

THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH IN UK

Słowniczek

to make the laws - tworzyć prawo

executive decrees/orders- wykonawcze polecenia/nakazy

interior minister = Home Secretary - Minister Spraw Wewnętrznych

defence minister - minister obrony

core executive - centrum/rdzeń egzekutywy

to implement policy - wprowadzać w życie/wdrażać politykę

to scrutinise the output - obserwować/analizować rezultaty

Foreign Affairs Department - Ministerstwo Spraw Zewnętrznych

Permanent Secretary - Dyrektor Gabinetu Ministra

to win seats at a general election - wygrać w wyborach powszechnych

to oversee the operation of - nadzorować działanie

priorities decided - zdecydowane priorytety

key issues - kluczowe sprawy/kwestie

to avoid undermining- unikać podważania

to consider bills - rozważać projekty ustaw

Chief Whip - 'Główny Bicz'

EDP - Komisja ds. Gospodarki i Polityki Krajowej

one-off problems - jednorazowy problem

periodically emerging - okresowo pojawiające się

to chair - przewodniczyć

to refer back for confirmation- przekazać z powrotem do potwierdzenia

rubber-stamp - zatwierdzać bez zastanowienia

a taxpayer - podatnik

politically accountable - politycznie odpowiedzialni

senior civil servants - urzędnicy państwowi wyższego szczebla

to cover matters - zajmować się sprawami

regulatory function - funkcja nadzorcza

Civil Service - Służba cywilna/publiczna

local government officers - urzędnicy samorządu

to be deployed - być rozmieszczonym

proven administrative ability - udowodniona zdolność administracyjna

The executive branch is the part of government with authority and responsibility for the daily administration of the state. It executes, or enforces, the law. The idea of separation of powers in a liberal democracy means that there is an executive, legislative and judicial branch, with authority thus distributed among these branches, so as to protect individual liberty in response to the possibility of tyrannical leadership. So, the legislature makes the laws, the judiciary interprets the laws, whilst the executive enforces the law.

That said, the executive branch can be the source of certain types of law, because they are able to make executive decrees or executive orders, and executive bureaucracies can be the source of regulations. So, the executive branch of government consists of leaders of offices, with the top leadership roles including the 'Head of State' (the Queen in the UK, a ceremonial position), the 'Head of Government' (the Prime Minister in the UK, and the *de facto* leader), in addition to a defence minister, an interior minister (the Home Secretary in the UK), a foreign minister, a finance minister (the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the UK) and a justice minister.

The core executive

The core executive is that part of government that implements policy. This covers the Prime Minister, the Cabinet, the Cabinet Committees, the Cabinet Office, the government departments and the Senior Civil Service.

The output of the Core Executive is scrutinised by Parliament, which has control over legislation. The connection between Parliament and the Core Executive is the party system, particularly Government Whips, who work to ensure the Government's majority in Parliament operates effectively. One of the key conventions of the UK's unwritten constitution is that there is Ministerial Accountability to Parliament, so ministers are members of Parliament, and answer for what they and their departments have done.

Meanwhile, the major Government Departments such as Foreign Affairs and the Treasury have political control exercised through a Cabinet Minister, combined with administrative control through a Permanent Secretary drawn from the civil service.

The Prime Minister

The Prime Minister is the leader of the Government. He or she is the leader of the party that wins the most seats at a general election. After a general election the monarch calls upon the leader of the largest party to form the Government. The Prime Minister chooses the other Members of the Government and has a residence and offices at 10 Downing Street.

Responsibilities

The Prime Minister is head of the UK government and is ultimately responsible for the policy and decisions of the government.

As head of the UK government the Prime Minister also:

- oversees the operation of the Civil Service and government agencies
- appoints members of the government
- is the principal government figure in the House of Commons

The Cabinet

The concept of Cabinet Government covers several ideas:

Firstly, that members of the Cabinet are drawn from and are therefore accountable for Parliament – so the executive and legislature are thus fused. So, the Prime Minister will draw Cabinet members from MPs in the House of Commons or member of the House of Lords (and can even make someone a Lord specifically to put them in the Cabinet).

