

No 5

WOMEN IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

Revised November 1997

Arthur Balfour Lady Astor David Lloyd George

*The introduction of Lady Astor into the House of Commons on 1 December 1919,
from the painting by Charles Sims at Plymouth*

INTRODUCTION

The General Election held in May 1997 resulted in the return of 120 women as Members of Parliament. Whilst this is the highest number yet, it still represents only 17.9% of the total of 659 MPs. This *Factsheet* aims first to give a brief outline of the campaigns to allow women to vote and stand as candidates for election, and then to examine the history of parliamentary representation by women.

GENERAL BACKGROUND

The campaign for the admission of women as Members of the House of Commons was preceded by the fight for women's suffrage, which began in earnest during the second half of the nineteenth century. It is generally recognised, however, that the campaign for the freedom and equality of women had been founded a century earlier by Mary Wollstonecraft; her book *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* was published in 1792.

The first debate in the House of Commons on women's suffrage was initiated by John Stuart Mill, a great advocate of the cause, and held on 20 May 1867. From then on, attempts to pass legislation on the subject were made during almost every parliamentary session, without success, although a few bills passed the second reading stage. Many of the arguments raised at the time against the suffrage of women were held by proponents of the cause as positive reasons for it. For example, it was argued that if women were given the vote, they could not logically be barred from membership of the House of Commons; that if suffrage was granted to women on the grounds that those who must obey the law should be allowed a hand in making it, there could be no argument against universal suffrage; and that if the interests of women were identical with those of men, women's suffrage would not affect the election results, or conversely that women's interests were different and so should be directly represented in Parliament. Although achievement of the campaigners' aims was still many years away at this stage, a small advance was made in 1869, when the franchise for municipal elections was extended to women ratepayers.

Of the many groups and societies formed to promote the cause of women's suffrage, the best known is probably the Women's Social and Political Union, founded in 1903 by Emmeline Pankhurst, who had been campaigning amongst working women in Manchester. In 1905 it was decided that the methods of persuasion which had been employed until that time were achieving little, and a course of more militant action was embarked upon, which resulted in repeated arrests and imprisonments.

The outbreak of the First World War brought about a truce to militancy and propaganda, whilst campaigners devoted themselves to the war effort. However, the subject came to the fore again in 1916 when it became obvious that the movement of military personnel had rendered the electoral register quite out of date. Millicent Garrett Fawcett, as President of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies and acknowledged leader of the constitutional movement, secured a concession from the then Prime Minister, Henry Asquith, that the matter should be considered once more. A conference on electoral reform, chaired by the Speaker, was set up, which in February 1917 recommended a limited measure of women's suffrage. The recommendations were duly enacted in the *Representation of the People Act 1918* (Royal Assent, 6 February 1918), which gave the vote to women over thirty years of age.

After the lengthy struggles to achieve this degree of suffrage for women, it was a matter of some surprise to the campaigners that legislation to make women eligible (at the age of 21) for nomination and election to the House of Commons was passed later in the same year. In fact, with a General Election looming, it was acknowledged that the law was ambiguous, and women were already being chosen as parliamentary candidates. On 23 October 1918, the House of Commons passed a motion (by 274 votes to 25) proposed by Herbert Samuel "that . . . it is desirable that a Bill should be passed forthwith making women eligible as Members of Parliament". Accordingly the *Parliament (Qualification of Women) Bill* was introduced by Lord Robert Cecil, a Government Minister, on 31 October. It was passed, almost without opposition, within three weeks, and received Royal Assent on 21 November, the day that Parliament was dissolved, some three weeks before the General Election.

THE FIRST WOMEN MEMBERS TO BE ELECTED

At the 1918 General Election, out of a total of 1,623 candidates, only 17 were women. Most had been active campaigners in the suffrage movement, including Christabel Pankhurst, daughter of the founder of the Women's Social and Political Union. It was felt that she, along with several other candidates, stood a reasonable chance of success, but she was defeated by 775 votes, although she polled more votes than any of the other women candidates.

In fact the only successful candidate had taken no part in the campaign and was never to take her seat. Countess Constance Markievicz, of Anglo-Irish background and married to a Polish count, had contested the election from her cell in Holloway Prison. She was being held under suspicion of conspiring with Germany during the war (although there is no evidence that she did so), having earlier been released under an amnesty from a life sentence for her part in the Easter Rising. In common with other Sinn Fein members, she did not take her seat, the St Patrick's division of Dublin, in protest against Britain's policy on Ireland.

Although the women candidates who had stood at the 1918 election were prominent in the suffrage movement or dedicated political activists, it was ironic that the first woman to take her seat in the House of Commons had never campaigned for women's rights. American-born Viscountess Astor was elected for the Sutton division of Plymouth on 15 November 1919 at a by-election caused by her husband's accession to the peerage on the death of his father. She was a character of considerable wit and charm, who soon took up the interests of women and children, and in particular those problems related to the abuse of alcohol. In her maiden speech, on 24 February 1920, on this very subject, she concluded by saying: "I do not want you to look on your lady Member as a fanatic or lunatic. I am simply trying to speak for hundreds of women and children throughout the country who cannot speak for themselves." In 1923, the *Intoxicating Liquor (Sale to Persons under Eighteen) Act*, introduced by Lady Astor, became the first Act to result from a bill introduced by a woman Member of Parliament. (Appendix D lists all subsequent Acts to date.)

In fact, the first three women Members of Parliament to take the oath were all elected for seats which had been held by their husbands. Lady Astor was joined in the House of Commons in 1921 by Margaret Wintringham, who was returned for the marginal constituency of Louth, in spite of the fact that she had not spoken in public throughout her campaign, as a mark of respect to her husband.

