

# President of the Board of Trade

The **President of the Board of Trade** is head of the Board of Trade. This is a committee of the Privy Council of the United Kingdom, first established as a temporary committee of inquiry in the 17th century, that evolved gradually into a government department with a diverse range of functions.<sup>[1]</sup> The current holder is Elizabeth Truss, the Secretary of State for International Trade.

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## History

The idea of a Board of Trade was first translated into action by Oliver Cromwell in 1655 when he appointed his son Richard Cromwell to head a body of Lords of the Privy Council, judges and merchants to consider measures to promote trade. Charles II established a Council of Trade on 7 November 1660 followed by a Council of Foreign Plantations on 1 December that year. The two were united on 16 September 1672 as the Board of Trade and Plantations.

After the Board was re-established in 1696, there were 15 (and later 16) members of the Board - the 7 (later 8) Great Officers of State, and 8 unofficial members, who did the majority of the work. The senior unofficial member of the board was the President of the Board, commonly known as the First Lord of Trade. The board was abolished on 11 July 1782, but a Committee of the Privy Council was established on 5 March 1784 for the same purposes. On 23 August 1786 a new Committee was set up, more

### United Kingdom President of the Board of Trade



Royal Arms as used by Her Majesty's Government



**Incumbent**  
**Elizabeth Truss**  
since 24 July 2019

Board of Trade

**Style** *The Right Honourable*  
(Formal prefix)  
*President of the Board of Trade*

**Member of** British Cabinet  
Privy Council

**Reports to** The Prime Minister

**Seat** Westminster, London

**Appointer** The British Monarch







strongly focused on commercial functions than the previous boards of trade. At first the President of the Board of Trade only occasionally sat in the Cabinet, but from the early 19th century it was usually a cabinet-level position.

	on advice of the Prime Minister
<b>Term length</b>	No fixed term







## **List of Presidents of the Board of Trade**

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### **First Lord of Trade (1672–1782)**

Name	Portrait	Took office	Left office
<u>The Earl of Shaftesbury</u>		16 September 1672	1676
<u>The Earl of Bridgewater</u>		16 December 1695	9 June 1699
<u>The Earl of Stamford</u>		9 June 1699	19 June 1702 <sup>[2]</sup>
<u>The Viscount Weymouth</u>		19 June 1702	1705
<u>The Earl of Stamford</u>		1705	12 June 1711
<u>The Earl of Winchilsea</u>		12 June 1711	15 September 1713
<u>The Lord Guilford</u>		15 September 1713	September 1714
<u>The Lord Berkeley of Stratton</u>		September 1714	12 May 1715
<u>The Earl of Suffolk</u>		12 May 1715	31 January 1718
<u>The Earl of Holderness</u>		31 January 1718	11 May 1719
<u>The Earl of Westmorland</u>		11 May 1719	May 1735








<u>The Earl Fitzwalter</u>		May 1735	June 1737
<u>The Lord Monson</u>		June 1737	1 November 1748
<u>The Earl of Halifax</u>		1 November 1748	21 March 1761
<u>The Lord Sandys</u>		21 March 1761	1 March 1763
<u>Hon. Charles Townshend</u>		1 March 1763	20 April 1763
<u>The Earl of Shelburne</u>		20 April 1763	9 September 1763
<u>The Earl of Hillsborough</u>		9 September 1763	20 July 1765
<u>The Earl of Dartmouth</u>		20 July 1765	16 August 1766
<u>The Earl of Hillsborough</u>		16 August 1766	December 1766
<u>The Viscount Clare</u>		19 January 1767	20 January 1768










				
<u>The Earl of Hillsborough</u>		20 January 1768	31 August 1772	
<u>The Earl of Dartmouth</u>		31 August 1772	10 November 1775	
<u>Lord George Sackville-Germain</u>		10 November 1775	6 November 1779	
<u>The Earl of Carlisle</u>		6 November 1779	9 December 1780	
<u>The Lord Grantham</u>		9 December 1780	11 July 1782	









