

In June 1694, a Treasury Warrant created the office of Secretary to the Post Office. This was a result of representations made by the Postmaster Generals Robert Cotton and Thomas Frankland. The first office holder was John Avent, who was awarded a salary of £100 a year—a lot of money in those days. The position of Secretary soon became one that held real influence in the Post Office, with the Secretary's office becoming the centre of decision making.

In 1934, as a result of structural changes within the Post Office the position of Secretary was renamed Director General. In October 1966 when the Post Office was working towards becoming a Corporation the position of Director General was renamed Deputy Chairman of the Post Office, and given responsibility for overseeing the change in status. The position of Secretary to the Post Office was recreated again in 1969 with the appointment of Mr M. O. Tinniswood. Notable Secretaries to the Post Office have included Sir Francis Freeling who concerned himself with the record keeping practices of the Post Office, and Sir Rowland Hill, credited with the invention of the world's first postage stamp.

### Secretaries to the Post Office 1694-1934

Date of appointment	Name
20 June 1694	John Avent
1700	Benjamin Waterhouse
1714	Henry Weston
1720	Joseph Godman
1730	W Rouse
1737	Thomas Robinson (also Solicitor to the Post Office)
15 September 1738	John D. Barbutt
22 July 1742	George Shelvocke
19 March 1760	Henry Potts
1 December 1762	Anthony Todd
19 July 1765	Henry Potts (2nd term)
6 January 1768	Anthony Todd (2nd term)
7 June 1798	Sir Francis Freeling
29 September 1836	Colonel W. L. Maberley

## Secretaries to the Post Office (contd.)

<b>Date of appointment</b>	<b>Name</b>
22 April 1854	Sir Rowland Hill (also Secretary to the Postmaster General 1846-1854)
15 March 1864	John Tilley
1 May 1880	Stevenson A. Blackwood (later Sir S. Arthur Blackwood)
10 November 1893	Sir Spencer Walpole
10 February 1899	Sir George H. Murray
1 October 1903	Sir H. Babington Smith
17 January 1910	Sir Matthew Nathan
1 October 1903	Sir Alexander F. King
24 August 1914	Sir G. Evelyn P. Murray

### **Director Generals 1934-1966**

<b>Date of appointment</b>	<b>Name</b>
14 April 1934	Sir Donald Banks
9 August 1936	Sir Thomas Gardiner
1 January 1946	Sir Raymond Birchall
1 October 1949	Mr R. A. Little (later Sir Alexander Little)
1 October 1955	Sir Gordon Radley
1 June 1960	Sir Ronald German

### **Deputy Chairman of the Post Office Board 1966-1969**

<b>Date of appointment</b>	<b>Name</b>
1 November 1966	Mr J. Wall

### **Secretaries to the Post Office 1969-2005**

<b>Date of appointment</b>	<b>Name</b>
5 August 1969	Mr M. O. Tinniswood
1971	Mr A. Wolstencroft
1 April 1973	Mr G. H. G. Tilling

## Assistant Postmaster Generals (contd.)

Date of appointment	Name
1 July 1975	Ms J. M. Emery
1 January 1978	Mr M. Argent
1 May 1980	Mr A. J. Roberts
10 February 1982	Mr J. R. Baxter
5 March 1984	Mr D. S. Haskett
11 February 1985	Ms Morag Macdonald
1994	David Savill
December 1995	Richard Osmond
	Richard Adams
2 November 1999	Jonathan Evans

### Sources

POST 58: Staff Nominations and Appointments  
POST 59: Staff Establishments  
POST 92: Post Office Staff Magazines  
Portfolio: Secretaries– General (mainly press releases)

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