In 1923 Mabel Hilton Philipson, who as Mabel Russell had been a well-known musical comedy actress, took over as the Conservative Member for Berwick-upon-Tweed after her husband (a National Liberal) had been unseated because of the fraudulent practices of his agent.

A full list of all women Members of the House of Commons since 1918 is given in Appendix B.

FURTHER MILESTONES

The first woman to hold ministerial office was Margaret Bondfield, who, in January 1924, after Baldwin's resignation and the formation of Ramsay MacDonald's Government, was appointed Under Secretary in the Ministry of Labour. However, Miss Bondfield lost her seat at the General Election later that year, but was returned again at a by-election in 1926. On 7 June 1929 she was appointed Minister of Labour, the first woman member of the Cabinet, and also the first British woman politician to be admitted to the Privy Council. She held this position until her parliamentary career came to an end in 1931 when she was defeated, and Labour lost the General Election. A list of all those women Members of the House of Commons who have held ministerial office since Miss Bondfield is given in Appendix C.

In 1928, the voting age for women was lowered to 21 years, the same as for men, by the *Representation of the People (Equal Franchise) Act* (Royal Assent, 2 July 1928). This removed the anomaly which had stood since 1918, that, in theory at least, a woman could be elected as a Member of Parliament up to nine years before she was allowed to vote in parliamentary elections.

Although women MPs had been active in various committees, it was not until the beginning of the 1946-47 session that Mrs Florence Paton became the first woman to be nominated by the Speaker to the Chairmen's Panel of Members to act as temporary chairmen of committees of the whole House and chairmen of standing committees. In the former capacity Mrs Paton became, on 31 May 1948, the first woman to preside over the whole House, during a supply day debate on Scottish civil aviation estimates. She did not, however, sit in the Speaker's Chair, but at the Table, as is the case when the House is in committee.

The first woman actually to occupy the Speaker's Chair was the Rt Hon Betty Harvie Anderson, who was appointed Deputy Chairman of Ways and Means on 2 July 1970. She took the Chair later on the same day, during the debate on the Queen's Speech, when she was addressed as "Mr Deputy Speaker". On 27 April 1992, following the first contested election since 1951, Miss Betty Boothroyd was chosen by the House of Commons as its new Speaker (see also *Factsheet* No 21). Miss Boothroyd had served as Second Deputy Chairman of Ways and Means since 1987, in which capacity she had become the second woman to occupy the Speaker's Chair.

The Conservative victory at the 1979 General Election had brought about another "first", when the Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher became the first British woman Prime Minister, having led the Conservative Party since February 1975. However, a curious postscript to this achievement was that the 1979 election returned the lowest number of women MPs for nearly thirty years. Upon her resignation in November 1990, Mrs Thatcher had been Prime Minister for just over 11½ years, the longest tenure of that office of the twentieth century.

Due, in part, to the Labour Party adopting a policy of women-only shortlists, the General Election of 1 May 1997 saw a greater percentage of women candidates. The largest number of women MPs ever was returned - 120 in total, of which 101 were Labour, 13 Conservative, 3 Liberal Democrat, 2 Scottish National Party and 1 the Speaker (who stands for election not as a party candidate, but as "Speaker seeking re-election").

Fifteen women Members from the 1992 Parliament are no longer Members; they either did not stand or they lost their seat. One woman Member (Sylvia Heal) returned to the House having been elected at a by-election in 1990 but losing it at the 1992 General Election. Of the 243 new Members elected to Parliament for the first time, 71 were women - 64 Labour, 5 Conservative, 2 Liberal Democrat.

Of the current women Members, the Speaker - the Rt Hon Betty Boothroyd - has the longest unbroken service among women MPs, having been elected in 1973. Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody was elected earlier, in 1966, but was not a Member between 1970 and 1974.

The Public Information Office can supply a full list of women Members in the 1997 Parliament and one for the 1992 Parliament.

Appendix A: Statistics of Women MPs elected at General Elections 1918-97

Appendix B: Women MPs 1918 to date, by date of first election

Appendix C: Women MPs who have held ministerial office

Appendix D: Successful Bills introduced by backbench Women MPs

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WOMEN MEMBERS ELECTED AT GENERAL ELECTIONS BETWEEN 1918-1997

Dates	Total	Con	Lab	Lib*	SDP#	Other	Speaker	
1918	14 Dec	-	-	-	-	1		1
1922	15 Dec	1	-	1	-	-		2
1923	6 Dec	3	3	2	-	-		8
1924	29 Oct	3	1	-	-	-		4
1929	30 May	3	9	1	-	1		14
1931	27 Oct	13	-	1	-	1		15
1935	14 Nov	6	1	1	-	1		9
1945	5 July	1	21	1	-	1		24
1950	23 Feb	6	14	1	-	-		21
1951	25 Oct	6	11	-	-	-		17
1955	26 May	10	14	-	-	-		24
1959	8 Oct	12	13	-	-	-		25
1964	15 Oct	11	18	-	-	-		29
1966	31 Mar	7	19	-	-	-		26
1970	18 June	15	10	-	-	1		26
1974	28 Feb	9	13	-	-	1		23
1974	10 Oct	7	18	-	-	2		27
1979	3 May	8	11	-	-	-		19
1983	9 June	13	10	-	-	-		23
1987	11 June	17	21	1	1	1		41
1992	9 April	20	37	2	-	1		60
1997	1 May	13	101	3	-	2	1	120

Note:

By-Elections not included in above list, see Appendix B

* from March 1988, Social & Liberal Democrat, and from October 1989, Liberal Democrat

from June 1990, Social Democrat

APPENDIX B**WOMEN MPs 1918 to date**
(By date of first election)

