Reform UK Headlines — 30 Sep 2026

?? Reform UK — Latest News & Controversy Sweep — Wednesday 30 September 2026

Aggregator: NewsNow — UK Politics: Reform UK (top-story clusters + Latest feed, fetched 09:01 BST) **Previous sweep:** 29 September 2026 (BookStack, Headlines book 958)

Summary

Today's hub is dominated by **the triple-lock clash** — Andy Burnham's pledge to soften the pension triple lock from 2030 to fund a National Care Service has united Reform UK and the Conservatives in attack, with Farage demanding an immediate general election. Also new: **INEOS says Sir Jim Ratcliffe never approved Reform's use of his "colonised by immigrants" clip** in a party promo video (Reform refuses to remove it); **Ashfield Independents are collapsing into Reform** after their leader's fraud conviction; the Reform-run **East Sussex cabinet proposes abolishing its net-zero target**; and a **More in Common poll shows Reform's Welsh Westminster projection crashing from 21 seats to 6** since July. A satirical song mocking Doncaster Reform leader Howard Rimmer's "no housing crisis" claim rounds off the Farage-rally-eve coverage.

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1. Latest Developments

Triple lock: Reform and Tories attack Burnham's pension move (new today — the lead story)

- **The pledge.** On Tuesday the Prime Minister Andy Burnham said he would lead Labour into the next election on a pledge to **reform the triple lock from 2030** to part-fund a new **National Care Service**: the state pension would rise by the higher of inflation or 2.5% (wage growth dropped as a trigger), ensuring pension rises don't outpace earnings long-term. Government analysis suggests it could **save £15bn a year by 2040**. The IFS and several economists back the change, calling the current system "unpredictable" and "unsustainable". *(City AM, 29 Sep)*
- **Reform's response.** Treasury spokesman **Robert Jenrick** — who made the triple lock central to his economic agenda — called the pledge **"just mean"**, arguing Burnham would still need more money for social care. **Nigel Farage** said Burnham would **"abdicate his responsibility to British pensioners"**: "*If he is so desperate to pick a fight with pensioners, he should get on with it, call a general election now, and let the public decide.*" This morning Farage restated that Reform would **"always protect our pensioners and maintain the triple lock"**. *(City AM 29 Sep; Politics.co.uk 30 Sep)*
- **Tory campaign.** Conservative chairman **Kevin Hollinrake** said keeping the triple lock "is our plan today" and accused Burnham of **"robbing Peter to pay Paul"** — "taking that £15 billion… out of the pockets of pensioners". The Tories launched **ProtectPensioners.com** with an X campaign graphic claiming "Andy Burnham wants to scrap the triple lock". *(Politics.co.uk, 30 Sep)*

INEOS: Ratcliffe "did not approve" Reform promo advert (new today)

- Farage posted a Reform UK promotional video on **Saturday 26 September** opening with Ratcliffe's **February Sky News claim that "the UK has been colonised by immigrants"**. INEOS told The Athletic that Ratcliffe **"knew nothing about the video and never approved it"**, and would not say whether it had asked for removal.
- **Reform's position:** the clip came from a public broadcast, so no permission was needed; the party has had no complaint and **has no plans to change or remove the video**.
- Context: the February remarks were condemned by then-PM Starmer and examined by the FA; Ratcliffe apologised for his language. After he repeated immigration criticism in a **19 September BBC interview** (the UK is "on the slide"), the **Manchester United Muslim Supporters Club** said the co-owner "must go". *(Inside World Football, 29 Sep)*

Ashfield: defection to Reform as Independents "collapse" (new today)

- **Cllr Warren Nuttall** (Greenwood and Summit) has left the **Ashfield Independents** to join Reform UK — "The papers got signed last night… I've been in politics too long to get dragged to the floor with it. **There are a lot more who want to leave**, they just don't know which way to go. Jason has collapsed the Ashfield Independents."

- Trigger: former council leader **Jason Zadrozny** was found guilty at Northampton Crown Court on 21 September of **nine counts of fraud and four of income tax evasion**; he resigned as leader but remains a councillor pending **sentencing in November**. New group leader Samantha Deakin was selected Monday; Cllr Lee Waters has called for Zadrozny to go. *(Nottingham Post, 29 Sep)*

East Sussex: Reform cabinet proposes abolishing net-zero target (new today)

- On Tuesday 29 September, the **Reform UK administration** at East Sussex County Council invited scrutiny committees to consider a **draft climate strategy** that would **abolish the authority's voluntary commitment to becoming carbon neutral "as soon as possible or by 2050"**. *(Sussex Express / SussexWorld — publisher 403'd; snippet-level via search index)*

Walsall: ex-Reform member's "dictatorship" attack (new today)

