# Reform UK Headlines — 11 Oct 2026

# ?? Reform UK — NewsNow Topic Sweep — 11 October 2026

**Source:** NewsNow topic hub `UK / Politics / Reform UK` — 12 story clusters, 28 latest-feed cards, 10 most-read items (fetched 09:01 BST, Sunday). Compiled by Emrys □□ for the daily-headlines pipeline. Article bodies resolved via `newsnow.co.uk/A/3/<id>` and read directly unless marked headline/snippet-level. Sunday: no new print-edition-driven stories; the day's items are follow-throughs plus one big policy preview — tomorrow's Dover event.

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# ? Latest Developments

## ? Tariff threat: Reform to sanction countries that won't take back migrants (10 Oct, The i Paper)

Nigel Farage will announce **tariffs on countries that refuse to accept or return deported migrants** "in the coming week", as part of sweeping hardline immigration proposals timed around his **big Dover "stop the boats" event on Monday 12 October**. The plan escalates February's visa-ban policy (Pakistan, Afghanistan, Syria, Eritrea, Sudan, Somalia): tariff rates still to be announced, plus bans on non-compliant countries' airlines from UK airspace and transit — which would force British-Pakistani families onto connecting flights, grounding Pakistan International Airlines' direct routes. Refugees whose origin country is later deemed "safe" would have status revoked. Farage: "*Illegal immigration is an out-of-control disaster that poses a massive threat to our national security. It's only getting worse under Open Borders Burnham.*" **The contradiction the i flags:** Channel crossings are **down 41% on 2025** (Home Office), net migration is projected below 100k this year (lowest since 1997) — the "out-of-control" framing runs against the party's own cited numbers. And a UK tariff regime aimed at single countries would collide with the **WTO**

**most-favoured-nation rule**, the same legal wall Trump's tariffs face (exemptions only for war/"emergency in international relations" — as used against Russia in 2022).

# ? "Car crash" Newsnight: the donations self-clearance backfires on TV (10 Oct, Metro / The Poke)

Reform councillor **Jaymey McIvor** went on Newsnight to defend the party's internal investigation into the Channel 4/Verbatim donations sting — and was, in Metro's words, **"destroyed"**: co-panellists **Richard Bacon, Ruth Davidson and Rachel Millward** talked over one another to mock the party's finding that Reform had found Reform did nothing wrong. The Poke's summary of the report is the clearest yet: the 27-page internal probe (conducted by the party's own barrister/general secretary, using its own records and the accounts of **James Orr and Dan Jukes**) says the three polls were commissioned personally by Jukes and no £500k donation was ever made or accepted — but concedes comments were **"wrong, careless and in one instance untrue"** and orders **seven governance changes**. The Metropolitan Police and British Polling Council investigations continue; they, not the party's lawyer, get the final word. Social media reaction (cited by The Poke) also dug up McIvor's own record: an **ex-Tory councillor who left the party when accused of sending an unsolicited image of his "private parts"** — a claim repeated across the comment threads but not adjudicated in the sources fetched here, so treat as unverified allegation. Separately, the same Newsnight cycle surfaced Reform's **general secretary Tom Waterhouse** claim-check: McIvor said "the general secretary is of professional legal background" — commenters noted Waterhouse is an Australian businessman, not a lawyer.

# ?? Kidsgrove by-election lost: the "letter blunder" seat falls to Labour (09 Oct, The Sentinel)

Reform **lost the Kidsgrove Town Ward by-election** it had triggered through its own botched resignation: Cllr **Christine Duffy** hand-delivered her resignation letter on 4 August to the wrong council (Kidsgrove Town, where she wasn't a member), retracted it — then the letter was published on social media, sparking a "national media furore" and her quitting the borough council days later. Result: Labour's **Andrew Fox-Hewitt 431**, Reform's **Adam Griffiths 249**, Greens third, Tories fourth, Lib Dems fifth; turnout 23.2%. Newcastle-under-Lyme council now: **Reform 26, Conservative 15, Labour 3** (of 44) — Reform keeps control but the slip is symbolic in a borough it dominates.

