



**Damian Green MP**  
**Secretary of State for Work and Pensions**

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### **Parliamentary and ministerial career**

- Starting his political career in John Major's policy unit in 1992, Green was elected to Parliament in 1997 and quickly made it onto William Hague's frontbench. He then held a number of positions under successive leaders, including shadow education, transport, and immigration posts.
- During the Coalition he became Minister for Immigration, leaving the position in 2012 to become the Minister of State for Policing, Criminal Justice and Victims.

### **Background**

- Long on the pro-European left of the Party, he was chair of the Conservative Parliamentary Mainstream Group and backed Ken Clarke's leadership campaign in 1997 and 2001.
- Nevertheless, his leadership loyalties came into question when he backed David Davis (now Secretary of State for Leaving the European Union) in 2005.
- As shadow immigration minister he received and made public a number of leaked Home Office documents, leading to his arrest. He was accused by police of 'grooming' a sympathiser in the Home Office, although no charges came to light.
- During the coalition he promised to crack down on what he saw as migrants' benefits culture, introducing tough measures to try and reduce immigration. An example of this was where he defended the UKBA's decision to withdraw sponsorship status from London Metropolitan University.
- He was then moved to cover policing for two years, which were comparatively uneventful.
- Despite his work on immigration he maintains a position on the left of the Party, having warned David Cameron not to listen to the "seductive chorus" of the right.
- Green campaigned for the UK to remain a member of the EU and has defended the BBC, stating that it is "admired around the world".
- He is also an advisor to Bright Blue, a liberal conservative think-tank, which contrary to his previous actions has called for the Government to remove its cap on migration.
- Green has consistently voted with the Government on key work and pensions issues such as scrapping the EMA, the introduction of PIP and Universal Credit and the 'bedroom tax'.
- He has similarly supported the Government in its drive to tackle unemployment, with articles on his website following the Party line.

### **Contact Details**

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