# Over 120 MPs, Including Senior Conservatives, to Retire from Parliament Before General Election



More than 120 Members of Parliament (MPs) have announced they will not seek re-election in the upcoming general election set for July 4, 2024, following Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's announcement. Among those stepping down are high-profile Conservative Party members, including Housing Secretary Michael Gove and former Business Secretary Andrea Leadsom. Gove, citing the "toll" of public office, decided to allow "a new generation to lead" after nearly 20 years in politics.

Former Prime Minister Theresa May also declared she would not stand for re-election, emphasizing the importance of serving the public in her farewell speech. Other notable Conservative MPs stepping down include former Chancellor Sajid Javid, ex-Deputy Prime Minister Dominic Raab, former Defence Secretary Ben Wallace, and Nadhim Zahawi.

On the Labour side, veteran MPs like former Labour leader Harriet Harman and former Foreign Secretary Margaret Beckett have also announced their departures. The exodus represents a record number for the Conservative Party, with 78 out of the resigning MPs being Tories, driven by declining poll numbers and internal considerations.

In the context of housing policies, the government has run out of time to pass the long-promised ban on 'no fault' evictions under Section 21. Despite being introduced in May 2023, the Renters Reform Bill faced substantial delays. Deputy Prime Minister Oliver Dowden attributed the failure to pass the legislation to the lack of time before the parliamentary dissolution, despite the Conservatives promising this in their 2019 manifesto.

The upcoming general election sees the Conservatives facing significant challenges, given their current standings in opinion polls and the number of MPs opting not to contest.