

Baroness Sandip Verma

Personal Details

Address: 28 Knighton Road, Leicester LE2 3HH
Email: sandy906@hotmail.com
Twitter @Baroness_Verma

Profile

A highly influential, global facing business leader, who has extensive Chair and Committee experience. Since entering into the House of Lords in 2006, Baroness Verma has held several key Ministerial Appointments and has had an active and advisory role in policy formation and development. With a transformational background, Baroness Verma is both strategic and hands on when necessary, adept at simplifying complex issues. She has significant experience of the need for and development of good governance within both large and small organisations. Together with her outstanding relationship management skills her approach is both inclusive and pragmatic, but always with an eye to finding a way forward. She is self assured able to challenge and articulate her point of view without compromising the development of solid working relationships with colleagues, staff and stakeholders. Her ability to transfer and use the skills and knowledge in multiple settings gives strength to her ability to understand detail and also provide leadership to deliver the overall vision and direction an organisation wishes to take.

A keen advocate of diversity and Inclusion, she is involved in a wealth of influential initiatives to create a more inclusive working environment and society as a whole.

Ministerial Appointments

2006 to 2010	Opposition Whip and Lords Spokesperson for Department of Education, Department of Health and Department for Welfare and Pensions.
2010 to 2012	Government Whip and Lords Spokesperson for the Cabinet Office, International Development and Government and Equalities Office.
2012 to 2015	Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Department of Energy and Climate Change.
2015 to July 2016	Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Department for International Development.

Department for International Development (2015 to July 2016)

Department budget 12bn

- The UN – represented DFID at UN conferences, summits and meetings, with responsibility for budgets and open dialogue to support reform amongst the UN bodies, ensuring best value for UK funding contributions, good governance and accountability
- The Commonwealth Secretariat – represented DFID at conferences, summits and meetings, with responsibility for budgets and dialogue to support reform amongst Commonwealth bodies, ensuring best value for UK funding contributions, good governance and accountability

- The EU institutions – represented DFID at the EU Council, the EU Commission, worked with other member states to ensure best value for UK funding contributions, good governance and accountability
- Oversaw the Caribbean, overseeing a £330 million infrastructure fund, working with the Caribbean Development Bank
- Responsibility for the Emerging Powers Global Partnership, working with Brazil, China, India and South Africa on supporting their development footprint, particularly in the African continent
- Oversaw the growth and development of British suppliers in overseas markets, working with the department to widen the pool of suppliers and providers of goods and services, whilst still retaining robust rigour in processes and transparency
- Oversaw the department's corporate efficiencies and internal processes of people management
- Held overall responsibility for working with civil society, NGOs and other Government bodies, issues include all forms of inclusion, including disability, ageism, gender and LGBT rights

Department for Energy and Climate Change

Oversight of Department budget:

- Responsible for the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, Civil Nuclear Police and Nuclear Regulatory Body the ONR. (range of smaller organisations, National Nuclear Laboratory)
- Oversaw and worked with executive teams of all decommissioned sites- overseeing planning, security, safety and overall responsibility of all decommissioned sites in the UK including Sellafield- £2.3bn. Responsibilities included
- Chairing boards, overseeing risk/safety profiles, ensuring good governance and accountability mechanisms of sites and budgets. Worked with international partners in supporting shared best practices
- Represented the UK at international conferences, example IAEA and worked with international partners on collaborative co-operations and shared good practices.
- Also responsible for High Value Opportunities- to showcase UK based companies and research institutions internationally in partnership with UKTI- to promote British business, expertise and innovation
- Responsibility for the geological decommissioned nuclear waste facility programme (GDF). Rewrote the policy White Paper- to broaden the scope of interest for local authorities to participate in and consult with initially, in order to gauge expressions of interest in hosting an underground disposal facility to hold and store decommissioned nuclear waste
- The GDF - a £12bn programme, potentially could create several thousand employment opportunities, offering regeneration and development of infrastructure for local communities over the course of many years
- Oversaw and was responsible for historic pension and compensation payments for former mine workers. Responsible for the overall budgets and appointments of non executive board members to a number of Non government bodies such as the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, the Office for Nuclear Regulation
- Held overall responsibility for the Smart Meter Programme, the largest roll out of smart meters in the world- programme worth of around £18 billion.
- Responsible for ensuring the overall security of the delivery systems was assured and fit for purpose and the ability of commercial providers to operate in a safe and competitive market. Set up a non government provider Smarty Energy UK, funded by the private sector to ensure there were full and informative public information campaigns on the benefits of smart meters.
- Chaired board level meetings with industry CEOs, industry NGOs and regulatory bodies.

Delivered the Energy Act 2014 in the House of Lords on behalf of the government, paving the way for the biggest reforms of the electricity markets since privatisation. Introduced fairer markets for a wider diversity of energy generation, enhanced competitive energy markets for operators and providers in the sector.

Executive Experience

Prior to entering the House of Lords Baroness Verma had a successful career in commerce and created several successful businesses

1980 to 1998 (Eximp Ltd) wholesale of high fashion womenswear.

1985 extended the business (Deacon Casualwear Ltd) to include manufacturing of high fashion womenswear supplying national and European markets.

2000 Created (Domiciliary Care Services Ltd) Set up and managed a business in Social Care working with local authorities, providing personal and domestic care provision within a domestic setting.

Voluntary / Diversity & Inclusion

Created Powerful Women in 2013 to address the in-balance of gender representation across the energy sector. The organisation has worked in partnership with a range of energy companies and associated businesses. It has developed a tool kit and delivered in partnership with others reports to high light the issues facing women in the sector. It has attracted strong partners including EY, the Energy Institute and many energy companies in working to realign the sectors approach in supporting women to reach senior positions. Also helped launch the Sellafield Womens Network and supported the set up of UK Women in Nuclear Chapter.

Appointed the Prime Minister's global champion to tackle violence against women and girls overseas. Visited many countries including Bangladesh, India, Zambia and South Africa, working with governments, civil society and NGOs to raise awareness and work to help support shifts in cultural norms and practices

She continues to support governments in policy development, sharing examples of best practice and shared learning to help reform justice/police systems, responsive healthcare systems and better managed victim support. She actively sought and engages with champions from industry, local communities and partner governments to intervene and generate dialogue. She used the reputation of DFID as a world leader to proactively engage in discussions on delicate and sensitive issues, examples like FGM, acid attacks and early and forced marriages.

She carried out a large consultation on how to tackle violence against women and girls and have left a good blue print for the department to develop policy on, in response to the most prevalent form of violence against women, domestic violence.

In her local community she has been a very active member in civil society activities, some examples: raising awareness of domestic violence, supporting victims of abuse. Founding and managing summer school activities for local children, supporting social engagement meets for senior citizens, supporting the police force to widen their diversity and have active participation in regeneration decisions for Leicester (City Challenge). Supporting a range of charities and actively fund raising.