### President of the Committee on Trade and Foreign Plantations (1784–1786)

Name	Portrait	Took office	Left office	Political party	Prime Minister
<u>The Lord Sydney</u>		5 March 1784	23 August 1786	<u>Whig</u>	<u>William Pitt the Younger</u>










### President of the Board of Trade (1786–1900)






Name	Portrait	Took office	Left office1866	Political party	Prime Minister
<u>The Earl of Liverpool</u>		23 August 1786	7 June 1804	<u>Tory</u>	<u>William Pitt the Younger</u>
					<u>Henry Addington</u>
<u>The Duke of Montrose</u>		7 June 1804	5 February 1806	Tory	<u>William Pitt the Younger</u>
<u>The Lord Auckland</u>		5 February 1806	31 March 1807		<u>The Lord Grenville (Ministry of All the Talents)</u>
<u>The Earl Bathurst</u>		31 March 1807	29 September 1812	<u>Tory</u>	<u>The Duke of Portland</u>
					<u>Spencer Perceval</u>
<u>The Earl of Clancarty</u>		29 September 1812	24 January 1818	Tory	<u>The Earl of Liverpool</u>
<u>F. J. Robinson</u>		24 January 1818	21 February 1823	Tory	
<u>William Huskisson</u>		21 February 1823	4 September 1827	Tory	<u>George Canning</u>
<u>Charles Grant</u>		4 September 1827	11 June 1828	Tory	<u>The Viscount Goderich</u>
					<u>The Duke of Wellington</u>
<u>William Vesey-FitzGerald</u>		11 June 1828	2 February 1830	Tory	
<u>John Charles Herries</u>		2 February 1830	22 November 1830	Tory	

					
<u>The Lord Auckland</u>		22 November 1830	5 June 1834	<u>Whig</u>	<u>The Earl Grey</u>
<u>Charles Poulett Thomson</u>		5 June 1834	14 November 1834	<u>Whig</u>	<u>The Viscount Melbourne</u>
<u>Alexander Baring</u>		15 December 1834	8 April 1835	<u>Tory</u>	<u>The Duke of Wellington</u> <u>Sir Robert Peel</u>
<u>Charles Poulett Thomson</u>		8 April 1835	29 August 1839	<u>Whig</u>	<u>The Viscount Melbourne</u>
<u>Henry Labouchere</u>		29 August 1839	30 August 1841	<u>Whig</u>	
<u>The Earl of Ripon</u>		3 September 1841	15 May 1843	<u>Conservative</u>	<u>Sir Robert Peel</u>
<u>William Ewart Gladstone</u>		15 May 1843	5 February 1845	<u>Conservative</u>	
<u>The Earl of Dalhousie</u>		5 February 1845	27 June 1846	<u>Conservative</u>	



<u>The Earl of Clarendon</u>		6 July 1846	22 July 1847	<u>Whig</u>	<u>Lord John Russell</u>
<u>Henry Labouchere</u>		22 July 1847	21 February 1852	<u>Whig</u>	
<u>J. W. Henley</u>		27 February 1852	17 December 1852	<u>Conservative</u>	<u>The Earl of Derby</u>
<u>Edward Cardwell</u>		28 December 1852	31 March 1855	<u>Peelite</u>	<u>The Earl of Aberdeen (Coalition)</u>
<u>The Lord Stanley of Alderley</u>		31 March 1855	21 February 1858	<u>Whig</u>	<u>The Viscount Palmerston</u>
<u>J. W. Henley</u>		26 February 1858	3 March 1859	<u>Conservative</u>	<u>The Earl of Derby</u>
<u>The Earl of Donoughmore</u>		3 March 1859	11 June 1859	<u>Conservative</u>	
<u>Thomas Milner Gibson</u>		6 July 1859	26 June 1866	<u>Liberal</u>	<u>The Viscount Palmerston</u>
					<u>The Earl Russell</u>
<u>Sir Stafford Northcote, Bt</u>		6 July 1866	8 March 1867	<u>Conservative</u>	<u>The Earl of Derby</u>
<u>The Duke of</u>		8 March 1867	1 December 1868	<u>Conservative</u>	




