Reform UK Headlines — 16 Oct 2026

?? Reform UK — NewsNow Topic Sweep — 16 October 2026

Source: NewsNow topic hub `UK / Politics / Reform UK` — top-story clusters + latest-feed cards fetched ~09:00 BST, Friday. 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: the ITV *Undercover: A Year in Reform* fallout has moved from the councillors to the top of the party — secret footage shows Farage himself ruling that a candidate who told David Lammy to "go home to the Caribbean" should apologise but stay on, his comms director saying "you're protecting him"; a second night of broadcasts exposed vetting chaos (delete-your-Robinson-posts advice, a twice-failed candidate invited to stand anyway); Feeney has now quit as Solihull deputy mayor and been suspended from his prison job with police reviewing the footage; two Leeds councillors have walked out; Bradford's sanctuary motion lost by one vote; and a new MRP mega-poll projects Reform down to 81 seats — third, behind the Tories.

? Latest Developments

?? Vetting scandal part 2: the footage reaches Farage's office (15–16 Oct, BBC / Independent / Mirror / MailOnline — bodies read)

The second tranche of ITV's year-long undercover investigation (full 90-minute film *Undercover: A Year in Reform* airs **Sunday 18 Oct, 22:20, ITV1/ITVX/STV**) moved the story from rogue councillors to party HQ:

- **Farage filmed "letting off" Chris Parry** — the Hampshire & Solent mayoral candidate who posted that then-Deputy PM David Lammy "must go home to the Caribbean where his loyalty lies" (January, over reparations speculation). In a recorded conversation at Reform HQ, Farage tells comms director **Ed Sumner** that Parry "must apologise to Lammy… and move on. Tell him that from me." Sumner replies "**you're protecting him**"; Farage: "It's showing a bit of… sorrow. Look, 'I'm sorry' is probably a good thing to hear. **Just take the f***ing deal.**" After Farage left, Sumner was recorded saying: "He's lucky, if it was up to me, I'd have kicked him out f***ing months ago" — and in a separate conversation (without Farage present) called Parry "**clearly a racist**" who "**needs to go**". Parry apologised in January, stayed on as candidate until suspended in March over comments likening a Jewish neighbourhood watch to "Islamists on horseback"; he says there was never an investigation and he has since left the party. Labour chair **Bridget Phillipson**: "These revelations go right to the top of Reform UK… the buck stops with him."
- **Vetting exposed as theatre:** Chester branch chairman **Ian Frost** told an undercover reporter who admitted posting in support of Tommy Robinson: "I would **delete the account and I'd start again**… You might become a councillor. You might then want to go to the MP route." (Farage has publicly said Robinson would not be allowed to join.) Frost says he thought the reporter was genuine and has since left Reform "for unrelated reasons".
- **Twice-failed candidate stood anyway:** former candidate **Alex Lomas** says he failed vetting twice — once for swearing/abusive posts about Keir Starmer, once for sharing Robinson posts ("too far-Right") — then got an email days later saying he'd passed: "They needed someone to stand. Because they basically just wanted to say we are standing a candidate in every single ward in Oldham." He polled 1,015 votes in May, ~200 behind the winning Labour candidate. Reform denies Lomas failed vetting at all.
- **A vetting officer's own philosophy** (MailOnline): "Are they a f***ing lunatic?… Is it going to cause problems with the Press?" — plus "S*** happens, nothing's perfect. **I had to turn down a convicted rapist the other day. I caught that one.**"
- **Misogyny at the top, from a sitting MP: Sarah Pochin** (then Reform's only female MP) was filmed: "Oh thank f*** for that… We so need women press officers… **They are so f***ing chauvinistic.** I go out on all the shows and go 'Oh no, it's lovely, oh they're all so welcoming'. Sh**… **they just exclude you if you're a woman**… It's really tough being a girl with all of this **alpha male sh**** going on." Reform says her concerns "were taken seriously".
- **Tameside councillor** filmed saying rival politicians "**should be shot against the wall**" (MEN).
- ITV also reports Reform officials admitting they "**defend the indefensible**" amid the racism claims.
- **Party line:** Reform is "extremely concerned" that ITV/Hardcash used "extreme methods of deception"; "Not all individuals covertly recorded by ITV are members of Reform UK"; investigations/suspensions under way; vetting "improved and prioritised" but "a handful of individuals… will initially make it through. **This is the same for all organisations.**" Reform MP **Robert Jenrick** (Today programme): all parties have "bad apples", "I don't accept this happens any more in Reform than in any other party".

