

## The Prime Minister of the United Kingdom

In the political system of the UK, the Prime Minister is the leader of Her Majesty's Government and is ultimately responsible for the policy and decisions of the government. As leader of the UK government, the Prime Minister also oversees the operation of the Civil Services and government agencies.

The Prime Minister is the head of the government and directs both the executive and the legislature, and together with his Cabinet is accountable to the monarch, to Parliament, to his party and finally to the electorate, for the government's policies and actions.

The Place of Prime Minister in the UK Political System - The office of Prime Minister is not established by any statute or constitutional documents but exists only by long established convention.

- The reigning monarch appoints as Prime Minister the person most likely to command the confidence of the House of Commons.
- The position of Prime Minister was not created but evolved slowly and originally over three hundred years due to numerous Acts of Parliament.
- The origins of the position are found in constitutional changes that occurred during the Revolutionary Settlement (1688-1720) and the resulting shift of political power from the sovereign to Parliament.
- By the 1830s, the Westminster system of government or cabinet government had emerged and the Prime Minister had become the first among equals in the cabinet and the head of government in the UK political system.