

Alan Duncan MP

Conservative member for Rutland & Melton since 1992, Alan Duncan was appointed the shadow Trade and Industry Secretary in 2005. His previous shadow cabinet post had been shadow Transport Secretary. Duncan had also held the environment and transport shadow secretary job back in 2001. His career before entering parliament included working for Shell International Petroleum and being a trader of crude oil for an independent commodity company. He also owns his own oil broking and advisory company, Harcourt Consultants, although it has been dormant since 1999.

Duncan briefly ran in the 2005 Conservative leadership contest, before dropping out and pledging support initially to David Davis, but swiftly switching to David Cameron.

On environmental interests, he was Joint Secretary of the Conservative Parliamentary Committee on the Environment 1992-94. Duncan has backed Cameron's campaigning on the climate change issue, launching his own review of energy policy, which is running simultaneously to the Government's review.

Alan Duncan's interests include international trade, international economics, social security and the Middle East. He has been described as an economic libertarian. He has authored several publications, including *Saturn's Children: how the State devours Liberty, Prosperity and Virtue* (1995), in which he called for the legalisation of drugs. Duncan was the first openly gay Conservative MP.