Home Affairs, Justice & Equalities: Movers and Shakers

Profiles of the PPCs you should keep an eye on in your sector.

Dods Political Intelligence

Introduction

This Dods Political Intelligence report provides an overview of the Prospective Parliamentarians that our polling model has predicted to win and hold an interest in Home Affairs, Justice and Equalities. This report should be used to inform you of the candidates that are likely to be key stakeholders in the next Parliament.

The Candidates



Alex Deane
Prospective Parliamentary Candidate
Finchley and Golder's Green
Conservative

Deane completed a Masters in International Studies at Griffith University in Australia before returning to the UK to complete the Graduate Diploma in Law in order to become a lawyer. He took up a place at the Bar and was an active barrister until 2009.

He left the legal life in 2009 to found Big Brother Watch, an organisation which campaigns against state surveillance and threats to freedom. He became director of PR firm Bell Pottinger in 2011.

Deane left to become Head of Public Affairs for communications and PR firm Weber Shandwick in 2011. He moved to FTI consulting in 2014. He served as Managing Director of Strategic Communications and then Senior Managing of Director Strategic Communications.

Immediately after his qualification as a lawyer Deane went to work as a research fellow at the Policy Exchange. He then moved into politics, working as Chief of Staff first to Conservative MP Tim Collins and then for then Shadow Minister David Cameron in 2005. He travelled to Australia briefly to campaign for the Liberal Party in 2007.



Sally Jameson
Prospective Parliamentary Candidate
Doncaster Central Constituency
Labour

Jameson has worked as a prison officer at HMP Moorland.

Jameson has also been a prominent figure in the Prison Officers' Association (POA), serving as a shop steward and branch chair, advocating for the rights and welfare of prison staff.
She was selected to stand for the Labour Party in 2022, following the decision of the House of Commons' First Deputy Chair of Ways and Means, Dame Rosie Winterton, not to seek re-election.

She has previously served as Winterton's election agent, so it was no surprise when she received the backing of her predecessor.

Jameson has been the Constituency Labour Party (CLP) secretary for Doncaster Central since 2018. Her campaign has emphasised the urgent need for repairs and improvements at Doncaster Royal Infirmary.



Jessica Asato
Prospective Parliamentary Candidate
Lowestoft
Labour

Jessica held the role of Head of Public Affairs and Policy at SafeLives, a domestic violence charity before later being appointed Head of Policy and Public Affairs at the charity Barnardo's in 2021.

Asato has worked as a researcher for the Social Market Foundation and as acting director at Progress, a Blairite think tank, from 2008 to 2010. She was then appointed social media lead for David Miliband's campaign for the Labour leadership.

Following Miliband's defeat, Asato became director of the "Labour Yes" campaign, which sought to change the AV voting system at the 2011 referendum.

Asato was also elected as a Councillor for the London Borough of Islington in 2010, where she sat on the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee. She would leave her position on the Council in 2013.

In 2011 Asato was appointed political adviser to Dame Tessa Jowell.



Joshua Babarinde
Prospective Parliamentary Candidate
Eastbourne
Liberal Democrats

Babarinde founded and ran Cracked It, a social enterprise smartphone repair service staffed by ex-offenders and at-risk youth, for six years. His work with the company and was recognised by, among others: a Prime Minister's Commendation in 2018; Social Enterprise of the Year by the Evening Standard in 2019; Forbes 30 Under 30 Social Entrepreneur in 2019; and as an Officer of the Order of the British Empire in 2020.

He then joined the School for Social Entrepreneurs in 2020, first as Head of Learning and Innovation and, after two years, as Head of Entrepreneurship. Babarinde was a trustee for the African Health Policy Network until 2017, The Funding Network until 2021, and The Shackleton Foundation.

He was formerly a councillor on the Lewes District and Eastbourne Borough Council representing Hampden Park ward and served as Vice-Chair of the Racial Diversity Campaign for the Liberal Democrats.



Catherine Fookes
Prospective Parliamentary Candidate
Monmouthshire
Labour

Fookes held the role of director of the Women's Equality Network, Wales between 2017-2023, where she increased the organisation's size and funding.

She began work as a Campaign Co-ordinator in 1993 for Sustain: the alliance for better food and farming. In this role, she lobbied governments to increase support for organic farmers, and organised fundraisers and rallies in support of this objective. While working for Sustain, Fookes began a master's in development studies at the University of Bath, which she completed in 1997.

In 2003 Fookes left Sustain to join Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), where she worked as a development officer, working on a variety of projects including getting local food into schools.

In 2023 Fookes left the Women's Equality Network and set up as a freelance consultant with a focus on campaigns, fundraising and strategic planning.

In addition to her work, Fookes was a Board member of the Food and Drink Wales Industry Board from 2015-2017, and is currently a Governor at Monmouth Comprehensive School, which her son attends.



Patrick Spencer
Prospective Parliamentary Candidate
Central Suffolk and North Ipswich
Conservative

Spencer served as the Head of Work and Welfare Policy at the Centre for Social Justice between 2016-20, before taking on the role of senior adviser to the Secretary of State for Education until 2023.

Spencer attended the University of Leeds, where he studied Political Science and Government from 2007 to 2010. He later pursued a Master of Public Policy at Georgetown University from 2014 to 2016.

His professional career began as an Analyst at Exotic Capital. He was later a Trader at Noble Group. He has also worked as a Consultant at Maitland/AMO and served as Director at IPGL. He has spent time as a Director at the Jobs Foundation, where he now serves as a Trustee, as well as a Fellow at the Centre for Social Justice.

Spencer unsuccessfully contested the West Ham seat as the Conservative candidate in the 2017 general election, where he received 9,837 votes.



Catherine Atkinson
Prospective Parliamentary Candidate
Derby North
Labour

Atkinson has been a barrister since 2007, working in personal injury and clinical negligence litigation. She is often asked by trade unions to represent employees who have been injured at work. She has also worked on unfair dismissal cases, discrimination, whistle blowing and breach of contract.

She is also a Grade 2 prosecutor with particular expertise in fraud. One such case in which she was involved was that of R V Richard Joseph which involved allegations of £1.5m worth of insider dealing and led to the defendant's conviction and sentence of four years in prison.

Atkinson is married to Dan, an army reservist who has served in Afghanistan, they have two children together.