?? Farage: "the establishment want us out of the picture" (15 Oct, Evening Standard / BBC / Standard — bodies read)

On a Chelmsford walkabout after **cancelling Thursday's Essex press conference**, Farage told BBC Look East Reform vets "to a much higher standard than other parties" but "**you can't vet for future comments**… I can't predict what they're going to say after a drink, when they're being provoked or egged on." His counter-attack: "the worst of them by far was a Conservative councillor for years and years who joined us last year… you never will see an expensive investigation like that into the other parties **because the establishment frankly want us out of the picture**." A man told him he was "out of order" for skipping the Clacton by-election count; Farage: "I didn't want to get punched."

? Feeney fallout deepens: police probe, prison suspension, deputy mayor exit (15–16 Oct, Birmingham Live / Worcester News / Solihull Observer — bodies read)

- **West Midlands Police** confirmed they "will review all information and available footage to establish if any offences have been committed" over **Alan Feeney**'s recorded comments (Asian families "infested"/"absolute parasites"; "no more than one per cent of British population can be non-white"; "drag them out of their homes, stick them on planes and f*** them off to Pakistan"; "If it's an Asian name, I'm not even knocking at the door").
- The **Ministry of Justice** confirmed Feeney is **suspended from his custody manager job at HMP Birmingham**: "These despicable comments… are entirely at odds with the standards and values we expect of Prison Service staff."
- Feeney has **resigned as deputy mayor of Solihull but remains a councillor** (Castle Bromwich, Solihull + Shard End, Birmingham), sitting as an independent.
- Background (Worcester News): Feeney was a **Conservative** Worcester city councillor 2015–19, city macebearer, MC at the Queen's 2012 Guildhall visit and Worcester Carnival president — undercutting his own party's "ex-Tory" deflection only if you read it the other way: Reform's "worst offender" framing is factually right about his past, but he became deputy mayor *for Reform*.
- **"Resign now" pressure grows** on the remaining Solihull pair: **Jamie Campbell** (pork-chops-at-the-mosque joke) **remains a Reform councillor** — the party's Solihull spokesman called his comment "a joke in poor taste but with no malicious intent… **the party will not be taking any further action**." There is "no route" to force removals before the May elections.
- **Dean Miller** (Bromley; "King Charles is a f***ing Muslim… cut the c***'s head off"; black children "like animals") has resigned from Reform, sits as an independent, and says he

was heavily medicated for chronic pain at the time.

? Question Time, Brecon: "Why are they still in your party?" (15–16 Oct, Mirror / Brecon & Radnor Express — bodies read)

Filmed in Brecon, Fiona Bruce put the vetting failure directly to Reform's shadow health minister **James Evans**: "If you have got the best vetting procedures of any political party, what are they doing there?" Evans: "You can't vet for someone's personal views on what they're going to say in the future." Bruce: "**Is that not the point of it?**" Labour's Stephen Kinnock called the film "stomach churning": "Farage said… he was going to get rid of the rotten apples out from the bottom of the barrel — **but just look at what's at the top of the barrel**." Side-row: Lib Dem MP **David Chadwick formally complained to the BBC** that the panel included Reform MS James Evans (local Senedd member) while excluding the Lib Dems entirely — "in the only Liberal Democrat-held parliamentary and Senedd constituencies in Wales".

?? Political reaction consolidates (15 Oct, MEN / Left Foot Forward — bodies read)

PM **Andy Burnham**: "We've allowed a poison into our politics in recent years, and it's time to draw a line under it… I'm pleased ITV has done this… I hope the Reform Party will take immediate and firm action." He publicly praised Badenoch for drawing a line at Tory conference. **Ed Davey**: "Farage should face the music and apologise… instead he's hiding away." **Badenoch**: "We should be asking why there's so many stories like this… It's not my problem anymore… I don't want people like that in the Conservative Party." Labour AI minister **Kanishka Narayan** (Peston): the spread — Bromley, Solihull, Hounslow, Wales, "senior branch officials, treasurers, staff members, the Senedd candidate" — makes it "the central question in British politics: are people like me able to be part of a collective national identity and have security of stay here or not".

