

Political Peerages December 2024

Nominations from the Leader of the Labour Party:

Wendy Alexander FRSE

Professor Wendy Alexander FRSE is Vice Chair of the British Council, Chair of Times Higher Education's International Education Advisory Board, Scottish Government Trade & Investment Envoy for Higher Education and former Labour Leader in the Scottish Parliament. As adviser to Rt Hon Donald Dewar she was key architect of devolution. From 1999, as Member of the Scottish Parliament for Paisley North, she held various Scottish Government cabinet posts. In 2010–2011 she convened the Scotland Bill Committee on financial powers of the Scottish Parliament. After leaving politics, she was appointed Associate Dean at London Business School, and in 2015 Vice-Principal (International) University of Dundee and subsequently a Professor of International Education. In 2022, she was appointed a British Council Trustee. In 2016 she was elected FRSE and is a Patron to Social Investment Scotland.

Sir Brendan Barber

Sir Brendan Barber was a trade union official. He served as General Secretary of the Trades Union Congress (TUC) from June 2003 until the end of 2012 during which time he also served on the Court of Directors of the Bank of England. After his retirement from the TUC he was appointed Chair of the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS) where he served from 2014 to 2020. He has also served on the Boards of Transport for London, Britain Stronger in Europe, the Financial Services Culture Board, Openreach and the Joint Industry Board for the electro technical industry. He has also served on the Council of City St George's, University of London and as a Trustee of the Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts.

Luciana Berger

Luciana Berger is Chair of the Maternal Mental Health Alliance, a UK charity and network of 130 organisations, dedicated to ensuring women and families affected by perinatal mental health problems have access to high-quality, equitable, compassionate care. Berger also served as an MP for almost a decade. During her time in the Commons, she held prominent roles, including as the first-ever Shadow Cabinet Member for Mental Health. Luciana was also a leading member of the Health and Social Care Select Committee and presented the

findings of the Committee's inquiry into children and young people's mental health to parliament. Today she serves on the Money and Mental Health Policy Institute advisory board and is Vice-President of the British Association of Counsellors and Psychotherapists. Berger is also Chair of the Mental Health Advisory Group for the Youth Futures Foundation - the national What Works Centre for youth employment.

Mary Bousted

Professor Bousted began her career as an English teacher. She received a Master's degree from the UCL Institute of Education and a PhD from the University of York. Throughout her career she has campaigned to improve teachers' working lives, remaining a strong advocate for effective education policy. She was the Joint General Secretary of the National Education Union (NEU), the largest education union in Europe with over five hundred thousand members. Prior to this she was the General Secretary of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers. In both these roles she represented the teaching profession to various international and national stakeholders, the government and employers. In her book *Support Not Surveillance* (2022) she explores potential resolutions to the teacher retention crisis.

Kevin Brennan

Kevin Brennan is a Welsh Labour politician who served as the Member of Parliament (MP) for Cardiff West from 2001 to 2024. He served as a Government Whip 2005-7, as Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Children, Schools and Families 2007-8, Cabinet Office Minister 2008-9 and Minister of State at the Department for Business, Innovation and from 2009 to 2010. Brennan served in various shadow ministerial positions from 2010 to 2020 as a Shadow Minister for BIS, Education, and Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). He was Shadow Minister for Victims and Sentencing from September 2023 before his retirement in 2024. He has since served as Chief Adviser to the First Minister of Wales. In 2023 he was awarded an Ivors Academy Honour for his campaigning for better remuneration for musicians, songwriters and composers.

Lyn Brown

Lyn Brown is a British politician who served as Member of Parliament (MP) for West Ham from 2005 to 2024. A member of the Labour Party, she was a Newham Councillor 1988 – 2005 taking a number of local, regional and national roles in Local Government during that time. She also served as a Gov Whip 2009-10 and

in the Whips Office until 2014 when she became a Shadow Minister at DCLG. Shadow Minister for the Home Office from 2015 to 2016, Shadow Policing Minister from 2016 to 2017, Shadow Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury from 2018 to 2020, and Shadow Minister for Prisons and Probation from 2020 to 2021. She served as the Shadow Minister for Africa until standing down from parliament.

