

THE RT HON THE LORD LAMONT OF LERWICK

Lord Lamont is a member of the House of Lords and is a former Cabinet Minister. He was MP for Kingston-upon-Thames for twenty five years and, when first elected, was the youngest Conservative MP. A supporter of Mrs Thatcher, he rose through the ministerial ranks becoming a Minister in the Departments of Energy, Industry, Defence and the Treasury. He was Chief Secretary in Mrs Thatcher's Cabinet.

When John major became Prime Minister, he became Chancellor of the Exchequer (Finance Minister). It was a difficult period with a recession and the need for austerity measures to reduce the budget deficit. Sir Alan Walters, Mrs Thatcher's economics adviser, described him as "not only the most effective but also the bravest Chancellor since the War".

While Chancellor, he recruited the future Prime Minister, David Cameron, to be his special adviser.

He was Britain's chief negotiator for the Maastricht Treaty and was responsible for negotiating Britain's opt out from the Euro. He was Chairman of the EU Finance Ministers in 1992 and Chairman of The G7 Group of Finance Ministers in 1991. He worked closely with Presidents Gorbachev and Yeltsin on economic reform and privatisation.

Currently, he is a director of, or a consultant to a number of companies: an adviser to BC Partners, the private equity firm, and Stanhope Capital, a fund management company. He is also Chairman of iO Adria, a company developing tourism in Croatia. He has also been a director of NM Rothschild & Sons and an adviser to Monsanto Corporation and the Western Union Corporation.

He was born in Lerwick, in the Shetland Islands and gained a BA in Economics at Cambridge University. He was also President of the Cambridge Union.

He is President of the British Romanian Chamber of Commerce. In 2010, he was awarded the Romanian National Order "Faithful Service" in the rank of Commander in recognition of his work in Romania.

In 2008, Prime Minister David Cameron, asked him to join a team of former Chancellors to give advice on the financial crisis.

He has published two books; "In Office", about his time as Chancellor and "Sovereign Britain", about Britain's relationship with the EU.