

## Malone Stephen HQ-POLITICAL

---

**From:** Angley Gerald LONDON EM  
**Sent:** Thursday 5 August 2021 19:42  
**To:** Kavanagh Sarah HQ-POLITICAL  
**Subject:** Envoys and Representatives - U.K.

Sarah,

As you'd done in your own initial research, I confirmed my sense of a very varied pattern of appointments of special envoys and special representatives by the U.K.

Most but not all are in the foreign policy field, in many cases special envoys (or representatives) "of the Foreign Secretary" but in some cases of the PM. I have also seen appointments of special envoys in other fields, eg one "of the government" regarding anti microbial resistance announced by the Department of Health - in that case a retiring senior health service official.

The profiles of those appointed to these roles are mixed but most are sitting MPs, former MPs and ministers (some of whom are in the House of Lords), or current or retired diplomats and officials. Others feature too, including prominent figures such as Amal Clooney.

It is clear - albeit from initial research but also from simple memory over my years on U.K. issues - that these are either ministerial or government appointments. They are rarely debated in Parliament unless the individual is subject to some controversy on past views. The one recent case raising questions about the very nature of his appointment was that of Trevor Ringland as the UK government's Northern Ireland envoy to the US - the issue here being that the NI Executive was not consulted.

Finally, I could not see any evidence of a specific procedure for appointments - only processes for post- retirement jobs taken by retiring civil servants or diplomats who happened to also have been special envoys or representatives while still in the public service.

I hope that helps, and I stress it's an initial sense of how things work here in London - in essence government and its ministers use their executive powers to appoint a large range of envoys and representatives on a large range of policy areas.

Gerald