Dinah Caine CBE

Dinah Caine is the Chair of Camden STEAM. She recently completed her term as Chair of Goldsmiths University and was formally a member of the Creative Industries Council and CEO and Chair of Creative Skillset. She has served as a member of the Civic Universities Commission and the Warwick Commission inquiry into the Future of Cultural Value. Other experience includes serving on the London Skills and Employment Board advising two Mayors of London and membership of the joint Board of the Scottish Arts Council and Scottish Screen and the Northern Ireland Film & TV Commission. She has been awarded the OBE and CBE for her services to the Media and Creative Industries. She is a member of the British Academy of Film & Television Arts (BAFTA), a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and was awarded Fellowship of the Royal Television Society for her outstanding contribution to the Television Industry in 2002.

Kay Carberry CBE

Kay Carberry, CBE is the former Assistant General Secretary of the British Trades Union Congress (TUC). She worked as a teacher for three years and became active in the National Union of Teachers (NUT). She began working for the TUC in 1978, and in 1988 was appointed as the first head of its Equal Rights Department. In 2003, she was appointed to the vacant post of Assistant General Secretary of the TUC. Carberry was a commissioner on the Equality and Human Rights Commission, and the Equal Opportunities Commission. She served on the Civil Justice Council, was a commissioner of the Low Pay Commission until 2022, and was a board member of Transport for London until September 2024. She is a trustee of the People's History Museum, a director of TU Fund Managers, a director of Progressive Britain, an alternate member of The Takeover Panel and an honorary fellow of St Hugh's College Oxford.

Margaret Curran

Margaret Curran is a Scottish Labour Party politician. She served in the British House of Commons as the Member of Parliament (MP) for Glasgow East from 2010 to 2015 and was Shadow Secretary of State for Scotland from 2011 until

2015. She was previously the Member of the Scottish Parliament (MSP) for Glasgow Baillieston from 1999 to 2011 and held a number of posts within the Scottish Executive, including Minister for Parliamentary Business, Minister for Social Justice and Minister for Communities. Margaret continues to work with a range of organisations, mostly not for profit, to support Parliaments in emerging and challenged democracies develop good governance and promote strategies to enhance women's political participation and representation. Margaret has worked in over 20 countries across the globe, at times participating in mentoring programmes. She has also acted as an election monitor.

Thangam Debbonaire

Thangam Debbonaire is a British politician who was MP for Bristol West (2015 – 2024). She served as Shadow Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, (2023 – 2024), Shadow Leader of the House of Commons (2021 – 2023) and Shadow Secretary of State for Housing (2020 – 2021). She was a professional classical cellist until 2009, mostly chamber music and theatre. In domestic violence work: National Children's Officer for Women's Aid Federation England (1991 – 1998); independent trainer and consultant on domestic violence responses for local authorities and the government of Ireland (1998 – 2010); National Accreditation Officer (2005 – 2008) and National Research Manager (2008 – 2015), for Respect, UK organisation for work with domestic violence perpetrators; group work practitioner with perpetrators at DVIP (2008 – 2010).

Julie Elliott

Julie Elliott is a British Labour Party politician, who served as Member of Parliament (MP) for Sunderland Central from 2010 to 2024. Elliott served as Shadow Minister for Energy and Climate Change from October 2013 to September 2015, with specific responsibility for renewable energy, Green Investment Bank, skills and supply chain issues. Elliott served on The Panel of Chairs; The Westminster Foundation for Democracy and The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. For nine years Elliott was a member of The Digital Culture Media and Sport select committee and its sub committee on Disinformation. Elliott served on a number of other committees including Regulatory Reform; Business Innovation and Skills and European Scrutiny. Elliott chaired many All-Party Parliamentary groups including Rugby Union; Digital Skills; Digital Inclusion; Britain Palestine; Northern Powerhouse; Children's Media and the Arts; Human Microbiome; vice chair of State Pension Inequality for Women. Elliott was vice chair of The Parliamentary Labour Party.