?? Policy & Controversy

? Mega-poll: Reform projected down to 81 seats; Labour 353 (16 Oct, MailOnline — body read)

Electoral Calculus MRP for PLMR (fieldwork 25 Sep–2 Oct, 6,699 adults, run at Labour conference): **Labour 28% / 353 seats** (56-seat majority), **Reform 21% / 81 seats** — behind the **Tories (18%)** — Lib Dems 70, SNP 28, Greens 4 (down from a projected 71 in April), **Restore Britain 8% / 1 seat** (Lowe's Great Yarmouth). Martin Baxter: "The Right… remains split. Restore Britain… is cutting into Reform's vote and leaving Farage's party with fewer than 100 seats and even less than the Conservatives. A pact between the Conservatives and Reform would give them just 171 seats." A third of Labour voters say they'd vote Tory tactically to keep Reform out. Fuel for early-election speculation around Burnham despite his 2029 insistence.

? Badenoch's "Englishness" attack lands with Reform's own voters (15 Oct, MailOnline — body read)

More in Common research: after being shown Badenoch's conference clip ("I don't want to explain to my son… that some people don't think our black players are English"), her approval **rose 37→46% overall and 40→57% among Reform voters**. Context: Reform MPs' suggestion that only white people can be English; Farage reportedly warned colleagues to drop the Englishness comparison fearing poll damage; ex-Reform activist Tim Montgomerie: "a lot of dismay at the top of the party"; a party source says Farage has been "very clear" black and Asian people can be English. Donor **Arron Banks**' Heathrow post ("not one white face in security… The Home Office is staffed by the type of people we are trying to keep out!") drew separate criticism. Burnham said Badenoch was right to draw the line.

?? FairSquare "Petropopulism": Reform–UAE links (16 Oct, North East Bylines — body read)

New FairSquare report argues Reform UK is "acutely vulnerable to UAE influence through a series of interconnected relationships spanning UAE politics, business and UAE-based investors in UK media" — naming **Farage, Richard Tice, treasurer Nick Candy and Nadhim Zahawi**. No evidence of UAE funding, but a "large body of evidence" the party advances UAE interests — most visibly Reform's pledge to **ban the Muslim Brotherhood** ("which the UAE sees as an existential threat"). Farage was granted an audience by the UAE foreign minister. FairSquare wants the UAE on the **highest tier of the Foreign Influence Registration Scheme** and an immediate defending-democracy taskforce investigation — noting the **Rycroft Review** was set up after a former Reform leader in Wales was prosecuted for taking bribes for pro-Russian interviews. Report author Alex Carlen: "The UAE has… formed a partnership with a far-right party encouraging mass-deportations."

?? Council collapse-watch

- **Leeds:** Cllrs **Paula-Jane Thackray** (Crossgates & Whinmoor) and **David Dresser** (Killingbeck & Seacroft) resigned from Reform to form "**Leeds First Independents**" — Reform says they were *suspended* pending investigation. Reform down to **8 of 99** Leeds councillors. (Sheffield Star reports further ex-Reform councillors setting up a new group there — headline/snippet-level.)
- **Bradford:** Reform's motion to withdraw the city's **City of Sanctuary** status was **defeated by one vote** — "one of the biggest defeats for the party since it came to power in May" (T&A/Ilkley Gazette). Opposition noted the motion was "copied and pasted" from national HQ and that Reform admitted withdrawal wouldn't change refugee numbers.
- **Kent CC:** Grant Thornton's interim annual report rates Reform-run KCC **RED on all three value-for-money tests** (financial sustainability, governance, economy/efficiency/effectiveness — the latter two deteriorated from amber/green). £21.6m overspend in 2025/26 (£42.9m in adult social care), £22.9m of promised savings undelivered, four consecutive overspent years; the **Oracle IT programme at £43.9m vs a £15m business case** (+£7.5m approved under Reform in July); the published draft accounts contained an £18.07m misclassification plus multiple contradictions; auditors: "We have witnessed **member behaviour that is below what we would expect**" (85 member-conduct complaints). And the Governance & Audit Committee meeting that examined all this **wasn't webcast** — first time ever, moved to a room away from the broadcast chamber (Shepway Vox; the outlet is a partisan local blog — cited with that framing; no evidence Reform deliberately blocked the stream).
- **Kirklees:** all 27 Reform councillors signed a motion to **scrap the climate emergency declaration AND the 2038 net-zero target** and axe the climate/highways/waste scrutiny panel — full council 21 Oct; Greens/Lib Dems call it "dangerous" (Yorkshire Live/Huddersfield Hub). Follows Sandwell (vote next Tuesday), Nuneaton & Bedworth and Northamptonshire — a clear national pattern.
- **Sandwell:** approved an **Article 4 direction on HMOs** (planning permission now required for new small HMOs — last West Midlands authority to do so), plus a "housing emergency" declaration and a Walsall/Willenhall row accusing Reform of "**hijacking Christmas**" over a light-switch-on event (Birmingham Live).
- **By-elections, both directions:**
  - **Shepshed (Leicestershire CC):** Labour's Jane Lennie took the seat **from Reform by 53 votes** after a Reform-requested recount (1,163; 32.7% vs Reform's 31.2% — down from 44.9% in May 2025). Restore Britain got 228 — more than the winning margin; Reform's Stuart Wood: "It shows if you vote Restore, you get Labour." Seat vacated by Reform's Helen Butler. Reform remains largest party (23/53) running Leicestershire as a minority administration (BBC).
  - **Higher Kinnerton (Flintshire):** localist **Flintshire People's Voice** won with 566 votes (91.3%) — Tory and Reform candidates **tied on 21 votes each** (3.4%), i.e. 27× fewer than the winner (Nation.Cymru).

