



Cabinet Office

Annual Report on Special Advisers 2020

15 December 2020



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Special Advisers

Special advisers are temporary civil servants appointed to add a political dimension to the advice and assistance available to Ministers. In doing so they reinforce the political impartiality of the permanent Civil Service by distinguishing the source of political advice and support.

In accordance with section 16 of the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010, the Cabinet Office publishes an annual report containing the number and costs of special advisers. This information is presented below.

The Cabinet Office also routinely publishes the names of all special advisers along with information on salaries. In accordance with the Information Commissioner's Office guidance on publishing personal data, the salaries of those special advisers earning salaries equivalent to senior civil servants (£70,000 or more) are given in bands of £5,000.

Special adviser pay bands are also published.

Number of Special Advisers

As at 31 March 2020, there were 102 (101.7 full-time equivalent) special advisers working across the whole of Government. The total Civil Service had 456,410 (423,770 full-time equivalent) civil servants as at 31 March 2020.¹

Cost of Special Advisers

The special adviser pay bill for the financial year 1 April 2019 – 31 March 2020 was £9.6 million. Special advisers represent an estimated 0.05 per cent of the total Civil Service pay bill.²

	1 April 2019 – 31 March 2020	1 April 2018 – 31 March 2019
Salary Costs	£6.9m	£7.1m
National Insurance Contributions	£0.8m	£0.9m
Pension Contributions	£1.9m	£1.6m
Total Pay Cost	£9.6m	£9.6m

¹ Information taken from the Civil Service Statistical Bulletin [Civil Service statistics](#)

² This is based on a Cabinet Office estimate of the cost of staff in the Civil Service as at March 2020

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A special adviser's appointment automatically ends when their appointing Minister ceases to hold the ministerial office in relation to which the adviser was appointed to assist, or if earlier, immediately following a parliamentary general election. In accordance with section 14 of the Model Contract for Special Advisers, a special adviser is entitled to receive a severance payment in these circumstances. Between 1 April 2019 and 31 March 2020, £2.7m was paid in severance to special advisers. This reflects the turnover due to the change in administration and due to the general election. Special advisers who re-join after the election repay their severance as laid out in the Model Contract for Special Advisers.

Short Money

In 2019-20, opposition parties received £9.7 million of Short Money and £1.1 million of Cranborne Money.³ Returns on Short Money spending on political staff are published on parliament.uk.⁴

Special Adviser pay bands

PB1 - £40,500 - £60,500

PB2 - £57,000 - £80,000⁵

PB3 - £73,000 - £102,000

PB4 - £96,000 - £145,000

³ <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/sn01663/>

⁴ <https://www.parliament.uk/site-information/foi/transparency-publications/hoc-transparency-publications/financial-information/financial-assistance-to-opposition-parties/>

⁵ Following a review this has been amended from the previous financial year

List of Special Advisers

The list reflects the special advisers in post as at 15 December, which equates to 116 (114.7 full-time equivalent) special advisers working across the whole of Government.

Appointing Minister	Special Adviser	Pay Band	Salary Band (if £70,000 or above)
The Prime Minister, First Lord of the Treasury, Minister for the Civil Service and Minister for the Union ⁶ - The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP	Nikki Da Costa	4	£125,000-£129,999
	Jack Doyle	4	£110,000-£114,999
	David Frost	4	£125,000-£129,999
	Alex Hickman	4	£110,000-£114,999
	Clare King	4	£110,000-£114,999
	Oliver Lewis	4	£110,000-£114,999
	Sir Edward Lister	4	£140,000-£144,999
	Munira Mirza	4	£140,000-£144,999
	Dan Rosenfield	4	£140,000-£144,999
	Allegra Stratton	4	£125,000-£129,999
	Ben Warner	4	£110,000-£114,999
	Jack Airey	3	£70,000-£74,999
	Rosie Bate-Williams	3	£75,000-£79,999
	John Bew	3	£90,000-£94,999
	Henry Cook	3	£85,000-£89,999
	Rory Geoghegan	3	£80,000-£84,999
	Andrew Gilligan	3	£95,000-£99,999
	Logan Graham	3	£80,000-£84,999
	Luke Graham	3	£90,000-£94,999

⁶ Lee Cain and Dominic Cummings are in the process of leaving their government posts and are not included in the above list. They are, however, included in the December FTE numbers. Both individuals were in PB4 and pay band £140,000-£144,999.