David Evans

David Richard Evans is a British political official. Appointed as General Secretary of the Labour Party in May 2020, he served in that role until September 2024. He joined the Labour Party in 1979, and held a variety of voluntary positions. He was a local councillor in the London Borough of Croydon 1986-1990. He began his professional career for the Party in 1986, during which time we was a local organiser, regional official, Regional Director of Labour North West and Assistant General Secretary from 1999 until after the 2001 General Election. In 2001 he jointly founded The Campaign Company, which specialised in behavioural insight for local authorities, charities and membership-based organisations.

Sue Gray

Sue is a former civil servant with extensive experience spanning 40 years across a range of departments serving in both delivery and policy roles. Her experience in UK government departments includes the Cabinet Office and DLUHC where she served as Second Permanent Secretary with responsibility for the Union, devolution and the constitution. Prior to this she served as Director General with responsibility for Propriety and Ethics issues serving multiple Prime Ministers and Cabinet Secretaries. During the period 2018 to 2021, Sue served in the NI devolved government as the Permanent Secretary of the Department of Finance, NI Executive which included a period in which there was no government at Stormont. Sue also served as chief of staff to Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer and previously when Leader of the Opposition.

Theresa Griffin

Theresa Griffin is a politician who served as a Labour Party Member of the European Parliament (MEP) for North West England from 2014 to 2020. Theresa was a full member of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy and was Chair of the European Parliamentary Labour Party to 2020. She is currently the Chair of the Forum for European Electrical Domestic Fire Safety, a non for profit, championing fire safety, Theresa has been tackling energy poverty and has been campaigning for a 'just transition' to a carbon neutral Energy Union since joining the Parliament. Theresa won the Energy MEP of the Year in 2017. She was also actively involved in the Parliament's Intergroups on LGBTI, Cancer and Trade Unions.

Anji Hunter

Anji Hunter worked for Tony Blair while he was an Opposition MP and then Prime Minister from 1987 to 2002. She was Director of Government Relations in Downing Street. She left to become Global Director of Communications at BP. In 2009 she was appointed Head of Government Relations and External Affairs by Anglo American plc. She then became the founding director of the Queen Elizabeth Prize for Engineering at the Royal Academy of Engineering. Since then she has been a Senior Adviser at Edelman, the global communications company. She is on the board of Governors of the Birmingham Business School and the Snowdon Trust and is a member of the Commonwealth Observer Group and the Three Faiths Forum. She is a graduate of the University of Brighton and has two Honorary doctorates. She has been an active member of the Labour Party since 1987.

Carwyn Jones

Carwyn Howell Jones is a Welsh politician who served as First Minister of Wales and Leader of Welsh Labour from 2009 to 2018. Jones served as the Member of the Senedd (MS) for Bridgend from 1999 to 2021. Jones served in the Cabinet as Secretary for Agriculture and Rural Development in the Welsh Government from 2000 to 2002, Minister for Open Government from 2002 to 2023 and as Minister for the Environment, Countryside and Planning from 2003 to 2007. Following the 2007 election, he was appointed Minister for Education, Culture and the Welsh Language, and thereafter Counsel General for Wales and Leader of the House following the One Wales coalition agreement with Plaid Cymru. He was called to the Bar at Gray's Inn in 1989 and is a Master of the Bench at Gray's Inn and Professor of Law at Aberystwyth University. He is a member of the Privy Council.

Mike Katz

Mike Katz has been National Chair of the Jewish Labour Movement since 2019, having previously served as vice-chair. He sat on the Labour Party's antisemitism advisory board for JLM. Since becoming Chair, JLM has worked with the Labour Party to implement the recommendations of the ground-breaking Equality and Human Rights Commission report, including training MPs, party staff and members. Mike is a former Parliamentary and London Assembly candidate and was a councillor in Camden from 2010 to 2014. He sits on London Labour's Regional Executive and was a Labour National Policy Forum member. He is a trustee of Yachad, a former trustee of West London Synagogue and sits on the Daily Mirror's Editorial Advisory Board. Mike has worked in the transport sector for more than two decades; working for rail union TSSA as its political officer,

bus and rail operator FirstGroup and in consultancy, advising on policy and public affairs.