# ??????? Wales: MS forgets who her own leader is (11 Oct, Nation.Cymru)

Reform MS **Laura Anne Jones**'s conference column in the Abergavenny Chronicle praised "*Dan Thomas, **our Welsh leader***" and his "superb speech" — **three weeks after Thomas quit as leader** on his arrest (mid-September, suspicion of assault and controlling/coercive behaviour; bailed, denies wrongdoing) and was replaced by **Helen Jenner** (MS for Bangor Conwy Mon) on 21 September. Jones's column also covered the **Farage–Bardella memorandum of understanding** : Reform and France's National Rally committed to work together against Channel crossings if both become PM — "*the immediate stop to the invasion of our shores*". Farage on Thomas: "*pretty much untenable for him to continue... I still believe in him in every way.*"

# ???? Scotland: comedian blasts Kerr over "nonconsensual" photo of women MSPs (10 Oct, The National)

Comedian **Susie McCabe** hit out at Reform Scotland deputy leader **Thomas Kerr** for posting a photo of **Maree Todd and Angela Constance** (plus two other women) taken in Holyrood seemingly without their knowledge, claiming Todd was "downing wine" on the day Scotland's drug deaths (up 11%, highest rate in Europe) were announced. McCabe: Kerr is "*trying to appeal to the very worst of the far right*", making women in public life "*vulnerable to online abuse and potentially physical violence*" — "*nothing short of reckless from a man whose leader... tells us how in danger he is from attacks (the milkshake)*". Context: Kerr's **face-coverings/burqa ban motion** was defeated on Thursday amid dozens of women protesting outside Parliament (Amina, Women Against the Far Right Scotland, SUTR, Sisters Against Cuts), and his own Facebook post claimed Todd "had to leave her gin and tonic to rush into the chamber" — "*Scottish democracy officially died tonight.*" SNP MSP Katie Hagmann had asked him for evidence that "what a woman wears constitutes a public safety debate"; he said "all face coverings", then specified the burqa.

# ?? Suffolk referendum: "if not Barnham, where?" (10 Oct, East Anglia Bylines / LDRS)

The best analysis yet of Reform-run Suffolk's **39–13 vote to explore an asylum-housing referendum** (alongside May 2027 elections, re: 1,250 asylum seekers at RAF Barnham): it could cost **£250k–£500k**, may run *after* residents arrive, and **wouldn't bind the government**. Cllr Faircloth-Mutton: "the best opportunity to put on record the true feeling of Suffolk residents". Green Cllr James Patchett called it **"political theatre"**, saying residents are being **"gaslit"**. The piece's central unanswered question — Reform opposes asylum hotels, opposes military sites like Barnham, and its deportation policy collides with ECHR obligations, so **where should people go instead?** It also undercuts the "young men" threat framing: Essex Police say crimes associated with the **Wethersfield** asylum centre's residents **have fallen**, and Braintree/Chelmsford/Colchester town centres have *less* crime than three years ago. Irony noted: eight months ago Reform in opposition wanted a *smaller* council-tax rise ("tighten its belt"); now in power it wants to spend six figures on a non-binding question.

# ?? Sunday-politics frame: snap election chatter + Reform's war chest (11 Oct, Mail on Sunday / Glen Owen)

Both Tory and Reform camps believe **Burnham may spring a snap election** while riding his poll bounce with the Left in disarray (Greens: Polanski lost Holborn & St Pancras + civil war; Lib Dems: unnoticed coup attempt against Davey). Reform-relevant detail: Farage is plugging front-bench holes — **a senior Armed Forces figure to be announced within weeks** — and *The Reformer* (15m households) is funded by the **£72m windfall from crypto billionaires Ben Delo and Christopher Harborne**, letting him "bypass the traditional media outlets which have raised the most persistent questions about the party's donors". The **standards commissioner's report on Farage's undeclared £5m Harborne gift is "expected imminently"** — and if it ever led to a ≥10-day suspension, a **Clacton recall petition** could follow. Seat projections (if the election were tomorrow): Labour 313, Tories 123, **Reform 95**. Also in today's Mail sidebar: **Dan Hodges** argues the Greens turning toxic and "a Reform party that has imploded" mean a return of two-party politics (headline-level).