Secondly, government policy (e.g. planned legislation, orders issued, priorities decided for time or spending) is decided collectively – with the Cabinet, not the PM, deciding policy and the Prime Minister being *Primus inter pares* ('First among equals'). In practice though, full Cabinet only decides policy when there are major disagreements on the key issues – as a final 'court of appeal', with most decisions actually taken by the PM or the Cabinet Committees.

Thirdly, the work of government departments is co-ordinated by meetings of Cabinet members. This is vital for ministers to avoid undermining each other's efforts. This is particularly important when spending is concerned and also because so many decisions are taken in cabinet committees which are attended by only the relevant ministers – which is why much of the full cabinet meetings are taken up by reports from the cabinet committees. In practice, day-to-day co-ordination is undertaken by the Cabinet Office, informal groups of ministers, and by the PM's advisors.

Fourthly, the concept of Cabinet government is that the Cabinet manages Parliamentary business, considering bills coming up that week, with the Chief Whip advising on how much opposition is expected.

Cabinet Committees

Cabinet Committees are sub-committees of the Cabinet. They are composed of Ministers, or Civil Servants, or both. Outside advisors can also be added. Some, like the EDP (Economic and Domestic Policy Committee) are semi-permanent, whilst others are for one-off problems or periodically emerging issues.

Chairmen of Cabinet Committees are appointed by the Prime Minister, who can also chair the most important ones should they wish. Their proceedings are mostly secret. The Chairs report proceedings and decisions taken to the full Cabinet.

Cabinet Committees have been described as the 'engine-room of government'. As the workload of government has increased, decision taken here have the same status as those taken in full cabinet, with only the most important referred back to Cabinet for confirmation.

A member of a committee unhappy about a decision made on it cannot take that complaint to full cabinet unless the committee chairman supports them (the 'Wilson rule'), with the exception of the Chief Secretary of the Treasury, who sits on many committees to watch over spending.

This means that full cabinet becomes just a 'rubber-stamp' with few full discussions of government decisions. Some feel that Prime Ministers can therefore use cabinet committees to dominate government, but others think they are an efficient way of taking or preparing for policy decisions, as the Cabinet is too large and meets too infrequently to do everything

The Cabinet Office

The Cabinet Office is a Government department with the responsibility of supporting the Prime Minister and their Cabinet. Its units support cabinet committees and co-ordinate the delivery of government objectives through the departments. It has over two thousand staff, with most of them working in Whitehall. The Cabinet Office includes members of the Prime Minister's office.

The Cabinet Office has three core functions. It supports the Prime Minister in defining and delivering the Government's objectives, implementing political and constitutional reform, and driving forward cross-departmental priority issues such as improvement in public services. It also supports the Cabinet, working across departments to driving coherence, quality and delivery of policy and operations. Furthermore, it strengthening the civil service – making sure it is efficiently organised to deliver Government objectives in a way that promotes value for money to the taxpayer.

British Government Departments

The [Government of the United Kingdom](#) exercises its [executive authority](#) through a number of [government departments](#) or departments of state. A department is composed of employed officials, known as [civil servants](#), and is politically accountable through a [minister](#). Most major departments are headed by a [secretary of state](#), who sits in the [cabinet](#), and typically supported by a team of junior ministers.

There are also a number of non-ministerial departments. These are headed by senior civil servants, but are linked to a ministerial department through whose ministers they are accountable to [Parliament](#). Departments serve to implement the policies of Her Majesty's Government, regardless of the government's political composition.^[1] As a consequence, officials within government departments are generally required to adhere to varying levels of political impartiality and neutrality.

There are two types of government departments.

