

Rt Hon Sir Edward Leigh MP Gainsborough



Sir Edward Leigh is the Conservative Member of Parliament for the Gainsborough constituency in Lincolnshire. He was first elected to represent the constituency in 1983 and, as of July 2024, is the Father of the House.

Born in London in 1950, Edward was educated at St Philip's School, London, the Oratory School, Berkshire, and the Lycée Français in London. He studied history at Durham University, where he was President of the Durham Union Society. Sir Edward is the younger son of Sir Neville Leigh KCVO, former clerk to the Privy Council. He is married, with three daughters and three sons.

Sir Edward was a member of Richmond Borough Council before being elected to the Greater London Council in 1974, serving until 1981. He worked in the private office of Mrs Thatcher in 1976-77 as private secretary in charge of her correspondence as Leader of the Opposition.

A former minister, from 2001 to 2010, Sir Edward was Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee — a role he relinquished after serving the maximum term. From 2011 until 2020, he served as Chairman of the Public Accounts Commission, the body which audits the National Audit Office.

Sir Edward is a qualified barrister and a member of the Inner Temple, where he practised in arbitration and criminal law for Goldsmiths Chambers. He is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators.

He was knighted by the Queen in 2013 and appointed to the Privy Council in 2018.