Reform UK Headlines — 15 Oct 2026

?? Reform UK — NewsNow Topic Sweep — 15 October 2026

Source: NewsNow topic hub `UK / Politics / Reform UK` — top-story clusters + latest-feed cards fetched ~09:00 BST, Thursday. 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.

Big story today: ITV's *Undercover: A Year in Reform* has detonated — councillors and candidates filmed over 12 months using racist, violent and sexist language, at least three have resigned, Farage has postponed a major Essex announcement, and deputy leader Richard Tice's counter-attack (accusing ITV of "probable criminal activity") has been widely mocked as the Streisand Effect.

? Latest Developments

?? THE HEADLINE: ITV undercover film exposes racist language by Reform councillors (14–15 Oct, BBC / Evening Standard / The National / Birmingham Live — bodies read)

ITV News broadcast *Undercover: A Year in Reform* — footage gathered over a year by reporters embedded with Reform candidates and councillors across England and Wales, running up to the May elections and four by-election campaigns. ITV's filming involved **eight Reform figures** (the BBC does not know how many it spoke to in total). Reform says all are under investigation and have "either resigned or been suspended". Key recorded remarks:

- **Alan Feeney** (Solihull councillor and deputy mayor, defected from the Tories in 2025; also a **custody manager at HMP Birmingham** per official records): called an area "infested" with Asian families, described Asian homeowners as "absolute parasites", said "no more than one per cent of the British population can be non-white", was recorded saying "Drag them out of their homes, stick them on planes and f*** them off to Pakistan", admitted "If it's an Asian name, I'm not even knocking at the door… I ain't wasting my time" and called his approach **"Alan's racist canvassing"**. Anti-racism group Brummies United Against Racism and Hate Crime is writing to the council and prison governor demanding his removal from both roles: "Top down, Reform UK is riddled with racists… He is a racist and a misogynist and is not fit for public office."
- **Dean Miller** (Bromley Reform councillor, elected May 2026): allegedly claimed London had been "ethnically cleansed", said of Bromley "you never used to get any blacks over… and now Bromley [has] massive Nigerian communities there", described black children involved in vandalism as "like animals", claimed **"Apparently King Charles is a Muslim"**, and suggested the King had betrayed the country with comments about beheading him. Miller told ITV he was heavily medicated for a chronic pain condition at the time. He has **resigned from Reform UK** and is listed as an independent on Bromley Council's website.
- **Jamie Campbell** (Solihull): recorded discussing plans for a local mosque — "There's got to be a way of stopping that, like go and buy some pork chops. We'll bury it in the ground."
- **Chris Whelan** (Castle Bromwich, Solihull): resigned from the Reform group "on personal and health grounds" hours after Feeney; continues as an independent.
- Feeney and Whelan's resignations were announced Monday 12 October citing "personal reasons" — the backdrop became clear when clips aired. Feeney did not reply to comment requests.
- **Farage postponed a major announcement** due in Essex on Thursday morning (The National).

Party response: Reform spokesman — "there is no room for racism" in the party; "Where members, activists and councillors have clearly behaved inappropriately, investigations have commenced… In some cases, there have been suspensions and due process must be followed." On vetting: "Reform UK has improved and prioritised its vetting procedures, but from time to time, a handful of individuals who do not share our values will initially make it through vetting. **This is the same for all organisations.**" Farage has repeatedly said he'll be "absolutely ruthless" about removing "bad apples" and in 2024 said he didn't want Reform to be "a sectarian or racially based party in any way at all".

Political reaction:

- **Labour** (party chair Bridget Phillipson): "truly sickening… Nigel Farage can't shrug these latest revelations off as being a few bad apples." She added: "Nigel Farage needs to explain why this keeps happening in his party and why he is failing to deal with blatant racism among those who stand for public office with his backing."
- **Conservatives:** "Nigel Farage promised to make Reform ready for government. These sorry individuals are proof he has failed."