??????? Senedd watch (14–15 Oct, Nation.Cymru — bodies read)

- **"Reform Cymru" gaffe:** Caerdydd Ffynnon Taf MS **Cai Parry-Jones** was sharply rebuked for twice rebranding the party as "Reform Cymru"/"Reform UK Cymru" in a Senedd debate — the name belongs to the nationalist register Reform defines itself against. Plaid MS **Sarah Cooper-Lesadd** (defected from Reform in September): "Reform Cymru doesn't exist, it has little autonomy… Policy and strategy is mainly generated by HQ."
- **Teacher row:** Reform MSs **David Mills** and **Iain McIntosh** (plus James Evans) wrote to Powys Council over a Brecon High School teacher allegedly telling pupils Reform encourages people to be "mean" to migrants — Mills claims children are being "indoctrinated" and the teacher "denigrated a legitimate and leading political party". Letter shared the same day the ITV footage landed.
- **Council-tax motion humiliated:** Reform MSs cheered Tory **Janet Finch-Saunders**'s "I have to begin by congratulating Reform…" before realising it was a dig — "an impressive talent for taking good Conservative ideas and applying the Reform logo to them… long before you were ever a twinkle in Nigel Farage's eye". Cooper-Lesadd added that some of the worst council-tax rises without referendums are in Reform-led councils (**Worcestershire +9%**). The chamber **voted out Reform's proposed 4.99% referendum threshold**.

?? Commentariat

- **ConservativeHome (Muzammil, Milton Keynes Tory leader):** "Reform UK can buy leaflets. It can't buy trust – yet" — May's MK result: Reform top of the vote (24%) but only 9 councillors; "national polling, vote share and winning seats are not the same thing".
- **ConservativeHome (Oliver Dean):** satirical "Does the mainstream media have it out for Reform UK?" — "it's very easy to come to the conclusion that the mainstream media simply have it out for Reform" given the footage is real.
- **HuffPost:** "11 Chaotic Moments From Reform UK's Conference" — retrospective framing the Verbatim/Channel 4 donations sting (£32,500 US-funded polls; James Orr and Dan Jukes organising; the £500k-via-the-son workaround; Reform called it a "hoax").

? Contradictions & Critical Points of Interest

1. **"Bad apples" vs the top of the barrel:** the day after the party blamed individual councillors, the footage reached Farage's own office — his comms director calling a candidate "clearly a racist" who "needs to go" while Farage told him to "take the f***ing deal". Kinnock's line ("look at what's at the top of the barrel") is now the dominant opposition frame.
2. **"Best vetting in politics" vs the Chester advice:** Farage's "we vet to a much higher standard" claim sits directly against a branch chairman telling a Robinson-supporting

applicant to delete his accounts, a twice-failed candidate invited back to fill a ward quota, and a vetting officer's "are they a lunatic?" philosophy. "You can't vet for future comments" was answered by Bruce on air: "Is that not the point of it?"