- Ex-Reform councillor **Daniel Rollinson** (New Invention) told full council: "*Ladies and gentlemen of Walsall, you are now living under a dictatorship. A dictatorship that I certainly didn't campaign for*" — aimed at **Reform group leader Cllr Elaine Williams**. The motion (with fellow ex-Reform members Bella Simon and Robin Perry) demanded scrapping borough **rewilding policies**; Rollinson claims Reform leaders blocked the item while he was a member, then "tried to use the tragic" fires for their own ends. *(Birmingham Live, 29 Sep)*

Wales: More in Common poll — Reform's projection crashes to 6 seats (new today)

- Reform UK would win **just 6 of Wales' 32 Westminster seats** — its first-ever Welsh MPs, but a dramatic fall from the **same pollster's July forecast of 21 seats (and Labour none)**. Labour is projected on **17 seats**, its Welsh vote share up seven points since July — a **Burnham-driven surge**. Reform won **34 of 96 Senedd seats** in May. Caveat in the piece: pollsters diverge — YouGov predicted Labour "devastation" last week. *(North Wales Live / Daily Post, 29 Sep)*

Cam Valley: councillor defects to Restore Britain (new today)

- **Michael Rees** (Cam Valley) left Reform UK to become **Restore Britain's first councillor at Gloucestershire County Council**, drawing accusations of **"betraying" voters**. *(Gloucestershire Live / Stroud News & Journal, 29 Sep — paywalled; snippet-level)*

Doncaster: satirical song targets Rimmer's "no housing crisis" claim (new today)

- **"Donny Cash"** released *Streets of Doncaster*, a satirical swipe at Reform Doncaster leader **Howard Rimmer's** 24 September council claim that **"There is no housing crisis in Doncaster"** because housebuilding targets are being met. Official 2025 figures show **200 new homelessness assessments per month** and **3,000 contacts** to St Leger Homes' Options Service; when told new housing won't help those figures, Rimmer replied "New housing's not going to affect them is it?" Data shows Doncaster buyers get **50% less property for their money than a decade ago**. Comes the eve of Farage's **"First 100 Days" rally in Doncaster (2pm, Thursday 1 October)** and alongside the carried-forward row over Rimmer's grooming-gang comments, which Mayor Ros Jones branded "factually inaccurate racist statements". *(Rayo/Hits Radio SY via LDRS, 25 Sep; Doncaster Free Press, 29 Sep — 403'd, snippet-level)*

Brighton by-election: Reform "irrelevant" datapoint (new today)

- In the **Queen's Park by-election** (won by the Green's Mark Strong, 1,139 v Labour 802), **Reform, the Conservatives and Lib Dems together polled just 331 votes** — described by The Argus's columnist as continuing to be "an irrelevance in this and most other seats in Brighton". Turnout 33.36%. *(The Argus, 30 Sep)*

Carried-forward hub clusters (older, still topping NewsNow)

- **Sunderland / Show Racism the Red Card (23–24 Sep):** the Reform-run city council **refused to light monuments red** for the anti-racism charity and **pulled event support**; the charity is urging donations; a local MP's petition ("Tell Reform to Show Racism the Red Card") is live; Reform says it is "defending" the decision. A North East Bylines piece separately flags concerns about **changes to planning decision-making** under Reform.
- **Holyrood walkout (22–23 Sep):** Reform MSPs **walked out** of the independence debate; the Presiding Officer warned she **"will not tolerate stunts"**.
- **NEC conference assaults (updated 28 Sep):** conditional caution confirmed (an admission of guilt); Bracknell Labour's suspension demand re Tullett/Bellhouse; Reform silent — third day running.

- **Polling cluster:** Independent: Reform support **"plummets to lowest level in two years"** (22 Sep) and would win **fewer seats than Labour and Tories** (24 Sep); Bucks Herald poll has the **Tories favourites to take Aylesbury** (25 Sep).