Gerard Lemos CMG CBE

Gerard Lemos joined His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service as Lead Non-Executive Board Member on 1 May 2018. Gerard is Chair of English Heritage, National Savings & Investments, London Institute of Banking and Finance and Hofesh Shechter Dance Company. He is the author of many publications about social policy and supporting vulnerable people, including *The Good Prison: Conscience, crime and punishment* published in 2014. His former roles include Chair of the Board of Trustees of the British Council, Vice-President of the British Board of Film Classification, Chair of Payments UK, the Lending Standards Board, Banking Code Standards Board, Notting Hill Housing, and the Money Advice Service; a trustee of London University and Dartington Hall Trust, and an Audit Commissioner, a Civil Service Commissioner and a non-executive director of the Crown Prosecution Service. In 2024 Gerard published a book on *Childhood and Contemporary Catholicism*.

Alison Levitt KC

Alison Levitt KC was called to the Bar by Inner Temple in 1988 and appointed Queen's Counsel in 2008, specialising in murder, rape, fraud and all areas of serious crime. After twenty years in private practice in chambers in London, she became the Principal Legal Advisor to the Director of Public Prosecutions. She has conducted a number of investigations and inquiries, including the Crown Prosecution Service's review of its handling of allegations made against Jimmy Savile. After leaving the CPS, she became a partner at the law firm Mishcon de Reya, where she established and headed their White Collar Crime group specialising in complex fraud. She has been a Master of the Bench of the Inner Temple since 2010. She is a former Chair of the Young Bar and a former Secretary of the Criminal Bar Association of England and Wales. She became a Recorder in 2007 and was a Circuit Judge from 2021-2024.

Anne Longfield CBE

Anne Longfield CBE campaigner for children who formerly served as the Children's Commissioner for England. She is the founder & Executive Chair of the Centre for Young Lives dedicated to opportunities for all children and families. Anne has spent over three decades working to improve the life chances

of children, particularly the most vulnerable. Previously, Anne led a Commission on Young Lives to create a national plan to support vulnerable young people & protect them from violence and crime. She also led a national children's charity and has also worked on the delivery of the Sure Start programme in the Cabinet Office. Anne was also Special Advisor to the Lords Public Services Committee on their inquiry into public services and vulnerable children and is the Independent Chair of the NHS Children and Young People Learning Disability and Autism Board.

Deborah Mattinson

Deborah Mattinson is one of the UK's leading pollsters and strategists. In 2010 she co-founded BritainThinks, an agency providing clients from the corporate world, voluntary sector and government with insight and strategic advice. Before this, she jointly ran the Chime research and engagement division. She was pollster to Gordon Brown, firstly as Chancellor of the Exchequer, then as Prime Minister and served as Director of Strategy to Keir Starmer from 2021 until the 2024 General Election. A highly respected commentator on public opinion, Deborah frequently writes and broadcasts about the mood of the nation. In 2010, she published Talking to a Brick Wall and in 2020 she published Beyond the Red Wall.

Stephen McCabe

Steve McCabe is a British politician who served as a Member of Parliament (MP) from 1997 to 2024. A member of the Labour Party, he represented Birmingham Hall Green from 1997 to 2010 and Birmingham Selly Oak from 2010 onwards. Previously he was as an Adviser for the Central Council for Education and Training in Social Work. He is a former social worker. He has served as Parliamentary Private Secretary to Rt Hon Charles Clarke. He also served as a Government Whip from 2006-2010. In the 2010 election he served on the Home Affairs Select Committee and Labour's Parliamentary Committee. In Oct 2013 till Sept 2015 served as Shadow Education Minister and since Oct 2015 serving on the Work & Pensions Committee and Panel of Chair. He served as the Shadow Minister for Veterans from November 23 until the election. He was the Chair of Labour Friends of Israel 2020-23.

