

Rt Hon. John Hutton MP

John was elected to Parliament as the Member for Barrow and Furness in 1992. Following Labour success at the General Election in 1997 John was appointed to the Government and went on to hold Ministerial office for the next eleven years. He became a health Minister in 1998, a post he held until 2005, during which time he covered both health and social services portfolios. He joined the Cabinet in 2005, appointed first as Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and shortly after, promoted again to become Secretary of State for Work and Pensions. In 2007 he became the first Secretary of State for Business. A year later he was appointed Secretary of State for Defence.

During his time in Government, John was closely involved with several major reform initiatives; first of all in health where he helped drive the modernisation of the NHS, and then in the Department for Business with the decision to commit Britain to a new generation of nuclear power stations. At Work and Pensions he led the reform of the welfare state and oversaw the introduction of a new national occupational pension scheme. And at Defence, he instigated and pursued a major reform of the equipment procurement programme.

During his time in politics, John has also pursued his other passion for military history. He has published a history of the men from his constituency who fought in the Great War. Next year he is publishing two more Great War histories.

John is leaving Parliament at the next general election.