UK Headlines — 25 Sep 2026

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UK-wide sweep • Compiled 08:07 BST, Friday 25 September 2026 • Sources: BBC News (home / UK / politics / world / Europe / Wales / business / health / tech indexes plus 25+ individual articles, live Playwright fetches), The Guardian, Wikipedia's opinion-polling tracker, PollCheck, BBC Weather and the Met Office. Nitter, Reddit, Phice and Flaresolverr skipped as dead per job config.

? Top Stories

- **Burnham's first Labour conference as PM opens in Liverpool tomorrow under the slogan "Hope Again"** — the PM, back from his debut UN General Assembly speech in New York, will tell activists the conference will show it is "time for Britain to believe again" and will set out a "new direction" for the country. An internal No 10 note sets out the themes for his leader's speech on Tuesday: long-term solutions, a belief the future can be brighter, and his forthcoming 10 Year Plan for the UK with "making life more affordable" at its core. Policy announcements are promised on each day from Saturday, built around "putting power in people's hands" (more devolution), "growth in every postcode" and cost-of-living help — insiders say removing VAT from electricity bills is only the start. Labour's biggest union funder, Unite, wants instant sweeteners rather than "jam tomorrow": Sharon Graham has called for a "winter fuel in reverse", with a motion offering options including an energy price cap, unfreezing tax thresholds and a windfall tax on banks. All eyes are on **John Healey's first conference speech as chancellor on Monday**, with borrowing costs having soared to their second-highest level last month. Talk of an early election — possibly next spring — persists: party HQ has launched "operation second term" to beef up campaigning, and the Holborn and St Pancras by-election falls the week after conference, where the Greens are aiming for their first London MP. Downing Street insists no early election is being planned.
  https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/crz9z7y2ky0go
  https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cmd68e45z2xzo
- **Trump toasts Xi at a White House state dinner as the two agree they "must act as responsible major countries"** — "We've never gotten along better," Trump said, presenting Xi with a sculpture of a bald eagle he said he and Melania had helped design. Xi thanked his hosts for receiving him and his wife with "meticulous care", said the pair

were "making history" and that they had agreed to build "a constructive China-US relationship of strategic stability". The evening was heavy on pageantry and light on deliverable progress — the BBC's analysis is that Xi got the red carpet but not everything he wanted — and the day continues with tea in the Red Room and a tour of the National Archives, where the US Constitution and Declaration of Independence are held. Guests included Tim Cook, Sam Altman, Sundar Pichai, Jeff Bezos, Jensen Huang, Mark Zuckerberg and Elon Musk; **Anthropic was a notable absence**. Protesters were arrested outside. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cxq63dqp93n1o https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cr93e4x7kdjjo https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c539me79z1yno

- **Netanyahu's UN speech triggers a mass walkout — and he tells any "moral cowards" left in the hall to leave too** — vowing to continue fighting ("We're going to win. We have no other choice"), he rejected accusations that Israel is committing genocide in Gaza and attacked Turkey's president as a "tyrant". Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, addressing the assembly by video after being denied a US visa, said Israeli policies — in particular illegal West Bank settlement expansion — threatened "the very life and existence of the Palestinian people on their homeland". Oscar-winner Susan Sarandon and Hacks actress Hannah Einbinder were among protesters detained in New York. Separately, Netanyahu's office called Emmanuel Macron's UN remarks on the West Bank a "grotesque absurdity", after the French president said "Hamas was never very active in the West Bank"; a French diplomatic source blamed a "misinterpretation". https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c3y0z7kxlegdo https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ck1l6yyg52qvo
- **A judge ordered Trump to restore White House access for CNN, MS NOW and Politico — then the outlets were barred from the state dinner anyway** — Judge Timothy Kelly said the ban "likely violated their constitutional due process rights" and lacked factual support on national security grounds, ordering press passes returned and the ban paused for 14 days. The three outlets were let back in on Thursday morning, then a CNN reporter and producer and an MS NOW reporter were denied entry to cover guests arriving for Xi's dinner. Networks including Fox, NBC, CBS and ABC pulled out in solidarity and have not confirmed they will resume White House broadcasts. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cqe8ek7608mlo
- **Miliband tells Iran's foreign minister the UK will not tolerate "hostile activity" on British soil** — meeting Abbas Araghchi face-to-face at the UN, the Foreign Secretary raised "the UK's unwavering resolve to combat threats from Iranian-linked groups", including attacks on the British Jewish community — following the March arson attack on four Hatzola Jewish community ambulances in Golders Green and the July shutdown of a UK power plant blamed on Iranian-affiliated hackers. He also pressed for the release of British couple Lindsay and Craig Foreman, detained for over 20 months and sentenced in February to 10 years each on espionage charges they deny. Araghchi was told Iran should choose "de-escalation and diplomacy" and that the Strait of Hormuz must reopen. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cwp8476m06pyo
- **Anti-migrant activist charged over the Channel dinghy slashing, and Labour says there is no "switch" to stop the boats** — Daniel Thomas, 37, known to supporters as "Danny Tommo", is charged with criminal damage and failing to disclose the PIN to his phone after a boat carrying a French coastguard official was damaged on