3. **"Establishment" defence vs the sources:** much of the most damaging material (Lomas, Sumner's second conversation, the vetting officer) comes from Reform's own people on hidden mic, not from establishment provocation — and ITV reports officials admitting they "defend the indefensible".
4. **Ethno-nationalism split:** Badenoch's approval jumping 40→57% *among Reform voters* after attacking the "only white people can be English" line, with Farage reportedly warning colleagues off the comparison and Montgomerie citing "dismay at the top of the party" — the row is costing Reform with its own base while the Tories harvest it.
5. **Sovereignty party, foreign-influence report:** FairSquare's UAE findings (Muslim Brotherhood ban aligned to Gulf interests; Farage/Tice/Candy/Zahawi ties; the Rycroft Review precedent of a Welsh Reform leader prosecuted over Russian bribes) reopen the foreign-influence flank days before Sunday's broadcast.
6. **Every-penny rhetoric vs three red audit warnings:** Kent's "household budget" branding against a £28.9m IT overspend, misclassified accounts, "member behaviour below what we would expect" — and the audit meeting examining it all not webcast for the first time ever.
7. **Climate-emergency dominoes:** Kirklees joins Sandwell, Nuneaton & Bedworth and Northamptonshire — scrapping declarations while simultaneously declaring a *housing* emergency in Sandwell. Llyr Gruffydd's Senedd jab ("a consequence of climate change, something that you don't recognise") remains the tightest link between the local record and the national posture.
8. **By-election squeeze from both flanks:** Shepshed lost to Labour (with Restore splitting the right — 228 votes vs a 53-vote margin), Higher Kinnerton humiliated (21 votes, tied with the Tories, 27× behind a localist). MRP now projects 81 seats and even a Tory–Reform pact at only 171.

? Source Links

Story	Source	Link
Vetting questions: Frost/Lomas/Parry/Pochin	BBC News	https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cqm26yr42ezko
Farage filmed letting off Parry ("take the f***ing deal")	The Independent	https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/nigel-farage-reform-uk-itv-undercover-chris-parry-b3067660.html
Farage defends vetting ("can't vet for future comments")	BBC News	https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/crlykvgx1wvxo
Farage: establishment "want us out of the picture"	Evening Standard	https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/nigel-farage-itv-news-chelmsford-reform-uk-reform-b1300982.html

Story	Source	Link
Farage storm over 'racist' councillors; Badenoch/Davey reaction	Evening Standard	https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/nigel-farage-racist-reform-councillors-london-b1300980.html
Vetting: "lunatic" test; Lomas detail; King's execution recap	MailOnline	NewsNow id 1327190788 (ConsentPaywall)
Burnham statement; Tameside "shot against the wall"	Manchester Evening News	https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/uk-news/andy-burnham-issues-statement-after-34769167
Question Time: Bruce grills James Evans	The Mirror	https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/politics/reform-itv-sting-question-time-37778151
Labour minister: "central political question" (Peston)	Left Foot Forward	https://leftfootforward.org/2026/10/labour-minister-says-investigation-into-reform-racism-is-a-good-reminder-of-what-is-the-central-political-question-facing-britain/
Police probe Feeney; MoJ suspension	Birmingham Live	https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/midlands-news/police-probe-birmingham-solihull-reform-34770985
Feeney quits deputy mayor role	Birmingham Live	https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/midlands-news/disgraced-ex-reform-uk-councillor-34772047
'Resign now' pressure; Campbell stays	Birmingham Live	https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/midlands-news/resign-now-calls-grow-solihull-34771268
Feeney's Worcester/Tory background	Worcester News	https://www.worcesternews.co.uk/news/26640527.former-worcester-councillor-alan-feeney-caught-itv-sting/
Solihull reaction; Campbell "joke in poor taste"	Solihull Observer	https://solihullobserver.co.uk/news/reform-faces-criticism-after-councillors-and-candidates-filmed-making-racist-comments/
Leeds: Thackray & Dresser quit / "Leeds First"	Bradford T&A	https://www.thetelegraphandargus.co.uk/news/26641214.two-leeds-councillors-form-new-group-reform-exit/
Bradford sanctuary motion lost by 1 vote	Bradford T&A	https://www.thetelegraphandargus.co.uk/news/26637987.reform-uks-motion-withdraw-bradford-sanctuary-status-lost-1-vote/
Kent: three red audit warnings; webcast went dark	Shepway Vox	https://shepwayvox.org/2026-10-16/every-penny-watched-reform-uks-kent-county-council-gets-three-red-audit-warnings-as-public-webcast-goes-dark/

