



## Mr Paul Blomfield MP

**Sheffield Central Labour Party - *Majority 165***  
**PPS to Shadow Communities Secretary Hilary Benn**

### Profile

With a background in the university sector, Paul Blomfield became an MP at the 2010 general election after beating 40 other hopefuls to be Labour's candidate.

Having retained the Sheffield Central seat for Labour in 2010 - albeit with a narrow majority of 165 over his Liberal Democrat nearest rival, Mr Blomfield was appointed PPS to the Shadow Leader of the House of Commons, Hilary Benn, in October 2010.

After a Shadow Cabinet reshuffle in January 2011 following the surprise resignation of Alan Johnson as Shadow Chancellor, Mr Blomfield stayed with Mr Benn when the latter took up the Shadow Communities and Local Government brief.

He has served on the Business, Innovation and Skills Committee since 2010. Additionally, Mr Blomfield is currently the Secretary of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Universities, Vice Chair of the Labour Campaign for Electoral Reform, as well as Vice Chair of the All Party Group on Motor Neurone Disease. His is also a member of Unison, Unite, the Co-op Party and the GMB.

In 2013, Mr Blomfield was drawn as second place in the Ballot for Private Members' Bills for the 2013/14 session of Parliament. This gave the Sheffield Central MP guaranteed Parliamentary time to debate a piece of legislation of his choice. Subsequently, Mr Blomfield chose to bring forward the High Cost Credit Bill, which he believed would improve the regulation of payday lenders.

Mr Blomfield's website highlights his commitment to a written constitution which 'enshrines people's rights, defines the power of the Executive and places a responsibility on all public bodies to consult people on all major decisions that affect them locally.'

He cites the injustice of racism as the driver that first got him involved in politics, joining the Anti-Apartheid Movement (AAM) at school before setting up Sheffield AAM (which went on to become the UK's biggest anti-Apartheid group). Mr Blomfield was involved in the Sheffield Campaign Against Racism during the 1980s and was a member of Sheffield's Race Equality Council. He joined the Labour Party in 1978.

From 1993 up until his election, Mr Blomfield was Chair of Sheffield Labour Party and was a Unison Branch Secretary for several years.

Between 1997 and 2008 Mr Blomfield was Chair of the Board of Sheffield City Trust, having joined the board three years previously. He notes one of his proudest achievements as saving Sheffield City Hall after the Trust raised 12.5 million to invest in it.

Prior to becoming an MP, Mr Blomfield was General Manager of Sheffield University's Students' Union having previously worked as Governor of Sheffield City Polytechnic. Indeed, he has worked in the

university sector ever since qualifying as a teacher. Prior to this he studied theology at St John's College in York.

Married to Linda McAvan, a Labour Member of the European Parliament for Yorkshire and the Humber, Mr Blomfield moved to Sheffield with his own family when he was nine years old. They have one grown up son, Michael, who currently works in America.

**Higher Education**

York St John University (Certificate in Education)

**School Education**

Abbeydale Boys Grammar School, Sheffield; Tadcaster Grammar School, Tadcaster

**Full Name**

Paul Blomfield

**Place of Birth**

Chatham, Kent

**Marital Status**

Married (Linda McAvan MEP)

**Gender**

Male

**Date of Birth**

25-Aug-53

**Marital Status**

Married

## Further Details

**Areas of Strong Political Interest**

Universities, education, housing, voluntary and community sector, youth affairs

**Declared Interests**

BLOMFIELD, Paul (Sheffield Central)

2. Remunerated employment, office, profession etc

Payments from IPSOS Mori, 79-81 Borough Road, London SE1 1FY for interviews:

4 November 2012, received fee of 80 for telephone interview on 12 June 2012 Hours: 30 mins.  
(Registered 5 November 2012)

2 November 2012, received fee of 100 for telephone interview on 22 March 2012 Hours: 30 mins.  
(Registered 26 November 2012)

Received fee of 150 for face to face interview on 18 December 2012. Payment donated to local charity.  
Hours:1 hr. (Registered 18 February 2013)

Payment of 100 from the Sheffield International College, University of Sheffield, Broad Lane, Sheffield S3 7HQ, for speech to international students at the University of Sheffield on 9 October 2012. Hours: 2 hrs. Payment made direct to local charity. (Registered 15 January 2013)

Payment of 100 from Leftfield, 51 Clink Street Studios, Clink St, London SE1 9DG, for market research interview. Hours: 1 hr. Payment donated to local charity. (Registered 10 June 2013)

#### **Present Select Committee Memberships**

Business, Innovation and Skills Select Committee, June 2010 -

#### **Memberships of Bill Committees**

Member, Finance (no.3) Bill Committee

#### **First elected in 2010?**

Yes

#### **First elected in 2010?**

Yes

#### **Current Memberships of Party Groups**

Member, Co-operative Party

#### **All Party Group Memberships**

Vice-Chairman, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Motor Neurone Disease; Secretary, All-Party Parliamentary University Group; Vice-Chairman, All-Party Parliamentary Apprenticeships Group; Member, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Multiple Sclerosis; Member, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Turkey; Member, All-Party Parliamentary Apprenticeships Group; Member, All-Party Parliamentary Group for High Speed Rail; Member, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Motor Neurone Disease; Member, British-Ukraine All-Party Parliamentary Group; Member, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Trade and Investment; Member, Associate Parliamentary Manufacturing Group; Member, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Somaliland and Somalia; Member, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Arms Length Management Organisations (ALMOs); Member, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Youth Affairs; Member, Associate Parliamentary Group for Skills and Employment; Member, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Housing in the North; Member, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Learning Disability; Member, All-Party Parliamentary University Group; Member, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire; Member, All-Party Parliamentary Flood Prevention Group; Member, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Migration; Member, All-Party Parliamentary Group for 2014 Yorkshire and UK Tour de France; Member, All-Party Parliamentary Leisure Group; Member, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Pensions; Member, All-Party Parliamentary Kosovo Group

## **Past Activity**

#### **Employment by Sector (PPCs only)**

Higher Education; Trade Unions

#### **Past Memberships of Party Groups**

Member, Labour Party 1978-; Chair, Sheffield Labour Party 1993-2008; Member, Co-operative Party

#### **Past Government and Shadow Posts**

PPS to Hilary Benn as: Shadow Leader of the House of Commons 2010-October 2011, Shadow Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, 2011-

#### **Past Select Committee Memberships**

Member: Business, Innovation and Skills 2010-

#### **Past Memberships of Councils and Public Bodies**

Governor, Sheffield City Polytechnic 1982-92; Sheffield City Trust: Board member 1994-2008, Chair 1997-2008

#### **Electoral History**

Member for Sheffield Central since 6 May 2010 general election

#### **Adjournment/Westminster Hall debates called**

Student Visas, 16 June 2011

#### **Past Employment**

General Manager (Sheffield University Students' Union) National Executive Committee member (National Union of Students) National Executive Committee member (Anti-Apartheid Movement 1979-1994)  
Chairman (Sheffield City Trust 1997-2008)

## **Contact Details**

#### **Party Link**

<http://www.labour.org.uk>

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