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2. Policy / Controversy

Thread	Status today
Triple lock / pensions	NEW LEAD. Reform + Tories attack Burnham's 2030 change (higher of CPI or 2.5%, ~£15bn/yr by 2040, funds National Care Service). Jenrick: "just mean"; Farage: "call a general election now". IFS backs Burnham — Reform/Tories defending a mechanism economists call unsustainable.
Ratcliffe/INEOS advert	NEW. Reform used the "colonised by immigrants" clip without approval; INEOS says Ratcliffe never approved it; Reform refuses removal ("public broadcast"). Amplifies a remark that drew an FA examination and Starmer's condemnation.
£72m donations / transparency	Carried forward — Farage confirmed part goes to Scotland but the amount is a "private chat"; Met Police probes (£500k Cottrell; £32,500 US-firm polls) + standards watchdog probe (undeclared £5m Harborne gift) all live; Labour "considering" a donations cap.
Wales	Reversal — 34 Senedd seats in May, but More in Common now projects only **6 Westminster seats** (was 21 in July); Labour back to 17. Defection fallout continues: Cooper-Lesadd to Plaid ("falling apart"), anti-defection petition >3,000, Helen Jenner leader / Laura Anne Jones deputy.
Local-government churn	Growing — Ashfield Independents collapsing into Reform after Zadrozny's fraud conviction; Walsall ex-members' "dictatorship" attack; East Sussex net-zero abolition proposal; Cam Valley loss to Restore Britain; carried: Oldham leader resigned after 10 days, Hampshire pension row, expelled Kent/Northumberland councillors.
NEC conference assaults	Carried — conditional caution (admission of guilt); suspension demand unanswered for a third day.
Doncaster	Carried + new — "racist statements" row (Rimmer) unresolved; "no housing crisis" claim now a satirical song; Farage's First 100 Days rally tomorrow (1 Oct).
Polling (GB)	Carried — support at a two-year low (Independent); would win fewer seats than Labour and Tories; Cumbria mayoral dead-heat; Ashcroft focus groups: funding story memorable but "hazy", retroactive bans unpopular.

Notable contradictions today:

1. **Fiscal credibility, both directions at once:** Reform calls Burnham's triple-lock reform "just mean" while its own flagship £15,000 personal-allowance pledge is under attack (Gauke: £20bn hole) — and Jenrick, the "mean" verdict's author, is now Reform's Treasury spokesman after making the triple lock central to his *Conservative* agenda.
2. **Consent selectively applied:** Reform says no permission was needed to platform Ratcliffe's most criticised remark — yet the party's own donors and figures (Harborne gift declaration, Cottrell money) are the subject of transparency investigations.
3. **"Call an election now"** — Farage demands Burnham face the public on pensions while refusing to disclose the Scotland allocation of the £72m windfall ("private chat").
4. **Wales:** Reform holds 34 Senedd seats but is projected to win only 6 Westminster seats — the same pollster had it on 21 and Labour on **none** two months ago; meanwhile its Welsh MSs keep defecting and the party's leader there changed twice in a fortnight.
5. **Doncaster:** "No housing crisis" (Rimmer) vs 200 homelessness assessments a month in council documents — now set to music the day before Farage's Doncaster rally.

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3. Source Links

New today (fetched, body verified):

- Politics.co.uk — Conservatives and Reform UK reiterate support for pension triple lock: https://www.politics.co.uk/2026/09/conservatives-and-reform-uk-reiterate-support-for-pension-triple-lock/
- City AM — Reform UK and Tories attack Burnham's triple lock pension move: https://www.cityam.com/reform-uk-and-tories-attack-burnhams-triple-lock-pension-move/
- Inside World Football — INEOS chief Sir Jim Ratcliffe did not approve Reform UK promotional advert: https://www.insideworldfootball.com/2026-09-29/ineos-chief-sir-jim-ratcliffe-did-not-approve-reform-uk-promotional-advert/
- Nottingham Post — 'Collapse' of Ashfield Independents predicted as defection to Reform announced: https://www.nottinghampost.com/news/local-news/collapse-ashfield-independents-predicted-defection-11176993
- Birmingham Live — Ex-Reform UK member launches scathing public attack on Walsall Council leader: https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/black-country/ex-reform-uk-member-launches-34689210
- North Wales Live — New Westminster poll shows major change for two parties in Wales: https://www.dailypost.co.uk/news/north-wales-news/new-westminster-poll-shows-major-34689187
- The Argus — Brighton Labour faces questions after Green by-election win: https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/26590061.brighton-labour-faces-questions-green-by-election-win/
- Rayo/Hits Radio South Yorkshire (LDRS) — 'No housing crisis in Doncaster', local Reform UK leader claims: https://www.hellorayo.co.uk/hits-radio/south-yorkshire/news/doncaster-reform-leader-housing

New today (snippet-level — publisher 403'd or paywalled):

- Sussex Express — East Sussex County Council leaders propose abolishing net zero targets: https://www.sussexexpress.co.uk/news/environment/east-sussex-county-council-leaders-propose-abolishing-net-zero-targets-9222013
- Gloucestershire Live — Reform councillor defects to Restore Britain: https://www.gloucestershirelive.co.uk/news/gloucester-news/reform-councillor-gloucestershire-defects-restore-11175683
- Doncaster Free Press — Farage to outline first 100 days of a Reform Govt in Doncaster: https://www.doncasterfreepress.co.uk/news/nigel-farage-to-address-huge-reform-uk-rally-in-doncaster-9209351
- Yorkshire Live — Reform UK leader accused of 'racist statements': https://www.newsnow.co.uk/A/3/1325533459

Aggregator:

- NewsNow Reform UK hub: https://www.newsnow.co.uk/h/UK/Politics/Reform+UK

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