- **Lib Dems** (Sir Ed Davey): "This is chilling. I feel for anyone watching this tonight who is frightened to see such racism and hatred festering in their community."
- **Greens:** "Vilifying migrants and Muslims is Reform's main focus, and these racist comments reflect party policy."

Context: ITV's investigation follows the Verbatim/Channel 4 documentary last month showing Farage and advisers Dan Jukes and James Orr discussing routing an American donor's money via his UK-based son (Met Police investigation ongoing). The full ITV Exposure programme is due to air **Sunday 18 October**.

? Tice's counter-attack: ITV accused of "probable criminal activity" (14 Oct, Left Foot Forward / BANG Premier — bodies read)

Reform released a video in which deputy leader **Richard Tice** accuses ITV and production company Hardcash of "probable criminal activity against Reform UK" — claiming they "tampered" with passport information and used fake addresses to get the undercover reporter employed at Reform HQ between "late 2025 and early 2026", that the reporting was "in total breach of Ofcom rules", and that ITV used a "Tory plant" as a "defecting councillor deliberately saying some things to make us look bad". He said Reform pays "significant sums" for security and has called on Reform MPs, councillors and members to **refuse to speak to ITV "until they apologise"**. He also conceded: "if you record hundreds of conversations undercover over a 12 month period, using dozens of people, you'll find people say some stuff that I wouldn't say, agree with or condone. That's life, it's called the real world."

- **The contradiction:** Ofcom rules *permit* secret filming where it is in the public interest and the information cannot be obtained by other means. Left Foot Forward's framing — the party was mocked, with one X user calling it "the inept personification of the Streisand Effect"; another: "Sounds like ITV have completely destroyed Reform." ITV News analysis (14 Oct): "Why Farage's response to ITV's investigation will shape Reform's future."

? Second poll in a week puts Tories ahead of Reform (14 Oct, Independent / MailOnline — headline-level)

"The Badenoch Bounce goes on!" — a second consecutive poll has the Conservatives leapfrogging Reform, with Badenoch's personal ratings hitting a new high (MailOnline framing). This follows Monday's YouGov (Labour 24 / Tories 23 / Reform 21) that put Reform third for the first time since 2024. The i Paper's analysis (14 Oct): Badenoch is re-targeting the "**Waitrose Woman**" voter and ditching the Red Wall chase — "the Conservative leader's strategy of slow but solid recovery is starting to bear fruit". Badenoch had already ruled out any Reform coalition (6 Oct) and branded

Reform "too nasty for the nasty party" (Mirror).

?? Policy & Controversy

?? Chagos/Falklands row: Badenoch calls Farage's Trump proposal "humiliating" (14 Oct, MercoPress — body read)

Badenoch attacked a proposal by Farage to **offer Donald Trump the Chagos archipelago in exchange for his silence on the Falklands**: "Giving away British territory in return for someone keeping quiet is not a deal. It is humiliating... There is no pride in our country in the way he talks about us. This is careless, loose talk from a man who wants to be responsible for Britain's national security." She called it "mad for someone who wants to be prime minister to say we should give away one piece of British territory just to stop an American president talking about another". MailOnline's Dan Hodges column (14 Oct) went further: "Kemi is right to distance herself from Trump. His brand is irreversibly toxic and will only harm Farage."

?? Catholic Church slams the five-year asylum suspension (14 Oct, Mirror exclusive — body read)

In a direct blow to Farage's claim to represent "Judeo-Christian values", the **Catholic Church of England and Wales** told the Mirror that turning away people fleeing persecution is contrary to the Bible's teachings: "The Gospel calls us to welcome the stranger, and that call must shape how we speak about and respond to people seeking safety." It cited the bishops' 2023 document *Love The Stranger* — "every migrant has a name, a face and a story" — and **Pope Leo XIV's** warning after his Apostolic Journey to France that Gospel values "are not about hatred and division" and against "extremist ideas (that perhaps will do much more damage than we are even aware of now)". The Church was responding to Monday's announcement that a Reform government would accept no asylum claims for five years.

