

What are Parliamentary Private Secretaries?

Parliamentary Private Secretaries (PPS) are MPs who are appointed by the Prime Minister to assist Ministers. They are not part of the Executive and have no policy, financial, statutory or operational authority.

As they are not members of the executive, they receive no extra remuneration. There will also be no additional resources for PPS responsibilities. It is expected that PPSs will utilise existing resources available to them as MPs from the Parliamentary Service.

What is the role of a PPS?

The main role of the PPS is to act as a sounding board and an advisor to the Minister. PPSs will use their skills and expertise to support the Minister in portfolio, administrative and representational issues.

The PPS is also the Minister's link to the party caucus. A PPS will be heavily involved in the caucus policy process in the area in which they work; for instance, they would chair the Caucus committee in the relevant area, and lead the National Party policy advisory group in the relevant area.

They would work closely with the Minister on the Minister's legislative programme.

It would also be expected that they would represent the Minister at public events, and deliver speeches, on occasions when the Minister was not available.

What is the difference between a Parliamentary Private Secretary and a Parliamentary Under-Secretary?

A PPS is not part of the Executive. Therefore, a PPS has no executive responsibilities (ie policy, financial, statutory and operational authority). The PPS cannot act for the Minister; their role is to advise.

The Constitution Act 1986 does not permit Ministers to delegate statutory functions, powers or responsibilities to PPSs. Accordingly, PPSs are not permitted to undertake any statutory functions on behalf of or at the direction of Ministers.

Parliamentary Under-Secretaries are members of the Government appointed by Warrant from the Governor-General under the Constitution Act 1986. They have specified delegated responsibilities similar to Associate Ministers.

Under-Secretaries are bound by Collective Responsibility. They are also remunerated for the role.