



Cabinet Secretary

28 June 2020

Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street

Two years ago, when my predecessor fell ill, your predecessor asked me to step in as Cabinet Secretary, and you asked me to continue in order to support you through Brexit and the Election period. It was obviously right to stay on for the acute phase of the Covid-19 crisis. As you are setting out this week, the Government's focus is now shifting to domestic and global recovery and renewal.

As we have discussed over the past few months, while the combined model was right for the circumstances of my tenure, as you lead the country through this next phase, you will need a separate National Security Adviser to support you on the global agenda, permitting the Cabinet Secretary to focus on the domestic agenda. They should see you through the rest of this Parliament. Therefore, we have agreed that I will stand down and leave government service at the end of September. I will, of course, support you wholeheartedly meanwhile, including in the induction of my successors, and I look forward to chairing the G7 panel on global economic security as the UK assumes the presidency.

I am fortunate to have served in some of the most challenging and rewarding jobs in national and international public service under seven prime ministers and in extraordinary times. I am grateful for your confidence and friendship as both Foreign Secretary and Prime Minister. I wish you well and, of course, remain at your disposal in the years ahead.

It has been a privilege to serve.

MARK SEDWILL