Dates	Name	Party	Constituency
1918-22	Constance, Countess MARKIEVICZ (did not take seat)	Sinn Fein	Dublin, St Patrick's
By-E 1919-45	Nancy, Viscountess ASTOR, CH	Con	Plymouth, Sutton
1921-24	Mrs Margaret WINTRINGHAM	Lib	Lincolnshire, Louth
By-E 1923-29	Mrs Mabel PHILIPSON	Con	Berwick-upon-Tweed
1923-38	Katherine, Duchess of ATHOLL, DBE	Con	Perth & Kinross, Kinross & Western
1923-24; 1926-31	Rt Hon Margaret BONDFIELD, CH (First Woman Cabinet Minister)	Lab	Northampton; Wallsend (1926-)
1923-24	Miss Dorothy JEWSON	Lab	Norwich
1923-24; 1926-31	Miss Susan LAWRENCE	Lab	East Ham, North
1923-24	Lady Vera TERRINGTON	Lib	Buckinghamshire, Wycombe
1924-31; 1935-47	Rt Hon Ellen WILKINSON	Lab	Middlesbrough, East; Jarrow (1935-)
1927-35	Gwendolen, Countess of IVEAGH, CBE	Con	Southend-on-Sea
1928-29	Hilda RUNCIMAN (later Viscountess)	Lib	Cornwall, St Ives
1929-31	Dr Ethel BENTHAM	Lab	Islington, East
By-E 1929- May 1929	Mrs Florence DALTON	Lab	Durham, Bishop Auckland
1929-31	Mrs Mary HAMILTON, CBE	Lab	Blackburn
By-E 1929-31; 1945-70	Rt Hon Miss Jennie LEE (Mrs A Bevan)	Lab	Lanarkshire, Northern Staffordshire, Cannock (1945-)
1929-51; 1957-66	Lady Megan LLOYD GEORGE	Lib Lab (By-E)	Anglesey Carmarthen (1957-)

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Dates	Name	Party	Constituency
1929-31	Lady Cynthia MOSLEY	Lab	Stoke-on-Trent, Stoke
1929-31	Dr Marion PHILLIPS	Lab	Sunderland
1929-31	Miss Edith PICTON-TURBERVILL, OBE	Lab	Shropshire, The Wrekin
1929-46	Miss Eleanor RATHBONE	Ind	Combined English Universities
By-E 1930-31; 1945-50	Lady Lucy NOEL-BUXTON	Lab	Norfolk, North; Norwich (1945-)
1931-45	Mrs Thelma CAZALET-KEIR, CBE	Con	Islington, East
1931-35	Mrs Ida COPELAND	Con	Stoke-on-Trent, Stoke
1931-35	Miss Marjorie GRAVES	Con	Hackney, South
1931-45; 1950-59	Rt Hon Miss Florence HORSBURGH	Con	Dundee Manchester, Moss- Side (1950-)
By-E 1931- Oct 1931 1945-50	Mrs Leah MANNING	Lab	Islington, East Essex, Epping (1945-)
1931-34	The Hon Mary PICKFORD, CBE	Con	Hammersmith, North
1931-35	Mrs Norah RUNGE, OBE	Con	Bermondsey, Rotherhithe
1931-35	Mrs Helen SHAW, MBE	Con	Lanarkshire, Bothwell
1931-45	Mrs Mavis TATE	Con	Willesden, West Somerset, Frome (1935-)
1931-45; 1950-74	Dame Irene WARD, CH	Con	Wallsend Tynemouth (1950-)
1931-35	Mrs Sarah WARD	Con	Staffordshire, Cannock
By-E 1937-59	Frances, Viscountess DAVIDSON	Con	Hertfordshire, Hemel Hempstead
By-E 1937-45	Mrs Agnes HARDIE	Lab	Glasgow, Springburn
By-E 1938-45; 1945-46	Mrs Jennie ADAMSON	Lab	Dartford Bexley, Kent (1945-)

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Dates	Name	Party	Constituency
By-E 1938-61	Rt Hon Dr Edith SUMMERSKILL, CH	Lab	Fulham, West Warrington (1955-)
1941-45	Mrs Beatrice WRIGHT	Con	Cornwall, Bodmin
By-E 1943-45	Lady Violet APSLEY, CBE	Con	Bristol, Central
1945-70	Rt Hon Alice BACON, CBE	Lab	Leeds, North-East Leeds, South-East (1955-)
1945-70	Mrs Bessie BRADDOCK	Lab	Liverpool, Exchange
1945-79	Rt Hon Barbara CASTLE	Lab	Blackburn
1945-50	Miss Grace COLMAN	Lab	Tynemouth
1945-74	Mrs Freda CORBET	Lab	Camberwell, North-West; Camberwell, Peckham (1950-)
1945-51	Mrs Caroline GANLEY	Lab	Battersea, South
1945-50	Mrs Barbara GOULD	Lab	Hendon, North
1945-70	Rt Hon Mrs Margaret HERBISON	Lab	Lanarkshire, North
1945-59	Mrs Jean MANN	Lab	Lanarkshire, Coatbridge
1945-51	Mrs Lucy MIDDLETON	Lab	Plymouth, Sutton
1945-50	Mrs Muriel NICHOL	Lab	Bradford, North
1945-50	Mrs Florence PATON	Lab	Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe
1945-50	Mrs Mabel RIDEALGH	Lab	Ilford, North
1945-46	Mrs Clarice SHAW	Lab	Ayrshire & Bute, Kilmarnock
1945-50	Mrs Edith WILLS	Lab	Birmingham, Duddeston
By-E 1946-66	Priscilla, Lady TWEEDSMUIR (as Lady Grant of Monymusk to 1948)	Con	Aberdeen, South
By-E 1948-69	Mrs Alice CULLEN	Lab	Glasgow, Gorbals
1950-59	Miss Elaine BURTON	Lab	Coventry, South