Claude Moraes OBE

Claude Moraes OBE is a British Labour Party politician and campaigner who was a Member of the European Parliament (MEP) for London between 1999 and 2020. He was chair of the Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs Committee,

deputy leader of the European Parliamentary Labour Party and vice-president of the Socialists and Democrats Group. In the European Parliament his work included chairing the Inquiry into Facebook, chairing legislation such as the Anti Money Laundering Directive (AMLD) and negotiating for the Parliament on a number of data protection, data adequacy and security agreements. Prior to being elected an MEP he was amongst other things director of a national independent NGO and a policy officer at the Trades Union Congress.

Wendy Nichols

Wendy Nichols is the UNISON Yorkshire and Humberside Regional Convenor and Branch Secretary for North Yorkshire. Wendy also served as UNISON'S President in 2015 -2016. After leaving school, Wendy took hotel management and catering courses, following her mum's footsteps into school meals. She then worked as a cook in a residential care home before being promoted to the post of deputy manager. Her involvement in unions goes back to the start of her career in the early 1980s and she has been active in UNISON ever since its creation in 1993. Prior to the creation of Unison Wendy was a member of NUPE. Wendy has also been a Labour councillor for many years, first elected in 1999. Wendy has recently passed the milestone of 40 years working for North Yorkshire Council.

Simon Pitkeathley

Simon Pitkeathley is a passionate advocate for business and community development. Formerly the Mayor of London's Champion for Small Business, he serves on the London Partnership Board and is Chief Executive of Camden Town Unlimited and Euston Town Business Improvement Districts. He established Camden Collective to nurture start-ups and young entrepreneurs and is driving the transformative Camden Highline project. A former Chair of Camden Giving and Co-Chair of the Cross River Partnership, Simon also chaired the Business Reopening Sub-group of the London Transition Board during the Covid crisis. His entrepreneurial experience includes manufacturing in China, Spain, and Germany. Simon began his professional journey as a musician and songwriter before moving on to a career in business and public service.

Dame Anne Marie Rafferty DBE FRCN

Dame Anne Marie Rafferty DBE FRCN is a British nurse, academic and researcher. She is the professor of nursing policy and the former dean of the Florence Nightingale Faculty of Nursing, Midwifery and Palliative Care at King's College London. She served as President of the Royal College of Nursing from 2019 to 2021. She is a fellow of the Royal College of Nursing, the American

Academy of Nursing, the Academy of Medical Sciences and a Member of the National Academy of Medicine, USA. In 2008, she was seconded to the Department of Health to work with Lord Ara Darzi on the Next Stage Review of the NHS. She was a member of the Prime Minister's Commission on the Future of Nursing and Midwifery between 2009 and 2010. She is a current member of the NHS Assembly and a Governor of King's College NHS Foundation Trust.

Krish Raval

Krish Raval is Founding Director of Faith in Leadership, which steers Britain's longest-running leadership development programme for faith communities at Windsor Castle. He coordinates its extensive alumni network, spanning a range of sectors and institutions, fostering collaboration across Britain and beyond. He was a Director of the Churchill Leadership Fellows, a national residency for young change-makers. Starting his career in the private sector in Los Angeles, Raval shifted to working with young people to support mental well-being and eventually, leadership development, coaching businesses on decentralised strategies for the digital age. As Chair of Labour Indians he supports the British Indian diaspora. He has held Fellowships at the James MacGregor Burns Academy of Leadership at the University of Maryland, and in the University of Oxford, led projects in the University of Cambridge and maintains an affiliation with Dev Sanskriti University, India. He received an OBE in 2018 for services to leadership education and interfaith cohesion.