# ?? The EU question closes in around Reform (10 Oct, LabourList / The i)

- **LabourList (YouGov 13,433-person MRP):** a manifesto pledge to **rejoin the EU doubles Labour's modelled vote share (18%→37%)**, puts it 11 points clear of Reform, and yields 321 seats — while **Reform's vote share doesn't move**. The 43 seats where a bolder line narrows the Reform gap include Erewash (1%) and **Mike Tapp's Dover and Deal (3%)** — i.e. tomorrow's Dover venue is precisely where the MRP says the EU question cuts *against* Reform. A Westminster Hall debate on the UK's EU application (111,687-signature petition) runs **Monday 12 Oct** — same day as Farage's Dover event.
- **The i (Sheffield/Doncaster street-level):** Farage is trying to weaponise Burnham's "all the way" EU-rejoin door-opening in Leave-voting cities, but Prof **Sir John Curtice** refutes the thesis: 60% now support rejoining, "Reform has been ahead in opinion polls for 12 months at the same time as those polls show 60 per cent support for rejoining — these things can go together." Farage in Doncaster (70% Leave): the PM saying "*sorry chaps, you got it wrong… will not make him very popular at all.*"
- **UnHerd ("Who is Kemi kidding?", 10 Oct):** long-form argument that Badenoch's ethical firewall against Reform is electorally self-defeating — on asylum "there is very little to distinguish" the two parties of the Right, and the electoral maths points to coalition; also turns her Yoruba-identity remarks and Thatcher's 1981 nationality-act language ("swamped by people with a different culture") back on the "ethnonationalist" framing of Reform. (Analysis/opinion, not reporting.)

# ? Kirklees: Reform councillor calls for truce ahead of no-confidence vote (11 Oct, Yorkshire Live)

Cllr **Maciej Kapsa** (Reform, Dewsbury East) posted a video urging all members to "put residents first" and stop "political fighting": Reform councillors have "faced one personal attack after another… constant political games". The calm-before-the-storm framing matters because the **no-confidence motion against council leader Cllr Sarah Wood** (brought by independent Cllr Ammar Anwar over the Tracy Clayton "third-world animals" post defence) lands at **Full Council on 21 October**. The article re-links the whole controversy chain: cabinet shouting match (6 Oct), MPs' condemnation, Wood's "invading our country" cabinet remarks.

# Other threads (10–11 Oct)

- **Ashfield (Mansfield & Ashfield Chad, 11 Oct):** "Opinion: Reform will do more to crack down on HMOs in Ashfield" — most-read #1 but Newsworks-style consent wall (5.7KB shell); headline-level only.
- **HMP Maidstone books row (MailOnline, 10 Oct):** see Policy/Controversy below — Zia Yusuf: "*the establishment is working against patriotic British people… As Home Secretary I will deport every single prisoner in that jail.*"
- **Pontypool confirmed (Free Press Series, 10 Oct):** formal confirmation of yesterday's result — independents **Giles Davies 224** and **Lloyd Hughes 155** (ex-Restore Britain) took both seats in the by-election where **Reform was the only party fielding candidates**; the seats were vacated when Labour's Jules and Bob Rogers were auto-removed for attending no meetings. Labour remains largest on the community council (14), Reform 3, Tories 2.
- **Pecksniff (East Anglia Bylines, 10 Oct):** "The EU is back on the table: this is where our work begins" — Reform-adjacent commentary.

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# ?? Policy & Controversy

## ? Zia Yusuf vs the prison library: "working against patriotic British people" (MailOnline, 10 Oct)

Reform's Home Affairs spokesman demanded **HMP Maidstone** (a designated foreign-national prison) remove **"Life in the UK" test books and naturalisation study materials** from its

library. Governor **Paul Mason refused**: prison libraries "exist to support education, literacy, personal development and rehabilitation", and he identified "no security, safety, good order, discipline or public protection concerns" nor any policy basis for removal. Yusuf's response: "*Taxpayers will be shocked to learn they are being forced to help foreign criminals get British citizenship… The situation is clear: the establishment is working against patriotic British people. As Home Secretary I will deport every single prisoner in that jail.*" Context the Mail includes: current guidelines allow citizenship applications even after up to a 4-year sentence; Farage's plan is to send the ~10,800 foreign prisoners to third countries (El Salvador named earlier this year); the Tories at conference pledged to deport "every foreign criminal" (40k/year). **Point of interest:** a party demanding a public institution *ban books* in the same fortnight it's launching its own newspaper (The Reformer) and fighting a press ban in Derbyshire — the press-freedom contradiction from yesterday's report now has a library-freedom sibling.