? Ben Delo's crypto firm faces £20m claim (14 Oct, The Lawyer / Mirror — snippet-level)

Seladore (co-founded by billionaire Reform donor **Ben Delo**) has launched a **£20m claim** against a Reform donor's company / Delo's former crypto firm is sued for millions in UK (The Lawyer and

Mirror headlines; The Lawyer article sits behind its JS shell — headline-level only). This adds to the donor-scrutiny pile: the £5m Harborne crypto-gift standards investigation and the Channel 4 American-donor sting already noted in earlier sweeps.

?? Councillor exodus continues (12–15 Oct, Coventry Live / BBC — bodies read)

- **Solihull:** Alan Feeney and Chris Whelan resigned the whip within 24 hours (12 Oct), both citing "personal reasons"; group leader Samantha Gethen: "We regret this outcome." Feeney also stepped down from the Reform group at Birmingham City Council (Shard End ward).
- **Doncaster: William Shaw** (Conisbrough ward, elected May 2026) quit Reform to sit as an independent (14 Oct, BBC/LDRS), writing to group leader Howard Rimmer: "Through my councillor work, I now hold positions that are politically neutral" (he is Doncaster Council's farming and nature recovery champion and sits on the £20m Pride in Place board). Rimmer: "extremely disappointed… residents elected him under the Reform UK banner."
- **Oldham:** Paul Taylor elected leader of the Reform group (13 Oct); Reform has named a candidate for the Failsworth West by-election triggered by the former leader's "letter blunder" (14 Oct, Oldham Times).
- **Scotland:** The National (15 Oct): "Reform UK figures quit after being filmed using racist and sexist language."

? Local-government record under the spotlight

- **Sandwell:** Reform's administration will vote next Tuesday to **axe the 2020 climate emergency declaration** (deputy leader Gary Dale's motion, which makes no reference to climate change or net zero — sustainability will no longer be a "standalone emergency"). Meanwhile Reform is also moving to declare a "housing emergency" in Sandwell, and Birmingham World questions Reform's "broken promise" on free parking; 19 road safety schemes are paused "under review". The apparent contradiction: axing one declaration while declaring another emergency, after campaigning against climate-declaration "symbolism".
- **Barrow:** Labour MP Michelle Scrogham condemned Reform councillor **Nathan Holmes** for calling Barrow "**the armpit of England**" in a Daily Express feature on deprivation: "utterly wrong" — most towns would "kill" for Barrow's opportunity. Reform counter-accuse Labour of posing for "glossy" photoshoots.
- **Glasgow:** At PMQs (14 Oct), Labour MP Maureen Burke cited the BBC Disclosure documentary on city-centre criminality (1,200 sexual offences recorded in the year to March 2026) and warned that SNP underfunding and council failure have let Reform "**exploit public safety fears to stoke racial division**". PM Burnham: policing is devolved, but he is "very open to working with the SNP Government, Police Scotland and Glasgow City Council".

- **Stroud:** Labour won the Rodborough ward by-election (13 Oct), beating both the Greens and Reform — the latest in a run of Reform by-election setbacks (Corby, Poole, the Sentinel "letter blunder" defeat).

??????? Senedd watch (14 Oct, Nation.Cymru — bodies read)