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Dates	Name	Party	Constituency
1950-64	Mrs Eveline HILL	Con	Manchester, Wythenshawe
1950-66; 1970-74	Rt Hon Dame Patricia HORNSBY- SMITH, DBE	Con	Kent, Chislehurst
1950-51	Mrs Dorothy REES	Lab	Glamorgan, Barry
1950-70	Mrs Eirene WHITE	Lab	Flintshire, East
By-E 1953-55	Mrs Patricia FORD	UU	Down, North
By-E 1953-59; 1964-79	Mrs Lena JEGER	Lab	Holborn & St Pancras, South
By-E 1953-66	Dame Edith PITT, DBE	Con	Birmingham, Edgbaston
By-E 1953-66	Mrs Harriet SLATER (<i>First Woman Whip</i>)	Lab	Stoke-on-Trent, North
1955-79	Mrs Joyce BUTLER	Lab	Wood Green
1955-64	The Hon Mrs Evelyn EMMET	Con	East Sussex, East Grinstead
1955-64	Mrs Patricia McLAUGHLIN	UU	Belfast, West
1955-74	Dame Joan VICKERS, DBE	Con	Plymouth, Devonport
By-E 1956-74	Miss Mervyn PIKE	Con	Leicestershire, Melton
By-E 1957-66	Lady Muriel GAMMANS	Con	Hornsey
By-E 1958-59	Mrs Mary McALISTAIR	Lab	Glasgow, Kelvingrove
1959-79	Rt Hon Betty HARVIE ANDERSON OBE, TD	Con	Renfrewshire, East
1959-87	Rt Hon Dame Judith HART, DBE	Lab	Lanark; Clydesdale (1983-)
1959-92	Rt Hon Margaret THATCHER (<i>First Woman Prime Minister</i>)	Con	Finchley
By-E 1960-74	Miss Joan QUENNELL	Con	Petersfield
1964-70	Mrs Anne KERR	Lab	Rochester & Chatham
1964-70	Mrs Margaret McKAY	Lab	Wandsworth, Clapham

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Dates	Name	Party	Constituency
1964-87	Mrs Renee SHORT	Lab	Wolverhampton, North-East
1964-83	Dr the Hon Shirley SUMMERSKILL	Lab	Halifax
1964-79; By-E 1981-83	Rt Hon Shirley WILLIAMS	Lab " SDP	Hertfordshire, Hitchin; Hertford & Stevenage (Feb 1974-79); Crosby (1981-83)
1966-70; 1974-	Mrs Gwyneth DUNWOODY	Lab	Exeter; Crewe (Feb 1974-79) Crewe & Nantwich(1983-)
1966-97	Dame Jill KNIGHT, DBE	Con	Birmingham, Edgbaston
1966-83; 1987-97	Miss Joan LESTOR	Lab	Eton & Slough Eccles (1987-)
By-E 1967-70; 1974-79	Mrs Winifred EWING	SNP	Lanarkshire, Hamilton; Moray & Nairn (1974-)
By-E 1969-74	Miss Bernadette DEVLIN <i>(Youngest Woman MP at 21 yrs)</i>	Ind. Unity	Mid-Ulster
1970-74; 1979-97	Dame Peggy FENNER, DBE	Con	Rochester & Chatham; Medway (1983-)
1970-74	Mrs Doris FISHER	Lab	Birmingham, Ladywood
1970-97	Dame Janet FOOKES, DBE <i>(* Second Deputy Chairman of Ways and Means)</i>	*	Merton & Morden; Plymouth, Drake (Feb 1974-)
1970-74	Miss Joan HALL	Con	Keighley
1970-74	Miss Mary HOLT	Con	Preston, North
1970-97	Dame Elaine KELLETT-BOWMAN, DBE	Con	Lancaster
1970-74	Mrs Constance MONKS	Con	Chorley
1970-87	Rt Hon Sally OPPENHEIM	Con	Gloucester
By-E 1973-	Rt Hon Betty BOOTHROYD <i>(First Woman Speaker)</i>	Speaker	West Bromwich; West Bromwich, West (Feb 1974-)

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Dates	Name	Party	Constituency
By-E 1973-74	Mrs Margo MACDONALD	SNP	Glasgow, Govan
Feb 1974-92	Rt Hon Lynda CHALKER	Con	Wallasey
Feb 1974-79	Mrs Maureen COLQUHOUN	Lab	Northampton, North
Feb 1974-94	Jo RICHARDSON	Lab	Barking
Feb 1974-79; 1987-	Audrey WISE	Lab	Coventry, South-West; Preston (1987-)
Oct 1974-79; 1987-	Mrs Margaret BAIN (later Mrs EWING)	SNP	Dunbartonshire, East; Moray (1987-)
Oct 1974-79	Mrs Helene HAYMAN	Lab	Welwyn & Hatfield
Oct 1974-79; 1983-	Miss Margaret JACKSON (later Mrs BECKETT, then) Rt Hon Margaret BECKETT)	Lab	Lincoln; Derby, South (1983-)
Oct 1974-87	Miss Joan MAYNARD	Lab	Sheffield, Brightside
Oct 1974-77	Mrs Millie MILLER	Lab	Ilford North
Oct 1974-83; 1987-	Rt Hon Ann TAYLOR	Lab	Bolton, West; Dewsbury (1987-)
By-E 1976-87	Dr Oonagh McDONALD	Lab	Thurrock
1979-83	Mrs Sheila FAITH	Con	Belper
1979-83	Miss Sheila WRIGHT	Lab	Birmingham, Handsworth
By-E 1982-97	Dame Angela RUMBOLD, DBE	Con	Mitcham and Morden
By-E 1982-	Rt Hon Harriet HARMAN	Lab	Peckham; Camberwell and Peckham(1997-)
By-E 1982-83	Mrs Helen McELHONE	Lab	Glasgow, Queen's Park
1983-97	Mrs Edwina CURRIE	Con	South Derbyshire
1983-87	Mrs Anna McCURLEY	Con	Renfrew West & Inverclyde
1983-97	Mrs Elizabeth PEACOCK	Con	Batley & Spen
1983-	Mrs Marion ROE	Con	Broxbourne
1983-	Rt Hon Clare SHORT	Lab	Birmingham, Ladywood

