Prime Ministers have tried to develop influence by working in bilateral relationships with ministers in order to see that policy is developed in a way that accords with the Prime Ministerial agenda. More importantly has been a continual move to increase policy capacity within Number 10. Institutionalising the Power of the Prime Minister 1997-2007. The period since 1979 in particular has seen the growing development of Prime Ministerial capacity. Margaret Thatcher increased the number of personal advisors and increased the size of the Policy Unit. Kavanagh, D. and Seldon, A. (2000) The Powers Behind the Prime Minister: The Hidden Influence of Number Ten London: Harper Collins. 1 March 2011. Hennessy tells a story of increasing Prime Ministerial power at the expense of Cabinet, Parliament and other key players, including ministers and other stakeholders. The burgeoning size of Number Ten has permitted this accretion of power, which Blair shares in Downing Street, to some extent, with Gordon Brown. In the first edition of The Powers Behind the Prime Minister, we took a different line to most commentators. It was Prime Ministerial weakness that we saw, rather than Prime Ministerial power, excessive or otherwise. How much influence do they have? Even the policeman standing outside has an inscrutable air about him. The operation and effectiveness of Number Ten interested both of us from earlier work. They have also talked to every Prime Minister still living. The book, as a result, contains controversial material never disclosed before. It also looks closely at the workings of power within Number 10 and the importance of geography inside the house for access to the Prime Minister, and to information and influence. The Powers Behind the Prime Minister sheds sensational new light on many of our PMs. The best account of the Blair inner circle. Peter Riddell, The Times Books of the Year. Political Science. This book is currently unavailable.