UK Headlines — 05 Sep 2026

? Headlines — 5 September 2026

Saturday morning sweep · Compiled 08:00–08:45 BST

? Top Story: Reform UK conference engulfed by donations scandal

Reform UK suspends two senior officials after undercover report on donations — Channel 4 News and the Verbatim Investigations group (founded by journalists from the Centre for Climate Reporting) filmed Farage's closest aide **Dan Jukes** and head of policy **James Orr** suggesting a way around electoral law to secure a **£500,000 foreign donation** — money from an American father routed through his UK-based son, a mechanism Jukes claimed had been used before. Both men have **stepped down pending an internal probe**; the proposed donation was never made. Labour and the Lib Dems have reported Reform to the Met Police, which is assessing the matter; the Electoral Commission says it is "in touch with the Met". Farage insists the party "has broken no laws" and dismissed the footage as "loose pub talk" and a "hoax perpetuated by foreign-funded climate change activists". The row has overshadowed the party's Birmingham conference — a blow Farage admitted was "not what you want on day of the conference". *Sources: BBC News · BBC News — video, 'loose pub talk' · The Guardian*

?? UK Politics

- **Reform promises to increase tax-free personal allowance to £15,000** — Robert Jenrick says the tax cut will be paid for by cutting public spending by **£80bn**. (BBC)
- **Farage threatens to overhaul Lords and judges to meet his pledges** — conference speech floated constitutional changes to force through Reform's agenda. (BBC)

- **Farage unveils small-boats deal with France's National Rally** — a "memorandum of understanding" signed with RN president Jordan Bardella: the UK would intercept boats and return migrants to France, which would "ordinarily accept" and repatriate them — if both parties win power. Farage called it a "new Entente Cordiale"; Bardella hailed him as "the UK's next prime minister". (BBC)
- **Offord pledges to scrap tax system and boost jobs under Reform** — Reform's Scottish figure Malcolm Offord on a root-and-branch tax overhaul. (BBC)
- **Farage aide Dan Jukes and policy chief James Orr step down** — see Top Story above. (BBC)
- **Former PM Sir Keir Starmer leaving the Commons** — Green Party's **Zack Polanski** says he will run in the by-election for Starmer's former seat; BBC explainer asks why ex-MPs "join the Chiltern Hundreds" list. Andy Burnham (PM since 20 July) paid tribute to his predecessor. (BBC · The Guardian)
- **Burnham and Macron agree to scale up action on small boats** — Downing Street talks between the PM and the French president. (BBC)
- **UK support for Falkland Islands "unwavering", No 10 says** — after Argentina restates its claim; analysis suggests Trump's "retribution" could now include the Falklands as a favour to Milei. (BBC · The Guardian)
- **British army told to halt non-essential training exercises to save money.** (The Guardian)
- **"Stock up on food to prepare for extreme weather", minister says** — civil contingencies minister urges household resilience ahead of more extreme events. (BBC)
- **UK "has not done enough" to prepare for shocks to food supplies**, says the government's own watchdog. (The Guardian)
- **Jackdaw gasfield set to be approved by ministers this month**, sources say. (The Guardian)
- **Sadiq Khan agrees to have texts and emails searched in Palantir legal battle.** (The Guardian)
- **Populism poses serious challenge to independent central banks, says Bank of England governor Andrew Bailey.** (The Guardian)
- **Canary news website staff not paid amid fears for outlet's future.** (The Guardian)
- **Cambridge University asks former chief crown prosecutor Nazir Afzal to open the Jason Arday review**; separately it is examining the conduct of an academic suspended by Reform UK (James Orr). (The Guardian)

? UK / Home News

- **"I'd rather die than ring the police": distrust and fear in Middlesbrough after A66 crash** — BBC visits a town where violence has escalated after a fatal crash; residents say they are living in fear. (BBC)
- **Woman whose XL bully dog killed her cousin given suspended prison sentence.** (BBC)
- **Cleveland police chief "proud" of force but being "let down" by funding.** (BBC)
- **Baby stabbed to death in Sheffield was found on top of a washing machine, court told.** (The Guardian)
- **Man jumps out of first-floor window to escape kidnappers in Lincoln.** (The Guardian)
- **"Then who or what did we cremate?"** — daughter's horror at finding bones in British wildfire victims' car in Spain. (The Guardian)
- **Beekeepers warn of Asian hornet threat and call for a UK awareness campaign** — invasive species creating "pollinator deserts". (The Guardian)
- **Transgender surgery halted** over concerns patients were not properly assessed — services paused while a review takes place (Cardiff gender clinic affected). (BBC)
- **NI: two thirds of people denied disability benefit win at tribunal** — "It made me feel like I was lying". (BBC)

? World / International

- **Mistrial declared in Lindsay Clancy murder case after jury deadlocks** — the US case over the deaths of her three children remains in limbo; the trial divided the country on whether she is victim or criminal. (BBC)
- **Trump's peace envoys (Jared Kushner and Steve Witkoff) to visit Moscow and Kyiv over the weekend.** (BBC)
- **Europe targeted by spiralling campaign of sabotage — and Russia is the chief suspect.** (BBC)
- **Russia hits Ukrainian security headquarters in drone attack, Zelensky says.** (BBC)
- **UN votes to adopt a new world map to reflect Africa's true size** — the Equal Earth projection adopted after an African proposal. (BBC)
- **Germany's far-right AfD bids for its first taste of power in the eastern state vote.** (BBC)
- **At least two dead in a blast at a Bolivia military barracks.** (BBC)
- **Nepal tunnel rescue: two pulled out alive and one found dead; rescuers still trying to reach dozens trapped** — after flash floods; "a rare moment of joy" as workers were pulled from the Trishuli 3A hydropower tunnel. (