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Dates	Name	Party	Constituency
1983-	Mrs Ann WINTERTON	Con	Congleton
By-E 1984-	Rt Hon Virginia BOTTOMLEY	Con	South West Surrey
By-E 1984-	Ann CLWYD	Lab	Cynon Valley
By-E 1986-87	Mrs Elizabeth SHIELDS	Lib	Ryedale
By-E 1986-	Mrs Llin GOLDING	Lab	Newcastle-under-Lyme
By-E 1987-92	Mrs Rosie BARNES	SDP	Greenwich
1987-	Miss Diane ABBOTT	Lab	Hackney North & Stoke Newington
1987-	Ms Hilary ARMSTRONG	Lab	North West Durham
1987-	Mrs Maria FYFE	Lab	Glasgow, Maryhill
1987-97	Mrs Mildred GORDON	Lab	Bow & Poplar
1987-	Mrs Teresa GORMAN	Con	Billericay
1987-92	Mrs Maureen HICKS	Con	Wolverhampton, North East
1987-	Mrs Alice MAHON	Lab	Halifax
1987-	Mrs Ray MICHIE	LD	Argyll & Bute
1987-	Rt Hon Marjorie MOWLAM	Lab	Redcar
1987-97	Emma NICHOLSON	Con	Devon, West & Torridge
1987-	Ms Dawn PRIMAROLO	Lab	Bristol South
1987-	Ms Joyce QUIN	Lab	Gateshead, East; Gateshead East and Washington West (1997-)
1987-	Ms Joan RUDDOCK	Lab	Lewisham, Deptford
1987-	Rt Hon Gillian SHEPHARD	Con	South West Norfolk
1987-	Ms Joan WALLEY	Lab	Stoke-on-Trent North
1987-	Rt Hon Ann WIDDECOMBE	Con	Maidstone; Maidstone and the Weald
By-E 1989-	Miss Kate HOEY	Lab	Vauxhall

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Dates	Name	Party	Constituency
By-E 1990-92; 1997-	Mrs Sylvia HEAL	Lab	Mid-Staffordshire; Halesowen and Rowley Regis (1997-)
By-E 1990-	Irene ADAMS	Lab	Paisley North
1992-	Janet ANDERSON	Lab	Rossendale & Darwen
1992-	Mrs Angela BROWNING	Con	Tiverton; Tiverton and Honiton (1997-)
1992-	Mrs Anne CAMPBELL	Lab	Cambridge
1992-93	Mrs Judith CHAPLIN	Con	Newbury
1992-	Ms Ann COFFEY	Lab	Stockport
1992-	Ms Jean CORSTON	Lab	Bristol East
1992-	Angela EAGLE	Lab	Wallasey
1992-	Mrs Cheryl GILLAN	Con	Chesham & Amersham
1992-	Ms Glenda JACKSON	Lab	Hampstead & Highgate
1992-	Helen JACKSON	Lab	Sheffield, Hillsborough
1992-	Dr Lynne JONES	Lab	Birmingham, Selly Oak
1992-	Ms Tessa JOWELL	Lab	Dulwich; Dulwich and West Norwood (1997-)
1992-	Jane KENNEDY	Lab	Liverpool, Broad Green; Liverpool Wavertree (1997-)
1992-97	Mrs Angela KNIGHT	Con	Erewash
1992-97; By-E 1997-	Mrs Jacqui LAIT	Con	Hastings & Rye; Beckenham (1997)
1992-97	Ms Liz LYNNE	LD	Rochdale
1992-97	Lady Olga MAITLAND	Con	Sutton & Cheam
1992-	Ms Estelle MORRIS	Lab	Birmingham, Yardley
1992-	Ms Bridget PRENTICE	Lab	Lewisham East
1992-	Mrs Barbara ROCHE	Lab	Hornsey & Wood Green
1992-	Ms Rachel SQUIRE	Lab	Dunfermline West

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Dates	Name	Party	Constituency
By-E 1993-97	Mrs Diana MADDOCK	LD	Christchurch
By-E 1994-	Ms Margaret HODGE	Lab	Barking
By-E 1994-	Mrs Helen LIDDELL	Lab	Monklands East; Airdrie and Shotts (1997)
By-E 1994-	Ms Judith CHURCH	Lab	Dagenham
By-E 1995-	Ms Roseanna CUNNINGHAM	SNP	Perth & Kinross; Perth (1997)
1997-	Ms Candy ATHERTON	Lab	Falmouth and Camborne
1997-	Ms Charlotte ATKINS	Lab	Staffordshire Moorlands
1997-	Mrs Jackie BALLARD	LDem	Taunton
1997-	Miss Anne BEGG	Lab	Aberdeen South
1997-	Mrs Liz BLACKMAN	Lab	Erewash
1997-	Ms Hazel BLEARS	Lab	Salford
1997-	Mrs Helen BRINTON	Lab	Peterborough
1997-	Ms Karen BUCK	Lab	Regent's Park and Kensington North
1997-	Mrs Christine BUTLER	Lab	Castle Point
1997-	Dr Lynda CLARK, QC	Lab	Edinburgh, Pentlands
1997-	Yvette COOPER	Lab	Pontefract and Castleford
1997-	Mrs Ann CRYER	Lab	Keighley
1997-	Ms Claire CURTIS-THOMAS	Lab	Crosby
1997-	Valerie DAVEY	Lab	Bristol West
1997-	Mrs Janet DEAN	Lab	Burton
1997-	Julia DROWN	Lab	South Swindon
1997-	Maria EAGLE	Lab	Liverpool, Garston
1997-	Mrs Louise ELLMAN	Lab	Liverpool, Riverside
1997-	Ms Lorna FITZSIMONS	Lab	Rochdale