Story	Source	Link
Kirklees climate declaration + 2038 net-zero bid	Huddersfield Hub	https://huddersfieldhub.co.uk/reform-uk-bids-to-scrap-kirklees-councils-climate-emergency-declaration-and-2038-net-zero-target/
Kirklees move branded 'dangerous'	Yorkshire Live	https://www.examinerlive.co.uk/news/west-yorkshire-news/kirklees-reforms-move-axe-climate-emergency-34771413
Shepshed: Labour take seat from Reform	BBC News	https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cr2keq9vgg7ko
Higher Kinnerton: 27× Reform's votes	Nation.Cymru	https://nation.cymru/news/local-party-wins-council-by-election-securing-27-times-as-many-votes-as-reform/
MRP mega-poll: Labour 353, Reform 81	MailOnline	NewsNow id 1327191724 (ConsentPaywall)
Badenoch approval +17pts among Reform voters	MailOnline	NewsNow id 1327191209 (ConsentPaywall)
FairSquare "Petropopulism" UAE report	North East Bylines	https://northeastbylines.co.uk/news/national-news/how-reform-uk-is-closely-linked-to-the-united-arab-emirates/
Sandwell HMO Article 4 direction	Birmingham Live	https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/black-country/reform-uk-approves-new-rule-34770245
Walsall "hijacking Christmas" row	Birmingham Live	https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/black-country/reform-accused-hijacking-christmas-fall-34771277
"Reform Cymru" rebuke	Nation.Cymru	https://nation.cymru/news/reform-ms-rebuked-after-rebranding-party-as-reform-cymru/
Reform MSs vs Brecon teacher	Nation.Cymru	https://nation.cymru/news/reform-mss-launch-attack-on-teacher-accused-of-telling-pupils-party-targets-migrants/
Finch-Saunders "congratulations" dig; 4.99% threshold voted out	Nation.Cymru	https://nation.cymru/news/reform-mss-cheer-tory-rival-before-realising-her-congratulations-is-a-dig-at-them/
Chadwick's BBC Question Time complaint	Brecon & Radnor Express	https://www.brecon-radnor.co.uk/news/david-chadwick-files-complaint-to-bbc-over-question-time-panel-964190
Conference chaos retrospective; Verbatim sting recap	HuffPost UK	https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/reform-uk-conference-2026-key-moments_uk_6ad0feaee4b0bfd25654fee8

Story	Source	Link
"Reform can buy leaflets. It can't buy trust"	ConservativeHome	https://conservativehome.com/2026-10-16/shazna-muzammil-reform-uk-can-buy-leaflets-it-cant-buy-trust-yet/
"Does the mainstream media have it out for Reform?"	ConservativeHome	https://conservativehome.com/2026-10-16/does-the-mainstream-media-have-it-out-for-reform-uk/

Unresolved (headline-level only): ITV News items (1327184826, 1327179827 "Peston: Is Farage right that vetting can't exclude all racism?", 1327174184, 1327169589 "Reform officials admit they 'defend the indefensible'", 1327157834 — resolver 301'd), Sheffield Star ex-Reform group pieces (403/Cloudflare), HuffPost "Reform Aide Accused Farage Of 'Protecting' Candidate" (406 — substance covered via BBC/Independent).

? Quick Summary

Area	Status
ITV documentary	□□ Night 2 aired (vetting + Farage/Parry footage); full 90-min film Sunday 18 Oct 22:20
Farage	Cancelled Essex presser; "can't vet for future comments"; "establishment want us out of the picture"; filmed telling Sumner to make Parry "take the deal"
Vetting	Chester chair: delete Robinson posts; Lomas failed twice then stood; "are they a lunatic?" philosophy; Pochin: party "excludes women"
Feeney	Deputy mayor role resigned; suspended from HMP Birmingham job; WMP reviewing footage; Campbell stays with "no further action"
Councils	Leeds −2 (8/99 remain); Bradford sanctuary motion lost by 1; Kent 3 red audit warnings; Kirklees climate motion 21 Oct; Shepshed seat lost to Labour; Higher Kinnerton humiliation
Polls	MRP: Labour 353 seats / 28%, Reform 81 / 21% (3rd), Tories 18%, Restore 8%→1 seat; Badenoch approval +17pts among Reform voters
Foreign influence	FairSquare "Petropopulism": UAE–Reform links (Farage/Tice/Candy/Zahawi); FIRS top-tier call
Senedd	"Reform Cymru" rebuke; teacher complaint; council-tax threshold voted out; Chadwick's QT panel complaint

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Compiled 16/10/2026 09:30 BST by Emrys □□ — NewsNow topic hub sweep, article bodies read directly unless marked. Items marked headline/snippet-level: MailOnline polls + vetting piece

(ConsentPaywall — bodies extracted via NewsNow resolver but no canonical URL), ITV items (resolver 301), Sheffield Star (Cloudflare 403), HuffPost aide piece (406).

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