



Laura Sandys FEI MSt (Cantab)

A Business Entrepreneur and Policy Innovator who uses ideas to build commercial value and shape new thinking.

Fields Of Expertise



Regions of Operation



Experience of Organisations

Range of Roles

Current Roles



- Chief Executive, Challenging Ideas
- Deputy Chair, the Food Standards Agency, the UK's Food Regulator
- Chair of 21st Century Energy Regulation Commission, with Imperial College and the Energy Systems Catapult
- Advisory Panel Member, Government's Cost of Energy Review
- Founder & Chair, The Food Foundation, the first independent think tank examining the food system
- Columnist, Utility Week, the leading Utility trade publication



Voluntary Roles:

- Fellow Energy Institute
- Visiting Senior Fellow, King's College London
- Imperial College Carbon Capture & Storage Advisory Group
- Co-Founder, POWERful Women, promoting more senior women in energy
- Advisory Group Member, Carbon Tracker



Business and Policy Areas



Energy

- Electricity Market Reform
- New Supply Products
- Demand Side Response
- Energy Security
- Energy Efficiency
- Demand Reduction
- Renewables
- Pipeline Policy



Food

- Food Foundation
- Food Security
- Food Supply Chains
- Food Affordability
- Food Crime
- 'Ugly' Food



Resources

- Resource Security
- Waste
- Resource Productivity
- ReMade in Britain

Politics: 2010 - 2015

Member of Parliament for South Thanet

Energy

- Parliamentary Private Secretary to Rt Hon. Greg Barker, Minister for Energy & Climate Change
- Member of the House of Commons Energy & Climate Change Select Committee
- Electricity Market Reform:
 - Pre-Legislative scrutiny of Electricity Market Reform
 - Member of the EMR Bill Committee
- Leading on Demand Side Response and Demand Reduction
- Chairman of the Efficiency and Productivity Commission

Food

- Founder of The Food Foundation & Leading Food Champion
- Author of 'Consumers at the Heart of Markets'
- Chair of the Smarter Consumer Commission on Food
- Key campaigner for the successful reintroduction of 'food education' onto the national curriculum
- Leading in Parliament on global food security; safe supply chains; nutrition; resources and food affordability

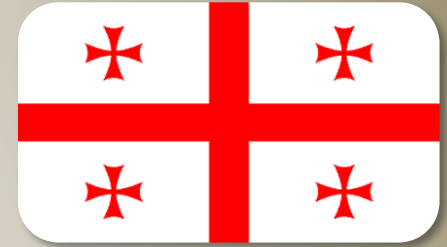
Other

- Member of the Speaker Governance Committee of MPs salaries and expenses
- Chair of All Party Groups: Civic Voice; Epilepsy; Behavioural Change
- Convenor of Turquoise Tories – Green Conservatives



Business: 1982 - 2006

- **2003 – 2006 Government of Georgia** – Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline
 - Head of London Office
 - Negotiator with UK and US partners
 - Strategic advisor to Chair of National Georgian Oil Company
- **1992 – 2000 LSA** – Founded, Built and Sold Pan European Communications Consultancy
 - Founded and created a successful business that set new standards of business practice
 - Operated in London with small Istanbul satellite
 - Worked across the EU, in Accession countries and on key issues in the Middle East
 - Clients included BP plc, BT plc, Severn Trent, UKOOG & Natural Environmental Research Council and Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council
 - Focused on energy and regulated industries with Pan-European interests
 - 20 staff, £2 million t/o in 1999 when sold to a leading global communications company
- **1990 – 1991 Which?** – Head of Parliamentary Unit
- **1988 – 1989 Sunday Trading Campaign** – Head of Communications
- **1983 – 1987 Founded and Ran PR and Marketing Consultancy**
Focusing on Consumer Goods and services



Academia / Voluntary: 1999 - 2006

- 2002- 2005 **Kings College**, Centre for Defence Studies
 - Energy and Food Security Expert
 - Iraq Specialist
 - Member of Kings College Advisory Team to Military Intelligence during the Iraq Invasion
- 2002 – 2003 **Masters Degree** (Cantab) International Relations specialising in Iraq
- 1999 – 2008 **Trustee of Open University**, Deputy Chair of the **Civic Trust** & Chair of **Open Democracy**

KING'S
College
LONDON



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE



**The Open
University**



Summary

Laura Sandys is an innovator who seeks to challenge incumbent thinking in public policy and business in order to increase competition, productivity and creativity. In both politics and the corporate world, as the founder of two communications and marketing companies, Laura has driven changes in energy markets, food security and resource management. Having started her first company when she was 19 her entrepreneurial outlook has always aimed to find solutions to complex business challenges.

Described by The Times as 'one of the sanest of all MPs' and as 'lateral-minded, original and free-thinking', Laura has brought political and business experience to examine energy productivity; reshaped thinking on new business models in the manufacturing sector; and driven innovation in the food system. She served as Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Minister for Energy and Climate Change and founded the Food Foundation that explores the challenges facing the global food system.

She has undertaken several governance and scrutiny roles at board levels as a chair and director in the commercial and voluntary sectors, most notably as a member of the scrutiny board for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Agency's controversial and contested budget of £100m.

She brings an international perspective to her work, with corporate experience in the Caucasus, South America, Europe and the US. Laura specialised in Iraq and has also served as an adviser to the Georgian Government on the Baku–Ceyhan Pipeline Project.

Personal / Contact

- Married with two step-sons
- MSt (Cantab) International Relations (specialising in Iraq)
- Patron of Epilepsy Action

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