

Christopher Patten
Governor of Hong Kong

Christopher Francis Patten was born in 1944. He was educated at St. Benedict's School, Ealing; Balliol College, Oxford (Domus Exhibitioner, B.A. Hons. and M.A. Hons. Modern History) and won a Coolidge Travelling Scholarship to the United States in 1965.

Mr. Patten joined the Conservative Research Department in 1966, specializing in home affairs. From 1970 to 1972, he was seconded to the Cabinet Office, working on the co-ordination of social policy and in 1972 he joined the Home Office to set up the Voluntary Service Unit. From 1972 to 1974, he was personal assistant and political secretary to the Chairman of the Party (Lord Carrington and Lord Whitelaw). In 1974, he became the youngest ever director of the Conservative Research Department, an appointment which he held until 1979. From May 1979 until April 1992, he was Member of Parliament for Bath.

From November 1979 to January 1981, Mr. Patten was Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Leader of the House of Commons and Minister for the Arts. From March to September 1981, he was Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Secretary of State for Social Services.

Mr. Patten was Vice-Chairman of the Conservative Parliamentary Finance Committee from 1981 to 1983, and a member of the House of Commons Select Committee on Defence and the Select Committee on Procedure (Finance) from 1982 to 1983. In 1983, he published "The Tory Case," a study of Conservatism.

Following the election of June 1983, Mr. Patten was appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Northern Ireland Office, and in September 1985, Minister of State at the Department of Education and Science. In September 1986, he was appointed Minister for Overseas Development at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. He was appointed to the Privy Council in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in June 1989.

In July 1989, Mr. Patten was appointed Secretary of State for the Environment. In November 1990 he became Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Chairman of the Conservative Party.

Mr. Patten was appointed Governor of Hong Kong in April 1992, and arrived in Hong Kong in July 1992 to take up his post.

Mr. Patten married Lavender Thornton in 1971. They have three daughters.