Des Browne

Des Browne, more formally known as Lord Browne of Ladyton, is a lawyer and a British Labour Party politician. From 1997 until 2010, after a legal career of about twenty years as a Scottish solicitor and then an advocate, he was elected and twice re-elected as the Member of Parliament (M.P.) for the Scottish constituency of Kilmarnock & Loudon. During his time as a backbench M.P., he served on the Northern Ireland Select Committee, the Public Administration Select Committee and the Joint Human Rights Select Committee and was Parliamentary Private Secretary to the late Donald Dewar M.P., the father of Scotland’s devolution and the First, First Minister of Scotland.

Between May 2001 and October 2008, consecutively he held ministerial posts in the Northern Ireland office, the Department of Work and Pensions, the Home office, the Treasury, the Ministry of Defence and the Scotland Office. Among other ministerial offices, he served in Cabinet positions as the United Kingdom’s Chief Secretary to the Treasury from 2005 to 2006, Secretary of State for Defence from 2006 to 2008 and, at the same time, as Secretary of State for Scotland from 2007 to 2008. A member of the House of Lords since 2010, he is also Vice Chairman of the Washington, D.C. based Nuclear Threat Initiative, an NGO that works globally to reduce the threats posed by nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction and disruption. Lord Browne also is a co-founder and the Chair of the Executive Board of the European Leadership Network and is a trustee and board member of other charitable organisations.