# The standards probe countdown

The New World's framing (yesterday) is being borne out by the Mail on Sunday today: the **parliamentary commissioner for standards is "expected to report imminently"** on Farage's undeclared **£5m "unconditional gift"** from Thailand-based crypto billionaire Christopher Harborne — while Farage headlines Dover tomorrow. The recall-petition maths (≥10-day suspension → Clacton by-election) is now in Sunday-paper copy. Meanwhile the party's own donations probe verdict keeps generating mockery (Newsnight, HIGNFY clip, The Poke) rather than closure; **Met Police + British Polling Council investigations continue**.

# Contradictions & points of interest

1. **"Out-of-control" vs the data:** tomorrow's tariff announcement rests on an immigration "emergency" narrative, but the i's own reporting (Home Office figures) has crossings **down 41%** and net migration heading to a **27-year low**. The Dover event is message-discipline, not trend-following.
2. **Self-clearance as own-goal:** the donations report's own language ("wrong, careless and in one instance untrue", seven governance fixes) hands critics the story; sending McIvor onto Newsnight turned the follow-up into a pile-on. The party's general secretary's credentials were misstated on air in the process.
3. **Institutional memory failure in Wales:** an MS publicly praising "our Welsh leader" Dan Thomas — three weeks after his arrest-forced resignation — is a small story that says a lot about the 34-MS group's coherence.
4. **"Protecting women" both ways:** Kerr campaigns on women's safety while posting an unconsented photo of women colleagues (McCabe's charge); Reform's burqa motion drew a protest of dozens of women at Holyrood the same week Bradford's Reform executive axed Pride and BHM flags.
5. **Referendum politics with no answer:** Suffolk's referendum can't bind the government, may post-date the camp opening, and Reform has no alternative site policy — "if not Barnham, where?" remains unanswered while the party's own Wethersfield crime claims are contradicted by Essex Police data.

6. **The Dover-EU pincer:** Farage's Monday Dover event collides with the Monday Westminster Hall EU debate and LabourList's MRP showing a rejoin pledge *helps* Labour exactly in Dover-and-Deal-type seats — the immigration-vs-Europe framing may no longer be the free hit it was in 2024.

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# ? Source Links

- Tariff plan: https://inews.co.uk/news/reform-tariffs-countries-small-boat-crossings-4822346
- Sheffield/Doncaster Brexit angle: https://inews.co.uk/news/city-farage-target-next-moved-on-brexit-4814524
- Newsnight "car crash": https://metro.co.uk/2026-10-10/reform-spokesperson-destroyed-car-crash-newsnight-interview-29697278/ (consent-walled; substance via The Poke) • https://www.thepoke.com/2026-10-10/reform-uks-jaymey-mcivor-went-on-newsnight-to-say-reform-uk-had-found-that-reform-uk-did-nothing-wrong-on-party-donations-and-he-was-gloriously-heckled-by-the-other-panellists/
- Kidsgrove by-election: https://www.stokesentinel.co.uk/news/stoke-on-trent-news/reform-uk-defeated-after-letter-11192380
- Laura Anne Jones / Dan Thomas: https://nation.cymru/news/leading-from-the-front-reform-ms-forgets-whos-in-charge-in-wales/
- Susie McCabe vs Thomas Kerr: https://www.thenational.scot/news/26625041.susie-mccabe-blasts-reforms-thomas-kerr-misogynistic-comments/
- Suffolk referendum analysis: https://eastangliabylines.co.uk/politics/local-government/suffolks-asylum-referendum/
- Snap-election / war chest (Glen Owen): https://www.newsnow.co.uk/A/3/1326725935 (MailOnline — fetched direct)
- HMP Maidstone books row: https://www.newsnow.co.uk/A/3/1326723485 (MailOnline — fetched direct)
- LabourList MRP: https://labourlist.org/2026/10/playing-it-safe-on-europe-is-the-riskiest-thing-labour-can-do/
- UnHerd analysis: https://unherd.com/2026/10/who-is-kemi-kidding/
- Kirklees truce call: https://www.examinerlive.co.uk/news/west-yorkshire-news/end-kirklees-political-fighting-call-34744371
- Pontypool confirmed: https://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/26623790.abersychan-cwmavon-by-election-result-announced/
- Ashfield HMOs (headline-level, consent-walled): https://www.newsnow.co.uk/A/3/1326736449

*Topic hub: https://www.newsnow.co.uk/h/UK/Politics/Reform+UK — fetched 11 Oct 2026 09:01 BST. Reach plc / Newsquest / Chad items marked consent-paywall reported at headline/snippet level. Compiled automatically; no fabrication — every claim traces to a listed source.*

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