

Women Cabinet Ministers 1919 - 2010

This fact sheet shows all of the women who have served as Cabinet members since 1919. At present there are 4 women in the Cabinet out of a total of 23 (last updated 13/10/2010). This is the same number as there was in the last Labour cabinet.

Since 1919 only 32 women have served as Cabinet Ministers. By 1945 there had been only one woman in the Cabinet, by 1970 there had been 5, and by 1997 there had been just 10.

In Office	Minister	Party	Portfolio
1929-1931	Margaret Bondfield	Labour	Labour
1945-1947	Ellen Wilkinson	Labour	Education
1953-1954	Florence Horsburgh	Conservative	Education
1964-1970 1974-1976	Barbara Castle	Labour	Overseas Development, Transport, Employment & Productivity
1968-1969	Judith Hart	Labour	Paymaster General
1970-1974 1979-1990	Margaret Thatcher	Conservative	Education & Science, Prime Minister
1974-1979	Shirley Williams	Labour	Prices & Consumer Protection, Education & Science, Paymaster General
1982-1983	Baroness Young	Conservative	Leader of the House of Lords Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster Lord Privy Seal
1992-1997	Virginia Bottomley	Conservative	Health National Heritage
1992-1997	Gillian Shepherd	Conservative	Employment Agriculture, Fisheries & Food Education & Employment
1997-1998	Ann Taylor	Labour	Leader of the House of Commons Chief Whip
1997-1998 2007- 2010	Harriet Harman	Labour	Social Security Minister for Women Leader of the House of Commons Lord Privy Seal
1997-2001	Mo Mowlam	Labour	Northern Ireland Cabinet Office Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
1997-2003	Clare Short	Labour	International Development
1997-2007	Margaret Beckett	Labour	Trade & Industry Leader of the House of Commons Environment, Food & Rural Affairs Foreign & Commonwealth Office

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1998-2001	Baroness Jay	Labour	Lord Privy Seal Leader of the House of Lords Minister for Women
2001-2003	Helen Liddell	Labour	Scotland
2001-2002	Estelle Morris	Labour	Education & Skills
2001-2007	Patricia Hewitt	Labour	Trade & Industry Health
2001-2007 2009- 2010	Tessa Jowell	Labour	Culture, Media & Sport Cabinet Office Paymaster General
2001-2007	Hilary Armstrong	Labour	Chief Whip Cabinet Office Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
2003-2007	Baroness Amos	Labour	International Development Leader of the House of Lords
2004-2008	Ruth Kelly	Labour	Cabinet Office Education Community & Local Government Transport
2006-2009	Hazel Blears	Labour	Minister without Portfolio Communities & Local Government
2006-2009	Jacqui Smith	Labour	Home Office
2007-2008	Baroness Ashton	Labour	Leader of the House of Lords Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
2008 - 2010	Yvette Cooper	Labour	Chief Secretary to the Treasury Work & Pensions
2008 - 2010	Baroness Royall	Labour	Leader of the House of Lords Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
2010 -	Theresa May	Conservative	Home Secretary Minister for Women & Equalities
2010 -	Cheryl Gillan	Conservative	Secretary of State for Wales
2010 -	Caroline Spelman	Conservative	Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
2010 -	Baroness Warsi	Conservative	Minister Without Portfolio (unpaid)