Marvin Rees OBE

Marvin Rees OBE is a British Labour Party politician. As the Mayor of Bristol (2016 to 2024) he became the first person of Black African heritage to be elected mayor of any major European City. Rees began his career with Tearfund, an international development agency, then moved to the USA to work with Sojourners, a social justice organisation. On returning to the UK he worked with the BBC, the Black Development Agency supporting the BME-led voluntary sector and NHS Bristol's Public Health team. He is a Yale World Fellow, graduate of the Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative, holds an Honorary Doctorate from Swansea University and is an Honorary Industrial Professor at the University of Bristol. He cites his faith and lived experience as the mixed-race son of a single mother in 1970s and 80s Britain as the source for his lifelong commitment to social and environmental justice, and urban transformation.

Russell David Rook OBE

Russell is a founding partner of the Good Faith Partnership. Having worked with The Salvation Army for eighteen years, he has served numerous charities and social enterprises and worked as a Faith and Civil Society Adviser in the Labour Party. Russell works with leaders in politics, faith, business and civil society on issues including refugee resettlement, poverty prevention, social cohesion, interfaith relations and freedom of religion or belief. Russell studied at the Royal College of Music and Kings College London before completing his PhD at the University of St Andrews. He went on to graduate from the Senior Executives in State and Local Government Program at the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. In 2022, Russell was awarded an OBE for services to Social Action. He is an Anglican priest and has written on theology, culture and politics.

Phil Wilson

Phil was Labour MP for Sedgefield for 12 years and has forty years of experience in Labour and North East politics. Phil served on the House of Commons Defence Select Committee and Public Accounts Committee. He was an Opposition Whip under Ed Miliband for 5 years. In government he was PPS to Secretary of State for Health, Andy Burnham and Police Minister Vernon Coaker. He was a UK delegate to the Council of Europe and participated in the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme with the RAF.. As constituency MP he played a leading role in encouraging Hitachi to invest in County Durham. Before entering Parliament as Tony Blair's successor in 2007, Phil worked closely with the Prime Minister, worked in his constituency office and helped in his selection as Labour candidate for Sedgfield in 1983. Phil has worked in consultancy and served as a trade union lay-official.

Nominations from the Leader of the Conservative Party:

Professor Nigel Biggar

Nigel Biggar is Regius Professor Emeritus of Moral Theology at the University of Oxford. He has served on the Committee on Ethical Issues in Medicine at the Royal College of Physicians, on the Royal Society's Working Group on People and the Planet, and on the Pontifical Academy for Life. He now chairs the Free Speech Union and the Pharos Foundation. His work on military ethics received praise from Lord Robertson, former Secretary-General of NATO, and Sir David Omand, former Director of GCHQ. Lord Sumption described his work on legal rights as 'thought provoking and carefully reasoned' and the late Lord Brown, as 'a penetrating examination'. Described as 'one of the leading living Western

ethicists' by the eminent philosopher Professor John Gray, he was awarded a CBE in the 2021 Queen's Birthday Honours for services to Higher Education.

Joanne Cash

Joanne Cash is a human rights expert and advocate. She has advised consecutive governments, think tanks and organisations on equalities legislation and policy for almost 20 years. She practised as a barrister at 1 Brick Court for 15 years, serving as the South Eastern Circuit Junior and a member of the Bar Human Rights Committee. In 2010 she stood for Parliament in the marginal seat of Westminster North and used that first hand experience of inner-city challenges to found the social mobility programme Parent Gym, in partnership with the behavioural science Mind Gym. In 2012, she was made Board Chair of Mind Gym, where she oversaw its groundbreaking work on diversity and inclusion and the expansion of Parent Gym to a national programme. In 2018, she led the successful listing of Mind Gym on AIM. Joanne is Chair of Parent Gym. She is also a Board Adviser to Women2Win and she was made a fellow of the Longevity Forum for her work on health and social equality.

