

## **Cabinet Minister Qualifications & Experience ICO Response**

Traditionally, the Prime Minister chooses Ministers from elected Members of the House of Commons (MPs). However, they may also choose Members from the House of Lords. Ministers are chosen from individuals who are members of the party of government (or, in the current case, the parties of government).

The Prime Minister may well choose someone who has no direct **experience** of the work covered by the department, for example, the minister for health is rarely a health professional. However, it is for the Prime Minister to determine what other qualities that person has to fulfil the role. It is also for the Prime Minister to determine whether that person continues to be suitable for the role. The minister themselves may offer their resignation if, for whatever reason, they do not feel able to continue in the ministerial role.

Ministers are regularly challenged in and out of Parliament (for example, in the media) to explain their actions but it remains the Prime Minister's decision as to whether they are suitable for the job.

For your general information, here is a link to the UK Parliament website which might be helpful on this general topic:

<http://www.parliament.uk/about/how/role/parliament-government/>

Here also, for your general information, is a link showing ministers in the current Cabinet. The link provides biographical information but you may, of course, also wish to conduct your own online searches using their names to find biographical information from other independent online sources.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/ministers>

You may well question whether a particular minister is **qualified** for their ministerial role and you may make an assessment about the party of government and about the Prime Minister based on how well, in your view, their ministers perform. That is a matter for you (and for all of us as the UK electorate).

ICO

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