

WORKING IN THE 'HEART OF GOVERNMENT' IN WESTMINSTER AND WHITEHALL

PRESENTATION AT WARWICK UNIVERSITY

November 20th



Today's agenda

1. Introductions

2. Working in the Civil Service

3. Working for MPs and Ministers

4. Discussion/ Q&A

1. Introductions

2. Working in Civil Service

Recent trends in public sector employment



Public sector today employs over 5 million people



Recent local government job cutbacks have been especially big



Many areas of public sector have 'fast track' streams for graduates



Whitehall civil service 'fast stream' is very popular option

Case study of Civil Service 'fast stream'



**Estimated
400,000 civil
servants in
Whitehall**



**Fast stream has
more than
20,000
applications for
1,000 jobs**



**Can take 18-31
weeks to apply
with starting
salaries of just
under £30,000**



**15 different fast
stream options,
plus paid
Summer
internships**

3. Working for MPs and Ministers

Working for MPs



MPs employ many 'casework' staff in their constituencies, not London



Policy-type roles tends to be based in Westminster



Increasing number of roles in devolved bodies (Cardiff, Edinburgh) too



Average salary for Westminster assistants is circa £25,000 (Glassdoor)

Working for ministers



Parliamentary assistants can have a big role for junior ministers



Cabinet ministers also appoint special advisers (Spads)



Spad roles date back until at least the 1960s but has evolved significantly



Being a Spad (and MP assistant) is a frequent launchpad to a political career

4. Post-presentation discussion