BBC · BBC video)

- **"Guilt by association": why seven international aid workers were killed in an Israeli airstrike in Gaza** — Guardian investigation. (The Guardian)
- **"We expect our sons to be killed," says father of teen shot dead in the West Bank.** (BBC video)
- **Argentine couple to return Nazi-looted painting to its rightful owner.** (BBC)
- **Body of the world's youngest traditional king returns home to Uganda amid succession row.** (BBC)
- **Why are European countries moving their gold out of North America?** (BBC)
- **Woman, 45, killed in Florence — seventh alleged femicide in Italy since mid-August.** (The Guardian)

??????? Wales

- **"Plaid may not finish its term", Reform Wales leader claims** — Dan Thomas says it is "hard to see how this Welsh government will last the duration of the term" after Plaid failed to get mid-year spending plans through the Senedd this summer. Reform (34 of 96 seats after May's election) is now the official opposition; FM **Rhun ap Iorwerth** says he has "learned lessons" from the budget defeat. Thomas is due to address the Reform conference in Birmingham today (Saturday). (BBC)
- **PM Andy Burnham says he is "open" to devolving policing in Wales.** (BBC)
- **Disgraced ex-Reform Wales leader who took pro-Russian bribes must pay £22k** — Nathan Gill ordered to pay after sanctions-linked donations scandal. (BBC)
- **No unconditional support to arms industry, Welsh government says.** (BBC)
- **Welsh transgender surgery review must be quick, first minister says** — after surgery was halted over assessment concerns, with patients told surgery was cancelled while already in hospital. (BBC · BBC)
- **Follow-up appointments scrapped in NHS Wales waiting-list plan.** (BBC)
- **Mum says there's "no fat left to trim" on household costs amid 42% rise in water bills.** (BBC)
- **Tonnes of rubble including "bits of old toilets" being dumped in a village, residents claim** — site owners SOS Aggregates deny waste dumping. (BBC)
- **Ancient cave art discovery suggests the first known humans in Ireland walked over from Wales.** (BBC)
- **Anger as human poo and maggot-infested food left behind at a beauty spot.** (BBC)

- **Pupil who stabbed a teacher in the head given a four-year detention order.** (BBC)
- **Catherine Zeta-Jones praised by fans for using her Welsh accent in the TV series Kill Jackie.** (BBC)
- **Gavin & Stacey star Rob Brydon's regret at turning down a Dolly Parton interview.** (BBC)
- **Welshman Donald gets England white-ball call-up.** (BBC Sport)
- **More accomplished Wrexham need an "A game" at Swansea; Championship leaders Swansea "deserve respect".** (BBC Sport · BBC Sport)

?? Weather & Environment

- **South Wales wildfire: "hope of progress" in the gruelling battle** — crews still fighting; "it's been very tough", say firefighters. Earlier in the month a Welsh county became a global hotspot for wildfire carbon emissions. (The Guardian · BBC)
- **Hot weather puts "unprecedented pressure" on Greater Manchester police** — force describes conditions as "absolutely manic". (The Guardian)
- **"Will there be enough pumpkins for Halloween?"** — growers worry after the hot, dry summer. (BBC)

? Feel-Good Roundup

- **"A rare moment of joy": Nepal tunnel rescues bring hope for more flood survivors.** (BBC)
- **Teen footballer James Taylor comes third in the world championships.** (BBC)
- **The Grand Tour's new presenters: "I hope we prove the critics wrong"** — Francis Bourgeois, James Engelsman and Thomas Holland. (BBC)
- **Lauryn Hill, Wyclef and Giggs among surprise guests at Jay-Z's long-awaited UK show.** (BBC)
- **Royal Mint announces new 50p coins celebrating Star Trek's 60th anniversary.** (BBC)
- **Long-shot kings: Beckham, Rooney… and Newport's Biggins** — Newport County's cult-hero goal-getter. (BBC Sport)
- **Rock stars gather on a tiny Scottish island for the world's quirkiest sporting challenge.** (BBC)

? Quick Summary

Section	Lead story	Source
□□ Top	Reform officials Dan Jukes & James Orr step down after undercover £500k donations film; Labour/Lib Dems report party to police	BBC / Guardian
□□ Politics	Reform conference: £15,000 tax-free allowance pledge (£80bn cuts), small-boats pact with France's National Rally, Lords/judges overhaul threat	BBC
□□ Politics	Starmer leaving Commons; Greens' Polanski to contest by-election; Burnham tribute	BBC / Guardian
□□ World	Lindsay Clancy murder trial ends in mistrial; Trump envoys to Moscow/Kyiv; Nepal tunnel rescue; AfD eyes eastern German state	BBC / Guardian
□□□□□□□□□□□□□ Wales	Reform's Dan Thomas: "Plaid may not finish its term"; PM "open" to devolving Welsh policing; transgender surgery review	BBC
□□ Weather	South Wales wildfire battle continues; heat pressure on police forces	Guardian / BBC

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