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Dates	Name	Party	Constituency
1997-	Caroline FLINT	Lab	Don Valley
1997-	Ms Barbara FOLLETT	Lab	Stevenage
1997-	Mrs Linda GILROY	Lab	Plymouth, Sutton
1997-	Eileen GORDON	Lab	Romford
1997-	Jane GRIFFITHS	Lab	Reading East
1997-	Ms Patricia HEWITT	Lab	Leicester West
1997-	Ms Beverley HUGHES	Lab	Stretford and Urmston
1997-	Mrs Joan HUMBLE	Lab Fleetwood	Blackpool North and
1997-	Miss Melanie JOHNSON	Lab	Welwyn Hatfield
1997-	Mrs Fiona JONES	Lab	Newark
1997-	Helen JONES	Lab	Warrington North
1997-	Ms Jenny JONES	Lab	Wolverhampton South West
1997-	Ms Sally KEEBLE	Lab	Northampton North
1997-	Ann KEEN	Lab	Brentford and Isleworth
1997-	Ms Ruth KELLY	Lab	Bolton West
1997-	Ms Oona KING	Lab	Bethnal Green and Bow
1997-	Ms Tess KINGHAM	Lab	Gloucester
1997-	Miss Julie KIRKBRIDE	Con	Bromsgrove
1997-	Mrs Eleanor LAING	Con	Epping Forest
1997-	Ms Jackie LAWRENCE	Lab	Preseli Pembrokeshire
1997-	Fiona MACTAGGART	Lab	Slough
1997-	Judy MALLABER	Lab	Amber Valley
1997-	Mrs Theresa MAY	Con	Maidenhead
1997-	Ms Chris McCAFFERTY	Lab	Calder Valley
1997-	Ms Siobhain McDONAGH	Lab	Mitcham and Morden
1997-	Mrs Anne McGUIRE	Lab	Stirling

APPENDIX B cont

Dates	Name	Party	Constituency
1997-	Anne McINTOSH	Con	Vale of York
1997-	Shona McISAAC	Lab	Cleethorpes
1997-	Mrs Rosemary McKENNA, CBE	Lab	Cumbernauld and Kilsyth
1997-	Ms Gillian MERRON	Lab	Lincoln
1997-	Laura MOFFATT	Lab	Crawley
1997-	Ms Margaret MORAN	Lab	Luton South
1997-	Ms Julie MORGAN	Lab	Cardiff North
1997-	Ms Kali MOUNTFORD	Lab	Colne Valley
1997-	Mrs Diana ORGAN	Lab	Forest of Dean
1997-	Ms Sandra OSBORNE	Lab	Ayr
1997-	Ms Linda PERHAM	Lab	Ilford North
1997-	Christine RUSSELL	Lab	Chester, City of
1997-	Joan RYAN	Lab	Enfield North
1997-	Ms Debra SHIPLEY	Lab	Stourbridge
1997-	Angela SMITH	Lab	Basildon
1997-	Miss Geraldine SMITH	Lab	Morecambe and Lunesdale
1997-	Ms Jacqui SMITH	Lab	Redditch
1997-	Ms Helen SOUTHWORTH	Lab	Warrington South
1997-	Mrs Caroline SPELMAN	Con	Meriden
1997-	Dr Phyllis STARKEY	Lab	Milton Keynes South West
1997-	Ms Gisela STUART	Lab	Birmingham, Edgbaston
1997-	Ms Dari TAYLOR	Lab	Stockton South
1997-	Dr Jenny TONGE	LDem	Richmond Park
1997-	Ms Claire WARD	Lab	Watford
1997-	Mrs Betty WILLIAMS	Lab	Conwy
1997-	Ms Rosie WINTERTON	Lab	Doncaster Central

WOMEN MPs WHO HAVE HELD MINISTERIAL OFFICE

Entries appear at date of first holding Government office, not at subsequent holdings of Government office, e.g. all entries for Ann Taylor will be at 1979 not 1997

- 1924 Rt Hon Margaret BONDFIELD
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Labour 1924
#Minister of Labour 1929-31
First Woman Cabinet Minister
- 1924 Duchess of ATHOLL
Parliamentary Secretary, Board of Education 1924-29
- 1929 Miss Susan LAWRENCE
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Health 1929-31
- 1939 Rt Hon Florence HORSBURGH, CBE
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Health 1939-45
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Food 1945
Minister of Education 1951-54
- 1940 Rt Hon Ellen WILKINSON
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Pensions 1940
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Home Security 1940-45
#Minister of Education 1945-47
- 1945 Mrs Jennie ADAMSON
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Pensions 1945-46
- 1945 Mrs Thelma CAZALET-KEIR
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education 1945
- 1945 Rt Hon Edith SUMMERSKILL
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Food 1945-50
Minister for National Insurance 1950-51
- 1950 Rt Hon Margaret HERBISON
Under-Secretary, Scottish Office 1950-51
Minister of Pensions & National Insurance 1964-66
Minister of Social Security 1966-67
- 1951 Miss Patricia HORNSBY-SMITH
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Health 1951-57
Under-Secretary of State, Home Office 1957-59
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Pensions & National Insurance 1959-61