- **AI-written post?** Sir Gaerfyrddin MS **Gareth Beer** refused to say whether a Facebook post of his — which called the Senedd the "**Senate**", a hallmark of AI-generated content — was written by AI. After Nation.Cymru contacted his office, the post was quietly edited to use the correct name. Beer previously refused to explain an error-riddled PISA press release; his colleague **Laura Anne Jones** "liked" the Senate post.
- **Flooding row:** shadow agriculture minister Laura Anne Jones told the Senedd the Welsh Government's winter flood plans "don't cut it" — citing wildfire-trench runoff risk at Blaenavon ("Call it what you like: El Nino, the end of the world, whatever"). Rural resilience minister Llyr Gruffydd (Plaid) hit back: "You mentioned wildfires – I'm glad you did, because it is a consequence of climate change, **something that you don't recognise**" — a direct jab at Reform's climate-denial position, days before Reform's Sandwell climate-declaration vote.
- **Plenary spat:** Labour MS Mike Hedges told heckling Reform MSs "I'll try to educate you, the school system clearly failed" during Reform's own motion on council-tax referendums, adding: "We'll find out next May how few of you survive in local government… Can I suggest that you start looking at council by-elections and figure out when you last won one."
- **Internal defence:** Fflint Wrecsam MS **Nigel Williams** condemned trolls — including Reform's own supporters — who told Romanian-born colleague **Cristiana Emsley** to "go home": "bullying, dressed up as opinion… simply appalling." A notable counter-current to the ITV footage: one Reform MS publicly defending a Romanian colleague from his own party's base.
- **Scotland:** Dunfermline MP Graeme Downie attacked former Labour colleague turned Reform MSP **Julie MacDougall** on X ("Some people will do anything to get elected, eh. I wonder what you'll believe next week") after she backed a second EU referendum line; a Carlisle News & Star item has Mike Starkie hitting back at Labour's "straight fight with Reform" claim.

? Contradictions & Critical Points of Interest

1. **"Few bad apples" vs eight filmed figures:** Farage's long-standing "bad apples" defence is under its heaviest strain yet — ITV filmed *eight* individuals over a year,

including a deputy mayor, a serving prison custody manager, and multiple candidates. Labour's line writes itself: "can't shrug these off as a few bad apples."

2. **Tice attacking ITV's methods concedes the substance:** his "you'll find people say some stuff" line effectively accepts the recordings are genuine while calling the recording criminal — and Ofcom rules explicitly permit public-interest undercover filming. The boycott call risks the Streisand Effect before Sunday's full broadcast.
3. **Vetting claims:** Reform says vetting has "improved and prioritised" — yet Feeney (already a councillor), Miller (elected May 2026) and a reporter hired *inside HQ* all passed. "This is the same for all organisations" is an unusual defence for a party pitching itself as the competent-government alternative.
4. **"Judeo-Christian values" vs the Catholic Church:** the Church's intervention lands the day after the racist-remarks broadcast — Farage's values branding is now contradicted by the institution those values name.
5. **Chagos-for-silence proposal:** offering away British sovereign territory (BIOT) to buy an ally's quiet contradicts Reform's own sovereignty-first platform, and hands Badenoch a national-security attack line while she's riding a poll bounce.
6. **Sandwell double-move:** rescinding a climate emergency declaration while declaring a housing emergency, with a motion that doesn't mention climate change at all — and Llyr Gruffydd's Senedd jab ("a consequence of climate change, something that you don't recognise") ties the local record to the national posture.
7. **Poll trend:** two consecutive polls with Tories ahead — Reform's slump (18-month low last month, third place this week) now coincides with its worst scandal week since the Channel 4 donations sting.

? Source Links

Story	Source	Link
ITV undercover: racist remarks (main report)	BBC News	https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cw3dj458re1vo
Dean Miller 'King Charles is a Muslim'	Evening Standard	https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/london-reform-councillor-king-charles-muslim-children-animals-b1300894.html
Feeney: prison officer + councillor exposé	Birmingham Live	https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/midlands-news/calls-sack-birmingham-prison-officer-34766151
ITV film: three councillors stood down; Farage postpones Essex event	The National	https://www.thenational.scot/news/26638176.itv-investigation-exposes-reform-uk-figures-using-racist-language/

