# Conservative MP Craig Mackinlay, known as the 'Bionic MP,' to Step Down from Parliament



Conservative MP Craig Mackinlay, known as the "Bionic MP," has announced that he will not seek re-election in the upcoming general election on July 4. Mackinlay lost both his hands and feet to sepsis last September and has since been undergoing extensive medical treatment and rehabilitation. He returned to Parliament on May 22, receiving a standing ovation from fellow MPs.

Mackinlay, who represents South Thanet, explained that while he had hoped to run for re-election, the timing of the election, coupled with his ongoing medical appointments and future operations, made it impractical. He cited the difficulty of withstanding the demands of an election campaign and the subsequent 70 to 80-hour working weeks that his role would require.

The 57-year-old MP noted he had only recently started using prosthetic limbs and was engaged in weekly physiotherapy and occupational therapy sessions. Mackinlay was hospitalized on September 28 and placed in a 16-day induced coma, leaving him with a 5% chance of survival.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak’s decision to call a summer election has led to a record number of Conservative MPs, including Greg Clark of Tunbridge Wells, deciding not to seek re-election. This brings the total number of Tory MPs stepping down to over 70.

Craig Mackinlay first entered Parliament in 2015 and has been a prominent advocate for local and national issues, including leading the Net Zero Scrutiny Group. Despite his decision not to run, he expressed his intent to raise awareness about sepsis and its severe impacts.