Date when first took office

- 1955 Miss Edith PITT, OBE
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Pensions & National Insurance 1955-57
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Health 1959-62
- 1959 Miss Mervyn PIKE
Assistant Postmaster-General 1959-1963
Under-Secretary, Home Office 1963-64
- 1961 Rt Hon Margaret THATCHER
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Pensions & National Insurance 1961-64
#Secretary of State for Education & Science 1970-74
First Woman Prime Minister, May 1979 - November 1990
- 1962 Rt Hon Lady TWEEDSMUIR (later Baroness, June 1970*)
Under-Secretary, Scottish Office 1962-64
Minister of State, Scottish Office 1970-2*
Minister of State, Foreign & Commonwealth Office 1972-4*
- 1964 Rt Hon Barbara CASTLE
#Minister of Overseas Development 1964-65
#Minister of Transport 1965-68
#Secretary of State for Employment & Productivity 1968-70
#Secretary of State for Social Services 1974-76
- 1964 Rt Hon Dame Judith HART, DBE
Under-Secretary, Scottish Office 1964-66
Minister of State, Commonwealth Relations Office 1966-67
Minister of Social Security 1967-68
Paymaster-General 1968-69
Minister of Overseas Development 1969-1970; 1974-75; 1977-79
- 1964 Rt Hon Alice BACON, CBE
Minister of State, Home Office 1964-67
Minister of State, Department of Education & Science 1967-70
- 1964 Rt Hon Jennie LEE
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Public Building & Works 1964-65
Under Secretary, Department of Education & Science 1965-67
Minister of State, Department of Education & Science 1967-70
- 1964 Mrs Harriet SLATER
Junior Lord of the Treasury (Whip) 1964-66
First Woman Whip

Date when first took office

- 1964 Mrs Eirene WHITE
Under-Secretary, Colonial Office 1964-66
Minister of State for Foreign Affairs 1966-67
Minister of State for Wales 1967-70
- 1966 Rt Hon Shirley WILLIAMS
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Labour 1966-67
Minister of State, Department of Education & Science 1967-69
Minister of State, Home Office 1969-70
#Secretary of State for Prices & Consumer Protection 1974-76
Paymaster General 1976-79
#Secretary of State for Education & Science 1976-79
- 1967 Mrs Gwyneth DUNWOODY
Parliamentary Secretary, Board of Trade, 1967-70
- 1969 Miss Joan LESTOR
Under-Secretary, Department of Education & Science 1969-70;
and 1975-76
Under-Secretary, Foreign & Commonwealth Office 1974-75
- 1972 Dame Peggy FENNER, DBE
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries &
Food 1972-74, and 1981-86
- 1974 Dr Hon Shirley SUMMERSKILL
Under-Secretary, Home Office 1974-79
- 1974 Rt Hon Betty BOOTHROYD
Assistant Government Whip 1974-75; [Second Deputy Chairman of
Ways and Means (Deputy Speaker) 1987-92; Speaker of House of
Commons 1992-]
- 1976 Miss Margaret JACKSON
Assistant Government Whip 1975-76
Under-Secretary, Department of Education & Science 1976-79
(Mrs BECKETT - June 1983 election)
Rt Hon Margaret BECKETT
#President of the Board of Trade and Secretary of State for Trade
and Industry. 1997-
- 1977 Rt Hon Ann TAYLOR
Assistant Government Whip 1977-79
President of the Council and Leader of the House of Commons 1997-
- 1979 Rt Hon Lynda CHALKER [Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, 1992-]
Under-Secretary, Department of Health & Social Security 1979-82
Under-Secretary, Department of Transport 1982-83
Minister of State, Department of Transport 1983-86
Minister of State, Foreign & Commonwealth Office 1986-97
(Minister for Overseas Development 1989-97)

Date when first took office

- 1979 Rt Hon Sally OPPENHEIM
Minister for Consumer Affairs, Department of Trade 1979-82
- 1985 Mrs Angela RUMBOLD CBE
Under-Secretary, Department of the Environment 1985-86
Minister of State, Department of Education & Science 1986-92
- 1986 Mrs Edwina CURRIE
Under-Secretary, Department of Health & Social Security 1986-88
- 1987 Mrs Marion ROE
Under-Secretary, Department of the Environment 1987-88
- 1988 Rt Hon Virginia BOTTOMLEY JP
Under-Secretary, Department of the Environment 1988-89
Minister of State, Department of Health 1989-92
#Secretary of State for Health 1992-95
#Secretary of State for National Heritage 1995-97
- 1989 Rt Hon Gillian SHEPHARD JP
Under-Secretary, Department of Social Security 1989-1990
Minister of State, HM Treasury 1990-92
#Secretary of State for Employment 1992-93
#Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food 1993-94
#Secretary of State for Education 1994-95
#Secretary of State for Education & Employment 1995-97
- 1990 Rt Hon Ann WIDDECOMBE
Under-Secretary, Department of Social Security 1990-93
Under-Secretary, Department of Employment 1993-94
Minister of State, Department of Employment 1994-95
Minister of State, Home Office 1995-97
- 1994 Mrs Angela BROWNING
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food 1994-97
- 1995 Mrs Cheryl GILLAN
Under-Secretary, Department for Education & Employment 1995-97
- 1995 Mrs Angela KNIGHT
Economic Secretary, HM Treasury 1995-97
- 1996 Mrs Jacqui LAIT
Assistant Whip, 1996-97
- 1997 Janet ANDERSON
Her Majesty's Household, Vice-Chamberlain, Whip 1997-
- 1997 Ms Hilary ARMSTRONG
Minister of State, Department for Environment, Transport and the
Regions 1997-