Rt Hon Dame Thérèse Coffey PhD

The Rt Hon Dame Thérèse Coffey PhD served as an MP from 2010 to 2024 and was a government minister continuously for over nine years, including as a Cabinet minister for over four years. Thérèse led three departments and was the first female Deputy Prime Minister. She instigated several strategies including the National Disability Strategy, Our Plan for Patients, and Unleashing Rural Opportunity. Thérèse served on four select committees, was a director of the Parliamentary Office for Science and Technology and successfully took a Private Members' Bill through Parliament. Prior to being an MP, Thérèse gained a PhD in Chemistry from UCL and worked for Mars, Incorporated and the BBC.

Roger Evans

Roger Evans served as the Deputy Mayor of London where he was responsible for building links to business and hosting major events in Trafalgar Square. He chaired the London Assembly, as well as serving on the police, transport and budget committees. From 2008 to 2011 he led the Conservative Group at City Hall. First elected to the Assembly in 2000, Roger led detailed reviews of online crime, technology in policing, and flood risk. He was also a member of London's fire and police authorities. Prior to 2000, he served for ten years as a Councillor at the London Borough of Waltham Forest. Roger is a member of the Middle Temple, having been called to The Bar in November 1997.

Rachel Maclean

Rachel Maclean is a former Member of Parliament who represented Redditch from 2017 to 2024. A successful entrepreneur, she co-founded Packt Publishing, a Birmingham-based start-up that is now the UK's leading technical publishing company. In Parliament, Rachel brought her business expertise to Government. As Housing and Planning Minister, she championed policies to increase housing supply, reform the planning system, and support sustainable development. As Minister for Safeguarding, she led efforts to combat domestic abuse, improve the experience of rape victims, and protect vulnerable children. She also served as Transport Minister, where she delivered improvements to infrastructure and connectivity. Rachel held the role of Vice Chairman of the Conservative Party, supporting candidates and promoting women's participation in politics. Her Parliamentary career was defined by a strong commitment to delivering practical solutions, combining her business experience with deep community ties to create positive change for her Redditch constituents.

Toby Young

Toby Young is the General Secretary of the Free Speech Union. In 2011, he co-founded the West London Free School, the first free school to sign a funding agreement with the British government and was recently named London Comprehensive of the Year in the Sunday Times, and is the co-founder of the Knowledge Schools Trust, a multi-academy trust, where he served as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees and, later, as the CEO. In 2016, he became the Director of the New Schools Network. He has also been a Fulbright Commissioner and an Honorary Fellow of Buckingham University. He is associate editor of the Spectator, where he's written a weekly column since 1998, and an associate editor of the Critic.

Nominations from the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Party:

Cllr Shaffaq Mohammed MBE

Cllr Shaffaq Mohammed MBE has dedicated his life to youth work, public service and local government. Born in Kashmir, he moved to Sheffield at the age of four. He has been a youth worker for many decades, and was first elected to serve on Sheffield City Council in 2004. He became leader of the Liberal Democrat group on the council in 2011 – a role he still holds today. In 2005, Cllr Mohammed helped raise money to help those affected by the Kashmir earthquake that claimed more than 85,000 lives. He was awarded an MBE for his political service in 2015, and in 2019 he was elected to represent Yorkshire and the

Humber in the European Parliament. In 2021-22, he chaired a Carers Commission, established by Liberal Democrat Leader Sir Ed Davey, which took evidence from experts, campaigners and carers themselves to develop new policies to support paid and unpaid carers.

Dr Mark Pack

Dr Mark Pack is an experienced and respected campaigner, communications professional and constitutional expert. He has served as President of the Liberal Democrats since 2020, including a period as joint acting leader of the party in 2020. Under his presidency, the party secured its best ever general election result, becoming the largest third party in a century. Dr Pack is a respected authority on political campaigning, communications and marketing, having worked in both the public and private sectors as well as authoring and editing books and academic journal articles on these topics. He also has a great deal of expertise in constitutional affairs and electoral law, and served as a member of the Electoral Commission's Political Parties Panel. Dr Pack has dedicated himself to making politics more open and transparent to the public, with his seminal polling database and a number of pioneering websites and newsletters.