

Michael Lothian

Former Conservative Member of Parliament and lawyer (QC)



THE MOST HONOURABLE THE MARQUESS OF LOTHIAN PC QC DL (formerly Rt Hon Michael Ancram MP) was first elected to the UK Parliament in 1974 and served as a Conservative Member of Parliament until his retirement at the May 2010 General Election. He was subsequently appointed to the House of Lords as a Life Peer. He has held the posts of Chairman of the Conservative Party, Deputy Leader, Shadow Foreign Secretary and Shadow Secretary of State for Defence.

On stepping down from the Front Bench in 2005, Lord Lothian was appointed to the Intelligence and Security Committee of Parliament, to which he was reappointed in 2010 and again in 2015.

In 1993, he was appointed Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Northern Ireland Office, and in January 1994 was appointed Minister of State at the same office. As such, he was responsible for the negotiations leading to the Northern Ireland Peace Process, and was the first British minister to meet with Sinn Féin and the IRA for 25 years. He continues to study peace processes and the practice of talking to terrorists today, with particular reference to the Middle East peace process.

He maintains a keen interest in international affairs and he is the Chairman of Global Strategy Forum, an independent, non-party political forum, dedicated to the promotion of fresh thinking and active debate on foreign affairs, defence and international security issues, which he founded in May 2006.