Ministerial departments are led politically by a [government minister](#), normally a member of the [cabinet](#) and cover matters that require direct political oversight. For most departments, the government minister in question is known as a [secretary of state](#). He or she is generally supported by a team of junior ministers. The administrative management of a department is led by a senior [civil servant](#), known as a [permanent secretary](#). Subordinate to these ministerial departments are [executive agencies](#). An executive agency has a degree of [autonomy](#) to perform an operational function and report to one or more specific government departments, which will set the funding and strategic policy for the agency. At "arm's length" from a parent or sponsor department there can be a number of [non-departmental public bodies](#) (NDPBs), known colloquially as [quasi-autonomous non-governmental organisations](#) (Quangos).

[Non-ministerial departments](#) generally cover matters for which direct political oversight is judged unnecessary or inappropriate. They are headed by [senior civil servants](#). Some fulfil a regulatory or inspection function, and their status is intended to protect them from political interference. Some are headed by [Permanent Secretaries](#) or [Second Permanent Secretaries](#)

Civil Service

Civil Servants are non-military servants of the crown, paid wholly and directly by money voted by Parliament, excluding the holders of political or judicial office. This definition excludes the military, local government officers (paid by councils), government ministers and judges. There are around 440,000 civil servants in the UK, working in a variety of government departments and agencies. They are deployed throughout the country, and the work of most of them is highly routine. This is why there are sometimes called the 'bureaucracy'.

The senior civil service, of which the latest count is around 3,700, are mainly based in Whitehall in Central London. At the head of the Senior Civil Service are the "Permanent Secretaries" and, ultimately, the Cabinet Secretary, and the Head of the Home Civil Service. Senior Civil Servants are in everyday contact with ministers, they are a permanent élite, carefully selected on the basis of high academic qualifications and proven administrative ability.

[online] [dostęp 07.02.2019] dostępne w Internecie:

<https://www.tutor2u.net/politics/reference/a-level-politics-study-note-listing-uk-government>

<https://www.parliament.uk/site-information/glossary/prime-minister/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_government_departments , <http://legal-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com>

I. Match the English terms with their Polish equivalents:

1 to enforce the law	A Sekretariat Rady Ministrów
2 tyrannical leadership	B 'podkopywać' czyjeś wysiłki
3 executive decrees	C Państwowa Służba Cywilna
4 the Home Secretary	D doprowadzić do łączności
5 the Chancellor of the Exchequer	E dostarczenie celów
6 to implement policy	F wybrani spośród
7 the Civil Service	G polityczna ingerencja
8 Whips	H zostać mianowanym
9 Ministerial Accountability	I nakazy wykonawcze
10 the Treasury	J nadzór polityczny
11 drawn from	K przestrzegać bezstronności
12 spending	L "Bicze" – funkcjonariusze odpowiedzialni za dyscyplinę członków partii podczas głosowania
13 undermining someone's efforts	M egzekwować prawo
14 to be appointed	N Minister Skarbu
15 the Cabinet Office	O odpowiedzialność ministrów
16 the delivery of objectives	P wydatki
17 to drive coherence	R wprowadzić w życie politykę
18 to adhere to impartiality	S Skarb Państwa
19 political oversight	T Minister Spraw Wewnętrznych
20 political interference	U tyrańskie przywództwo

II. Complete the gaps with the given terms:

subordinate, enforces, Civil Service, orders, Permanent, accountability, Cabinet Office, Quangos, undermining, oversight, Chief Whip, impartiality

1. Government officials must always act with neutrality and
2. The Prime Minister is supported by the
3. , which are non-departmental public bodies, help the ministerial departments and agencies.
4. Executive agencies are to government departments.
5. An official who advises on how much opposition is expected, is called the
6. Ministers' liability to Parliament for what their departments have done is
7. The work of ministerial departments demands political
8. Cabinet Ministers exercise political control over the government departments together with Secretaries who execute administrative control.
9. The PM is head of the government and supervises activities of the
10. The Cabinet also decides about government policy, e.g. spending, issued
11. Cabinet members hold meetings to coordinate ministers' work to prevent their efforts.

12. The executive branch is responsible for the administration of the state and the law.

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