

Tony Blair

Prime Minister of the United Kingdom

Born in 1953, Tony Blair was educated at Durham Choristers School, Fettes College, Edinburgh. He studied law at Oxford University and was called to the bar in 1976. Mr. Blair practised as a barrister until 1983 specializing in employment and industrial law.

Mr. Blair was elected Member of Parliament for his Sedgefield constituency in 1983 and was promoted to the Opposition front bench as a spokesman on treasury affairs in 1985. Two years later, he was made deputy spokesman on trade and industry, with special responsibility for consumer affairs and the city.

Elected to the Shadow Cabinet in October 1988, Mr. Blair became Shadow Secretary of State for Energy. In 1989, he was made Shadow Secretary of State for Employment and was appointed Shadow Secretary of State for Home Affairs in 1992.

Mr. Blair was elected to the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party in 1992 and has chaired the party's Commission for Constitutional Reform. He was elected Leader of the Labour Party and Leader of the Opposition in July 1994, and was made a privy counsellor that same month.

On May 1, 1997, Mr. Blair was elected Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and was sworn in the following day.

Mr. Blair is married with two sons and a daughter.