<u>Richmond</u>					<u>Benjamin Disraeli</u>
<u>John Bright</u>		9 December 1868	14 January 1871	<u>Liberal</u>	<u>William Ewart Gladstone</u>
<u>Chichester Parkinson-Fortescue</u>		14 January 1871	17 February 1874	<u>Liberal</u>	
<u>Sir Charles Adderley</u>		21 February 1874	4 April 1878	<u>Conservative</u>	<u>Benjamin Disraeli</u>
<u>Viscount Sandon</u>		4 April 1878	21 April 1880	<u>Conservative</u>	
<u>Joseph Chamberlain</u>		3 May 1880	9 June 1885	<u>Liberal</u>	<u>William Ewart Gladstone</u>
<u>The Duke of Richmond</u>		24 June 1885	19 August 1885	<u>Conservative</u>	<u>The Marquess of Salisbury</u>
<u>Edward Stanhope</u>		19 August 1885	28 January 1886	<u>Conservative</u>	
<u>A. J. Mundella</u>		17 February 1886	20 July 1886	<u>Liberal</u>	<u>William Ewart Gladstone</u>
<u>The Lord Stanley of Preston</u>		3 August 1886	21 February 1888	<u>Conservative</u>	<u>The Marquess</u>

					<u>of Salisbury</u>
<u>Sir Michael Hicks Beach, Bt</u>		21 February 1888	11 August 1892	Conservative	
<u>A. J. Mundella</u>		18 August 1892	28 May 1894	<u>Liberal</u>	<u>William Ewart Gladstone</u>
<u>James Bryce</u>		28 May 1894	21 June 1895	Liberal	<u>The Earl of Rosebery</u>
<u>Charles Ritchie</u>		29 June 1895	7 November 1900	<u>Conservative</u>	<u>The Marquess of Salisbury</u>

## President of the Board of Trade (1900–1963)



Name	Portrait	Took office	Left office	Political party	Prime Minister
<b>Gerald Balfour</b>		<b>7 November 1900</b>	<b>12 March 1905</b>	<b>Conservative</b>	<b>The 3rd Marquess of Salisbury</b>
<b>The Marquess of Salisbury</b>		<b>12 March 1905</b>	<b>4 December 1905</b>	<b>Conservative</b>	<b>Arthur Balfour</b>
<b>David Lloyd George</b>		<b>10 December 1905</b>	<b>12 April 1908</b>	<b>Liberal</b>	<b>Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman</b>
<b>Winston Churchill</b>		<b>12 April 1908</b>	<b>14 February 1910</b>	<b>Liberal</b>	
<b>Sydney Buxton</b>		<b>14 February 1910</b>	<b>11 February 1914</b>	<b>Liberal</b>	
<u>John Burns</u>		11 February 1914	5 August 1914	Liberal	<b>H. H. Asquith</b>
<u>Walter Runciman</u>		5 August 1914	5 December 1916	Liberal	
<u>Sir Albert Stanley</u>		10 December 1916	26 May 1919	<u>Conservative</u>	<b>David Lloyd George (Coalition)</b>






<u>Sir Auckland Geddes</u>		26 May 1919	19 March 1920	Conservative	
<u>Sir Robert Horne</u>		19 March 1920	1 April 1921	Conservative	
<u>Stanley Baldwin</u>		1 April 1921	19 October 1922	Conservative	
<u>Sir Philip Lloyd-Greame</u>		24 October 1922	22 January 1924	Conservative	<u>Bonar Law</u>
<u>Sidney Webb</u>		22 January 1924	3 November 1924	<u>Labour</u>	<u>Ramsay MacDonald</u>
<u>Sir Philip Cunliffe-Lister</u>		6 November 1924	4 June 1929	<u>Conservative</u>	<u>Stanley Baldwin</u>
<u>William Graham</u>		7 June 1929	24 August 1931	<u>Labour</u>	<u>Ramsay MacDonald</u>
<u>Sir Philip Cunliffe-Lister</u>		25 August 1931	5 November 1931	<u>Conservative</u>	<u>Ramsay MacDonald</u> (1st National Min.)
<u>Walter Runciman</u>		5 November 1931	28 May 1937	<u>Liberal National</u>	<u>Ramsay MacDonald</u> (2nd National Min.)
					<u>Stanley</u>