Story	Source	Link
Tice "probable criminal activity" mockery	Left Foot Forward	https://leftfootforward.org/2026/10/reform-mocked-after-richard-tice-calls-itvs-undercover-reporting-probable-criminal-activity/
Tice accusations (showbiz wire)	BANG Premier	https://bangpremier.com/story/345/3626787/reform-uk-accuses-itv-of-criminal-activity-in-undercover-reporter-scandal
Badenoch on Chagos/Falklands "humiliating"	MercoPress	https://en.mercopress.com/2026-10-14/badenoch-accuses-farage-of-trading-chagos-for-trump-s-silence-on-the-falklands
Catholic Church slams asylum plan	The Mirror	https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/politics/nigel-farage-asylum-christian-values-37770977
Seladore £20m claim (Ben Delo)	The Lawyer	https://www.thelawyer.com/seladore-launches-20m-claim-against-reform-donors-company/
Ben Delo crypto firm sued	The Mirror	https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/billionaire-reform-donor-firm-sued-37768380
Solihull double resignation	Coventry Live	https://www.coventrytelegraph.net/news/coventry-news/two-reform-uk-solihull-councillors-34763250
Doncaster: William Shaw quits	BBC News	https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cmqln25vqpx7o
Sandwell climate emergency axe vote	Birmingham Live	https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/black-country/reform-uk-axe-climate-emergency-34758742
Barrow "armpit of England" row	North-West Evening Mail	https://www.nwemail.co.uk/news/26634784.barrow-mp-labels-reform-criticism-town-utterly-wrong/
Glasgow: Reform "exploiting" safety fears	Daily Record	https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/andy-burnham-urged-help-glasgow-37771660
Gareth Beer "Senate"/AI post	Nation.Cymru	https://nation.cymru/news/reform-ms-refuses-to-say-if-post-referring-to-the-senedd-by-the-wrong-name-was-written-by-ai/
Laura Anne Jones flooding row	Nation.Cymru	https://nation.cymru/news/welsh-government-plans-to-tackle-winter-flooding-questioned/
Hedges vs Hughes Plenary spat	Nation.Cymru	https://nation.cymru/news/labour-ms-mocks-reform-rival-over-lack-of-school-education/

Story	Source	Link
Williams defends Romanian colleague	Nation.Cymru	https://nation.cymru/news/reform-ms-hits-out-at-trolls-who-told-romanian-colleague-to-go-home/
Downie vs MacDougall X row	Dunfermline Press	https://www.dunfermlinepress.com/news/26636182.graeme-downie-mp-slams-julie-macdougall-msp-x-row/
Stroud by-election: Labour wins	Stroud News & Journal	https://www.stroudnewsandjournal.co.uk/news/26636473.labour-beat-green-party-reform-by-election/
Second poll: Tories leapfrog Reform	The Independent	NewsNow id 1327006207 (ConsentPaywall)
"Waitrose Woman" strategy	The i Paper	https://inews.co.uk/news/politics/waitrose-woman-badenochs-tory-target-ditches-red-wall-4819754
Two conferences OpEd	Eurasia Review	https://www.eurasiareview.com/15102026-a-tale-of-two-british-party-conferences-oped/

? Quick Summary

Area	Status
ITV undercover film	◫ Aired 14 Oct; full Exposure programme Sunday 18 Oct; 8 figures filmed; 3+ resignations
Farage	Essex announcement postponed; "no room for racism" statement; "bad apples" defence under strain
Tice	Accuses ITV of "probable criminal activity"; calls boycott — mocked as Streisand Effect
Polls	◫ Third place; Tories ahead in two consecutive polls; Badenoch personal rating high
Asylum policy	Catholic Church condemns 5-year suspension; "Judeo-Christian values" claim hit
Chagos/Falklands	Badenoch: Farage's Trump proposal "humiliating"
Donors	Seladore £20m claim re Ben Delo's firm; Harborne + C4 probes ongoing
Councils	Solihull ×2, Doncaster, Bromley defections/resignations; Sandwell climate vote next Tuesday; by-election losses continue
Senedd	Beer AI-post refusal; Jones flooding/climate-denial jab; Williams defends Romanian colleague

Compiled 15/10/2026 09:15 BST by Emrys □□ — NewsNow topic hub sweep, article bodies read directly unless marked. Items marked headline/snippet-level: The Lawyer (JS shell), Independent/MailOnline polls (ConsentPaywall), ITV "shape Reform's future" analysis (id 1327062562 — resolver refused the hop).

Revision #2
Created 2026-10-15 08:12:49 UTC by Admin
Updated 2026-10-15 08:12:50 UTC by Admin