Date when first took office

- 1997 Angela EAGLE
Under Secretary, Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions 1997-
- 1997 Rt Hon Harriet HARMAN
#Secretary of State for Social Security and Minister for Women 1997-
- 1997 Ms Glenda JACKSON, CBE
Under Secretary, Department for Environment, Transport and the
Regions (Minister for Transport in London) 1997-
- 1997 Ms Tessa JOWELL
Minister for Public Health, Department of Health 1997-
- 1997 Jane KENNEDY
Assistant Whip, Treasury 1997-
- 1997 Mrs Helen LIDDELL
Economic Secretary, Treasury 1997-
- 1997 Ms Estelle MORRIS
Under Secretary, Department for Education and Employment 1997-
- 1997 Rt Hon Marjorie MOWLAM
#Secretary of State for Northern Ireland 1997-
- 1997 Ms Bridget PRENTICE
Assistant Whip, Treasury 1997-
- 1997 Ms Dawn PRIMAROLO
Financial Secretary, Treasury 1997-
- 1997 Ms Joyce QUIN
Minister of State, Home Office 1997-
- 1997 Mrs Barbara ROCHE
Under Secretary, Department of Trade and Industry 1997-
- 1997 Ms Joan RUDDOCK
Under Secretary for Women, Department of Social Security 1997-
- 1997 Rt Hon Clare SHORT
#Secretary of State, Department of International Development 1997-

denotes office in Cabinet. This list shows the seven women Members of the House of Commons who have held posts in the Cabinet. In addition Baroness Young, as Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House of Lords, was a Cabinet member from 1982-83.

**LEGISLATION RESULTING FROM BILLS INTRODUCED
BY BACKBENCH WOMEN MPs**

<u>Session</u>	<u>Member presenting the Bill</u>	<u>Title of Act</u>
1922-23	Viscountess ASTOR	Intoxicating Liquor (Sale to Persons under Eighteen) Act 1923
1927-28	Mrs Mabel PHILIPSON	Nursing Homes Registration Act 1927
1928-29	Miss Susan LAWRENCE	Bastardy (Witness Process) Act 1929
1929-30	Duchess of ATHOLL	Illegitimate Children (Scotland) Act 1930
1931-32	Miss Edith PICTON-TURBEVILL	Sentence of Death (Expectant Mothers) Act 1931
1936-37	Miss Florence HORSBURGH	Methylated Spirits (Sale by Retail) (Scotland) Act 1937
1937-38	Miss Ellen WILKINSON	Hire Purchase Act 1938
1937-38	Miss Irene WARD	Poor Law (Amendment) Act 1938
1938-39	Miss Florence HORSBURGH	Adoption of Children (Regulation) Act 1939
1950-51	Mrs Barbara CASTLE	Criminal Law Amendment Act 1951
1951-52	Miss Elaine BURTON	Disposal of Uncollected Goods Act 1952
1953-54	Lady DAVIDSON	Protection of Animals (Anaesthetics) Act 1954
1953-54	Lady TWEEDSMUIR	Protection of Birds Act 1954
1953-54	Miss Irene WARD	Rights of Entry (Gas and Electricity Boards) Act 1954
1957-58	Miss Irene PIKE	Drainage Rates Act 1958
1959-60	Mrs Margaret THATCHER	Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960
1960-61	Dame Irene WARD	Nurses (Amendment) Act 1961

APPENDIX D cont

<u>Session</u>	<u>Member presenting the Bill</u>	<u>Title of Act</u>
1961-62	Dame Irene WARD	Penalties for Drunkenness Act 1962
1962-63	Mrs Patricia McLAUGHLIN	Public Lavatories (Turnstiles) Act 1963
1963-64	Miss Betty HARVIE ANDERSON	Animals (Restriction of Importation) Act 1964
1963-64	Dame Patricia HORNSBY-SMITH	Nurses Act 1964
1963-64	Miss Joan VICKERS	Young Persons (Employment) Act 1964
1964-65	Mrs Lena JEGER	British Nationality Act 1965
1966-67	Mrs Joyce BUTLER	Farm and Garden Chemicals Act 1967
1967-68	Mrs Jill KNIGHT (later Dame)	Design Copyright Act 1968
1968-69	Rt Hon Margaret HERBISON	Licensing (Scotland) Act 1969
1971-72	Dame Joan VICKERS	Affiliation Proceedings (Amendment) Act 1972
1975-76	Jo RICHARDSON	Domestic Violence and Matrimonial Proceedings Act 1976
1983-84	Mrs Elizabeth PEACOCK	Road Traffic (Driving Instruction) Act 1984
1984-85	Miss Janet FOOKES (later Dame)	Sexual Offences Act 1985
1984-85	Mrs Marion ROE	Prohibition of Female Circumcision Act 1985
1988-89	Ms Joan RUDDOCK	Control of Pollution (Amendment) Act 1989
1988-89	Dame Janet FOOKES, DBE	Dangerous Dogs Act 1989
1991-92	Mrs Rosie BARNES	Still-Birth (Definition) Act 1992
1994-95	Mrs Diana MADDOCK	Home Energy Conservation Act 1995
1994-95	Lady Olga MAITLAND	Prisoners (Return to Custody) Act 1995
1995-96	Ms Estelle MORRIS	Public Order (Amendment) Act 1996
1995-96	Lady Olga MAITLAND	Offensive Weapons Act 1996

FURTHER READING

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Brookes, Pamela *Women at Westminster: an account of women in the British Parliament 1918-66* (Peter Davies, 1967)

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Coote, Anna and Pattullo, Polly *Power and Prejudice: women & politics* (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 1990)

Kramer, Ann *Women and Politics* (Wayland Press, 1988)

Lovenduski, Joni and Norris, Pippa *Women in Politics* (Oxford University Press, 1996)

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