					<u>Baldwin</u> (3rd National Min.)
<u>Oliver Stanley</u>		28 May 1937	5 January 1940	<u>Conservative</u>	<u>Neville Chamberlain</u> (4th National Min.; War Coalition)
<u>Sir Andrew Duncan</u>		5 January 1940	3 October 1940	No party	
<u>Oliver Lyttelton</u>		3 October 1940	29 June 1941	<u>Conservative</u>	<u>Winston Churchill</u> (War Coalition)
<u>Sir Andrew Duncan</u>		29 June 1941	4 February 1942	No party	
<u>John Jestyn Llewelin</u>		4 February 1942	22 February 1942	<u>Conservative</u>	
<u>Hugh Dalton</u>		22 February 1942	23 May 1945	<u>Labour</u>	
<u>Oliver Lyttelton</u>		25 May 1945	26 July 1945	<u>Conservative</u>	<u>Winston Churchill</u> (Caretaker Min.)
<u>Sir Stafford Cripps</u>		27 July 1945	29 September 1947	<u>Labour</u>	<u>Clement Attlee</u>
<u>Harold Wilson</u>		29 September 1947	23 April 1951	<u>Labour</u>	
<u>Sir Hartley Shawcross</u>		24 April 1951	26 October 1951	<u>Labour</u>	
<u>Peter Thorneycroft</u>		30 October 1951	13 January 1957	<u>Conservative</u>	<u>Sir Winston Churchill</u>
<u>Sir David Eccles</u>		13 January 1957	14 October 1959	<u>Conservative</u>	<u>Sir Anthony Eden</u>
					<u>Harold Macmillan</u>





<u>Reginald Maudling</u>		14 October 1959	9 October 1961	Conservative	
<u>Frederick Erroll</u>		9 October 1961	20 October 1963	Conservative	







## President of the Board of Trade (1963–present)

Name	Portrait	Took office	Left office	Political party	Prime Minister
<b>President of the Board of Trade &amp; Secretary of State for Industry, Trade and Regional Development</b>					
<u>Edward Heath</u>		20 October 1963	16 October 1964	<u>Conservative</u>	<u>Alec Douglas-Home</u>
<b>President of the Board of Trade</b>					
<u>Douglas Jay</u>		18 October 1964	29 August 1967		
<u>Anthony Crosland</u>		29 August 1967	6 October 1969	<u>Labour</u>	<u>Harold Wilson</u>
<u>Roy Mason</u>		6 October 1969	19 June 1970		
<u>Michael Noble</u>		20 June 1970	15 October 1970		
<b>President of the Board of Trade &amp; Secretary of State for Trade and Industry</b>					
<u>John Davies</u>		15 October 1970	5 November 1972	<u>Conservative</u>	<u>Edward Heath</u>
<u>Peter Walker</u>		5 November 1972	4 March 1974		
<b>President of the Board of Trade &amp; Secretary of State for Trade</b>					
<u>Peter Shore</u>		5 March 1974	8 April 1976	<u>Labour</u>	<u>Harold Wilson</u>
<u>Edmund Dell</u>		8 April 1976	11 November 1978		
<u>John Smith</u>		11 November 1978	4 May 1979	<u>Labour</u>	<u>James Callaghan</u>