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	Jonathan Hellewell	3	£75,000-£79,999
	Katharine Howell	3	£85,000-£89,999
	Samuel Kasumu	3	£70,000-£74,999
	Katie Lam	3	£75,000-£79,999
	Declan Lyons	3	£70,000-£74,999
	Elena Narozanski	3	£80,000-£84,999
	Andrew Parsons ⁷	3	£100,000-£104,999
	James Phillips	3	£80,000-£84,999
	Meg Powell-Chandler	3	£85,000-£89,999
	Jean-Andre Prager	3	£70,000-£74,999
	Sam Richards	3	£70,000-£74,999
	Chloe Sarfaty ⁷	3	£75,000-£79,999
	Rajiv Shah	3	£70,000-£74,999
	Will Warr	3	£80,000-£84,999
	Sheridan Westlake	3	£85,000-£89,999
	Shelley Williams-Walker	3	£75,000-£79,999
	Joel Winton	3	£90,000-£94,999
	Michael Young	3	£70,000-£74,999
	Ross Allan	2	
	Hugh Bennett	2	
	Leonora Campbell	2	
	Danielle Dove	2	
	Daniel El-Gamry	2	
	Rory Gribbell	2	
	Stephanie Lis	2	
	Marcus Natale	2	

⁷ Works part time – salary band is FTE

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	Sophia True	2	
	Ed Whitehead	2	
	Christopher James	1	
	Ed Oldfield	1	
	Philip Peters	1	
	Chloe Westley	1	
Chancellor of the Exchequer (Joint No10/HMT Economic Unit) – The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP and The Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP	Liam Booth-Smith	4	£110,000-£114,999
	Michael Webb	4	£110,000-£114,999
	Douglas McNeill	3	£95,000-£99,999
	Nerissa Chesterfield	2	
	Cass Horowitz	2	
	Rupert Yorke	2	£70,000-£74,999
	Lisa Lovering ⁷	1	
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth and Development Affairs, First Secretary of State – The Rt Hon Dominic Raab MP	Beth Armstrong	3	£80,000-£84,999
	Robert Oxley	3	£85,000-£89,999
	Simon Finkelstein	2	
	Will Sweet	2	
Secretary of State for the Home Department – The Rt Hon Priti Patel MP	Hannah Guerin	2	
	Charlotte Miller	2	
	Harry Methley	2	
Minister for the Cabinet Office, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster – The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP	Henry Newman	3	£80,000-£84,999
	Josh Grimstone	2	
	Charles Rowley	2	
Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice – The Rt Hon Robert Buckland QC MP	Ben Jafari	2	
	Alexander Wild	2	
Secretary of State for Defence – The Rt Hon Ben Wallace MP	Lucia Hodgson	2	£75,000-£79,999
	Peter Quentin	2	£80,000-£84,999

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	Daisy Peck	1	
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care – The Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP	Emma Dean	2	
	Allan Nixon	2	
	Damon Poole	2	
Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy – The Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP	Cameron Brown	2	
	Alex Hitchcock	2	
	Celia McSwaine	1	
Secretary of State for International Trade and President of the Board of Trade, Minister for Women and Equalities – The Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP	Adam Jones	2	
	Sophie Jarvis	2	
Secretary of State for Work and Pensions – The Rt Hon Thérèse Coffey MP	Rhiannon Padley	2	
	Jessica Prestidge	2	
	Ed Winfield	2	
Secretary of State for Education – The Rt Hon Gavin Williamson CBE MP	Iain Mansfield	2	£75,000-£79,999
	Angus Walker	2	£75,000-£79,999
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs – The Rt Hon George Eustice MP	Emma Pryor	2	
	Saratha Rajeswaran	2	£70,000-£74,999
Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government – the Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP	Thomas Kennedy	2	
	Olivia Oates	2	£70,00-£74,999
	Jack Lewy	1	
Secretary of State for Transport – The Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP	Neil Tweedie	2	£75,000-£79,999
	Meera Vadhver	2	£70,000-£74,999
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland – The Rt Hon Brandon Lewis CBE MP	Amy Fisher	2	£80,000-£84,999
	Isabel Bruce	2	
	Oliver Legard	1	
Secretary of State for Scotland –	John Cooper	2	

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The Rt Hon Alister Jack MP	Magnus Gardham	2	
	Geoff Mawdsley	2	
Secretary of State for Wales – The Rt Hon Simon Hart	Jack Sellers	2	
	Olivia Williams	1	
Leader of the House of Lords, Lord Privy Seal – The Rt Hon Baroness Evans of Bowes Park	Annabelle Eyre	3	£80,000-£84,999
	Hannah Ellis	1	
	Yasmin Kalhori	1	
Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport – The Rt Hon Oliver Dowden CBE MP	Mike Crowhurst	2	
	Lucy Noakes	2	£70,000-£74,999
Leader of the House of Commons, Lord President of the Council – The Rt Hon Jacob Rees-Mogg MP	Beatrice Timpson ⁸	2	
	Fred de Fossard	1	
Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury (Chief Whip) – The Rt Hon Mark Spencer MP	Simon Burton	3	£80,000-£84,999
	Sophie Bolsover	2	
	David Sforza	1	
Attorney General – The Rt Hon Suella Braverman QC MP	Chris Jenkins	2	£70,000-£74,999
Chief Secretary to the Treasury – The Rt Hon Steve Barclay MP	Aled Maclean-Jones	1	
Minister Without Portfolio – The Rt Hon Amanda Milling MP	Emily Maister ⁷	1	

⁸ Temporarily supporting the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care