

Entity: Ashlea Simon

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Semantic Summary

Salford-born far-right activist and former co-leader of Britain First — described by Searchlight as the more electorally credible face of an organisation with very little electoral credibility. A former Yellow Vests activist alongside James Goddard, she joined Britain First in 2019, became party chairman after its 2021 Electoral Commission registration, and was elevated to co-leader in 2024, heading political and electoral work while founder Paul Golding (also her former romantic partner) ran street activism. She quit abruptly in May 2026 via an unexplained Telegram post, continuing a pattern of Golding's partners leaving acrimoniously (as Jayda Fransen did before her). Post-split she has declared "civic nationalism is dead" and "ethno-nationalism is the only way forward", signalling a pivot towards the Restore Britain ethno-nationalist faction led by Steve Laws and Sam Wilkes. Her departure illustrates Britain First's terminal decline and the wider fragmentation of the UK far-right.

Basic Information

- **Type:** Person / Far-right activist / Former Britain First co-leader
- **Status:** Active (quit Britain First May 2026, operating as independent activist)
- **Party:** Britain First (2019–May 2026), now independent/affiliated with Restore ethno-nationalist faction
- **Background:** Former Yellow Vests activist, rose through Britain First ranks to become co-leader
- **Platforms:** Telegram, X/Twitter
- **Location:** Salford

Role in Ecosystem

Ashlea Simon was, until May 2026, the co-leader and public electoral face of Britain First — the most electorally credible figure in an organisation with very little electoral credibility. Appointed party chairman after Britain First achieved Electoral Commission registration in 2021, she was elevated to co-leader in 2024 alongside founder Paul Golding, heading the party's political and electoral work while Golding focused on street activism.

Her abrupt departure in May 2026 — announced via a brief Telegram post with no explanation — marks a significant blow to Britain First, which has been steadily declining in active membership and branch structure. Post-split, Simon has posted about "Restore Patriots" and declared that "civic nationalism is dead" and "ethno-nationalism is the only way forward", suggesting a pivot towards the ethno-nationalist faction within Restore Britain, led by Steve Laws and Sam Wilkes.

Her significance in the ecosystem lies in what her departure reveals about Britain First's terminal decline and the fragmentation of the UK far-right, as activists migrate to newer formations like Restore Britain and ethno-nationalist alternatives.

Known Associations

Person/Org	Relationship	Evidence
Paul Golding	Britain First leader; former co-leader and romantic partner	Searchlight
Jayda Fransen	Predecessor as Golding's deputy/partner; left acrimoniously	Searchlight
James Goddard	Yellow Vests movement co-activist	Searchlight
Steve Laws	Restore Britain ethno-nationalist faction	Searchlight
Sam Wilkes	Restore Britain ethno-nationalist faction	Searchlight
Restore Britain	Potential new affiliation post-BF	Searchlight

Key Events

- **2019:** Joined Britain First
- **2021:** Appointed party chairman after Electoral Commission registration
- **2024:** Elevated to co-leader at spring conference
- **May 2026:** Announced departure from Britain First via Telegram
- **2026 (post-split):** Signalled shift toward ethno-nationalism; references "Restore Patriots"

Notes

- Born 1988 in Salford
- Rose rapidly through Britain First's ranks — described by Searchlight as "the more electorally credible face of an organisation with very little electoral credibility to speak of"

- Her departure continues a pattern of Britain First leaders' partners leaving acrimoniously (Jayda Fransen previously alleged Golding subjected her to physical violence)
- Britain First co-leader system: Simon heads political/electoral work, Golding heads street activity

Tags

- activist
- anti-immigration
- ashlea-simon
- britain-first
- ethno-nationalist
- far-right
- nationalist
- north-west
- paul-golding
- person
- politician
- restore-britain
- telegram
- twitter

Revision #1

Created 2026-08-21 11:58:46 UTC by Admin

Updated 2026-08-21 11:58:46 UTC by Admin