<u>John Nott</u>		5 May 1979	5 January 1981	Conservative	<u>Margaret Thatcher</u>
<u>John Biffen</u>		5 January 1981	6 April 1982		
<u>The Lord Cockfield</u>		6 April 1982	12 June 1983		
<b>President of the Board of Trade &amp; Secretary of State for Trade and Industry</b>					
<u>Cecil Parkinson</u>		12 June 1983	11 October 1983		
<u>Norman Tebbit</u>		16 October 1983	2 September 1985		
<u>Leon Brittan</u>		2 September 1985	22 January 1986		
<u>Paul Channon</u>		24 January 1986	13 June 1987		
<u>The Lord Young of Graffham</u>		13 June 1987	24 July 1989		
<u>Nicholas Ridley</u>		24 July 1989	13 July 1990		
<u>Peter Lilley</u>		14 July 1990	10 April 1992	Conservative	<u>John Major</u>
<u>Michael Heseltine</u>		10 April 1992	5 July 1995		



<u>Ian Lang</u>		5 July 1995	2 May 1997		
<u>Margaret Beckett</u>		2 May 1997	27 July 1998		
<u>Peter Mandelson</u>		27 July 1998	23 December 1998		
<u>Stephen Byers</u>		23 December 1998	8 June 2001		
<u>Patricia Hewitt</u>		8 June 2001	6 May 2005	Labour	<u>Tony Blair</u>
<u>Alan Johnson</u>		6 May 2005	5 May 2006		
<u>Alistair Darling</u>		5 May 2006	27 June 2007		
<b>President of the Board of Trade &amp; Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform</b>				Labour	<u>Gordon Brown</u>
<u>John Hutton</u>		28 June 2007	3 October 2008		
<u>The Lord Mandelson</u>		3 October 2008	5 June 2009		
<b>President of the Board of Trade &amp; Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills</b>					
<u>The Lord Mandelson</u>		5 June 2009	12 May 2010		

						
<u>Vince Cable</u>		12 May 2010	8 May 2015	<u>Liberal Democrats</u>	<u>David Cameron (Coalition)</u>	
<u>Sajid Javid</u>		11 May 2015	15 July 2016	<u>Conservative</u>	<u>David Cameron (I)</u>	
<b>President of the Board of Trade &amp; Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy</b>						
<u>Greg Clark</u> <sup>[a]</sup>		15 July 2016	19 July 2016	<u>Conservative</u>	<u>Theresa May</u>	
<b>President of the Board of Trade &amp; Secretary of State for International Trade</b>						
<u>Liam Fox</u>		19 July 2016	24 July 2019 <sup>[6]</sup>			
<u>Liz Truss</u>		24 July 2019	Incumbent	<u>Conservative</u>	<u>Boris Johnson</u>	

## Notes

α. Appointed by the Privy Council in error for 4 days before the mistake was rectified.<sup>[3][4][5]</sup>

## References

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2. [Office-Holders in Modern Britain: Volume 3, Officials of the Boards of Trade 1660-1870 - Council of trade and plantations 1696-1782](http://www.british-history.ac.uk/office-holders/vol3/pp28-37) (<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/office-holders/vol3/pp28-37>)
3. May, Callum (22 July 2016). "Minister Greg Clark was briefly given wrong job" (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-36869726>). BBC News. Retrieved 22 July 2016.
4. Tilbrook, Richard (15 July 2016). "Business Transacted and Orders Approved at the Privy Council Held by the Queen at Buckingham Palace on 15th July 2016" (<https://privycouncil.independent.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/List-of-Business-15-July-2016.pdf>) (PDF). Privy Council Office. Retrieved 22 July 2016.
5. Tilbrook, Richard (19 July 2016). "Business Transacted and Orders Approved at the Privy Council Held by the Queen at Buckingham Palace on 19th July 2016" (<https://privycouncil.independent.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/2016-07-19-List-of-business.pdf>) (PDF). Privy Council Office. Retrieved 22 July 2016.
6. Liam Fox [[@LiamFox](#)] (24 July 2019). "Sadly, I will be leaving the Government. It has been a privilege to have served as Secretary of State for International Trade these past 3 years" (<https://twitter.com/LiamFox/status/1154058729949671424>) (Tweet) – via [Twitter](#).

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