Commons and it was duly announced that the new name would be adopted.

He has written An Introduction to the Conservative Party and several other publications on Afghanistan, defence and military matters, and emergency services, which he argued should be co-ordinated under a new Department of Homeland Security. He has written in support of double Summer Time.

He married Hannah Ryan in 2005 and has one son. He enjoys playing the saxophone, volleyball, theatre and windsurfing, and has a private pilot's licence. In 2007 he was one of a cross-party group of young MPs who trekked across the Arctic to raise money for charity. Later the same year he experienced a different climate by spending two weeks with other MPs rebuilding an orphanage in Rwanda.

[Contact](#)

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