

Michael Ancram, Lord Lothian

Former Member of Parliament, United Kingdom



Michael was born in 1945, educated at Oxford and Edinburgh Universities. He is married, with two daughters.

He is a Scottish QC having practiced largely at the criminal bar between 1970 and 1979.

He was first elected to Parliament in 1974. His ministerial career involved four years as the political minister in Northern Ireland responsible for the early initial political engagements with the IRA and the beginnings of the Peace Process which led eventually to the Good Friday Agreement. He was the first British Minister to meet the IRA for 25 years.

Subsequently he was Chairman of the Conservative Party for three years. He stood unsuccessfully for the Conservative Party Leadership in 2001. He was then for four years Shadow Foreign Secretary and Deputy Leader of both the Conservative Party and HM Opposition. In 2005 he stood down from the front bench to concentrate on setting up and chairing an International Affairs and Security think tank (Global Strategy Forum) and a Gulf liaison forum. He continues his hands-on interest in conflict resolution through regular direct talks with Islamist movements in the Middle East.

From 2006-2010 and from 2011 he has been and is a member of the UK Intelligence and Security Committee which oversees UK Intelligence Agencies.

Detailed CV

Born July 1945

Educated Christ Church Oxford (MA), Edinburgh University (LLb)

Family History Professionally and politically known as Michael Ancram, married 1975 Jane Fitzalan Howard, 2 daughters in 1979 and 1981. 2004 succeeded on his father's death as 13th Marquis of Lothian

Professional History

Newsprint

Called to Scottish Bar 1970. Practiced 1970-1979. Board member Scottish Homes 1987-90. Chairman Waverly Housing 1988-1990. Director North British 1988-90. Director North Sea Assets 1988-1989

Political History
Devizes

Select

Accounts

MP Berwickshire & E Lothian 1974; MP Edinburgh South 1979-87; MP for 1992-2010. Chairman Scottish Conservative Party 1980-83; Member Energy Committee 1980-1983; Scottish Office Minister 1993-97; Member Public Committee 1992-3; Political Minister Northern Ireland 1993-7; Shadow Cabinet Constitutional Affairs spokesman 1997-8; Chairman of the Conservative Party 1998-2001; Shadow Foreign Secretary, Deputy Leader HM Opposition and Deputy Leader Conservative Party 2001-05

Recent Positions

Chairman Global Strategy Forum 2006; Chairman Gulf Policy Forum 2007; from 2006 Member of the UK Intelligence and Security Committee which oversees UK Intelligence Agencies

Publications

Numerous pamphlets.