Mark Francois MP
Rayleigh and Wickford

Mark has been the MP for Rayleigh and Wickford, in Essex, since 2001. Mark was born in Islington in 1965 and moved to Basildon with his parents in 1971. He attended Bristol University and King's College, London, where he read History and War Studies, respectively.

During the Cold War, Mark served as an infantry officer in the Territorial Army with the Royal Anglian Regiment. He is also a former Defence Minister, now serving on the House of Commons Defence Select Committee.

Mark's political career began in local government when he was elected to Basildon District Council in 1991 for the Langdon Hills Ward. When the Conservatives took control of the council in 1992, Mark served for three years as the Vice-Chairman of the Housing Committee, during which time he gained considerable experience of social housing policy.

A prominent and vocal Eurosceptic, Mark is the current Chair of the European Research Group, formerly its' Deputy Chair.