



Robert Key MP
Salisbury
Conservative

Robert Key has represented the Salisbury constituency since June 1983.

Born in Plymouth in 1945, he moved to Salisbury in 1947 and was educated at Salisbury Cathedral School, Sherborne School Dorset and Clare College, Cambridge where he read Economics and gained his MA and a Post-Graduate Certificate of Education. He taught Economics at Loretto School, Edinburgh and at Harrow School, before he entered Parliament. He contested the Camden, Holborn and St Pancras South constituency in the 1979 General Election.

Robert was Political Secretary to Edward Heath (1984-85), and Parliamentary Private Secretary to Alick Buchanan-Smith as the Minister of State for Energy (1985-87) and to Chris Patten MP as Minister for Overseas Development (1987-89) and as Secretary of State for the Environment (1989-90).

Robert joined the Government in 1990 as Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department of the Environment (1990-92), as the founder Minister at the Department of National Heritage (1992-93), and as Minister for Roads and Traffic at the Department of Transport (1993-1994).

He was Shadow Defence Minister (1997-2001), Shadow Minister for Science and Energy (2001-02), Shadow Minister for International Development (2002-03) and Shadow Minister for Science (2004-05).

Robert rejoined the Defence Committee in July 2005, which he was on from 1995 to 1997. He has also seen service on the Education, Science and the Arts Committee (1983-86), on the Health Committee (1994-95), on the Science and Technology Committee (2003-05) and on the Information Committee, as Chairman (2004-05).

He is currently serving on the Armed Forces Select Committee, and also served on the Select Committee on the 1996 and 2001 Armed Forces Bills. He represents the Defence Committee on the Quadripartite Committee on Strategic Export Controls. He also serves on the Ecclesiastical Committee.

Robert enjoys singing, cooking and the countryside. Robert is a member of the Council of the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust. He is a Patron of the Salisbury Festival, President of the Salisbury Plain Branch of the Institute of Advanced Motorists, and a member of the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and Plantlife International. He is a Trustee and Board Member of the Wessex Trust for Archaeology.

Robert married Sue Irvine in 1968. They have a son and two daughters.