

SIR JAMES EDWARD THORNTON PAICE MP (G60-66)

He was born in Felixstowe, Suffolk on 24 April 1949 and after attending the College spent two years working on farms. He then attended Writtle Agricultural College and started a career in farm management. Prior to being elected an MP, he was a Director of a training and management development company, which was owned by a large farmer owned business.

He was active in the Young Farmers movement becoming chairman of the Agricultural Policy Committee of the National Federation and represented the UK on the European Council of Young Farmers from 1975 to 1979. In the meantime he had joined the Young Conservatives, becoming chairman of the Eye Constituency Young Conservatives and was elected to Suffolk Coastal District Council in 1976 at the age of 27. He remained on the Council until 1987 serving as chairman in 1983.

In the General Election of 1979 he was the Conservative Candidate for the Caernarfon Constituency and in 1986 was selected to succeed Francis Pym as the Conservative Candidate for South East Cambridgeshire. He was elected as Member of Parliament for South East Cambridgeshire in the 1987 General Election.



On entering Parliament he served on the Select Committee for Employment before being appointed Parliamentary Private Secretary (PPS) to Baroness Trumpington at the Ministry of Agriculture in 1989, then promoted to PPS to John Gummer as Minister of Agriculture and then Secretary of State for the Environment. In 1993 he introduced legislation to allow cash betting on Sundays so that racing could take place and compete with other leisure sectors. In 1994 he was appointed Under Secretary of State at the Department of Employment and in 1995 at the Department of Education and Employment where he was in charge of the governments training programmes and the massive expansion of Further Education.

After the General Election of 1997 Jim was appointed Opposition Spokesman on Agriculture and has remained on the front bench ever since. Following the 2001 General Election, Jim was appointed Shadow Minister for Police. Then in September 2004 he was promoted to Shadow Secretary of State for Agriculture and Rural Affairs - a position he retained until the General Election in 2010.

Following the announcement of the formation of the Coalition Government in May 2010, he was appointed Minister of State for Agriculture and Food. In September 2012 he stepped down from this post and was given a knighthood.

His official site is <http://www.jamespaicemp.com/>