Tuesday; he appears at Basingstoke Magistrates' Court by videolink today. Several hundred demonstrators chanted "free DT" outside a police investigation centre in Basingstoke on Thursday. Meanwhile Lucy Powell told BBC local radio "it's not easy, if we had a switch that we could switch tomorrow to stop all small boats, we would switch it", after two uncontrolled landings in Kent in two days and a single-day record of 781 arrivals in 10 boats on Wednesday. Shadow home secretary Chris Philp said Labour had "lost control of our borders" and demanded the UK leave the ECHR.
https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/crkgwe3egpzgo
https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cv5yj679jw10o

?? UK Politics

- **Chris Bryant: the £1.5bn Stormont funding package is "the final offer"** — the Northern Ireland Secretary said there was "no more money" and that the executive, which is six months late in setting a budget, must agree one. He refused to rule out legislating for a budget at Westminster, saying he had to consider "every eventuality" — "if it's impossible to set a budget through the executive, then somebody else will have to do it for them". The offer includes £450m extra for day-to-day pressures this year plus £400m in each of 2027/28 and 2028/29. The DUP's Diane Dodds called the deadline "reckless and unrealistic"; the UUP's Steve Aiken said "calling this the final offer does not make it a fair or sufficient offer"; Infrastructure Minister Liz Kimmins said NI had been "underfunded for over a decade". https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cwjdv4yp121yo
- **Ministers reject a dog ownership licence scheme** — the Responsible Dog Ownership Taskforce's report, set up in 2022 after a series of high-profile attacks, made 20 recommendations but the panel could not agree which rules to adopt. Defra said ministers are considering the recommendations but "we will not be introducing a new dog licensing scheme"; the Dog Control Coalition (RSPCA, Battersea, the Royal Kennel Club) said action was needed "as a matter of urgency". Since 2011 the UK dog population has grown 35% while hospital admissions for dog bites in England have risen 77%. England, Wales and Scotland scrapped licences in 1987; Northern Ireland still charges £12.50.
https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cw980vd9yq1no
- **Greek PM Kyriakos Mitsotakis urges Burnham to return the Elgin Marbles permanently** — writing in the Guardian, he said returning the Parthenon sculptures would "send a powerful signal" but require "courage", and rejected the British Museum's suggestion that the Bayeux Tapestry loan could be a template: "Greece cannot accept any arrangement that would require it to recognise the British Museum's ownership of the sculptures, or a scheme that would mean we 'borrow' parts of our own monument." Burnham said in 2023 the sculptures should go back with "no strings attached" but told the FT last month that "ultimately it's an issue for the British Museum".
https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cqm2mgk6mlddo
- **Tories would block benefits spending on alcohol, cigarettes and gambling** — long-term jobless claimants fit to work who have not paid enough in would see Universal Credit cut by 30% onto a pre-paid "Back to Work" card; the party estimates 350,000

claimants affected and £538m a year saved. Labour called it "unworkable". https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c920vy2jxle8o

- **Glasgow City Council to fire and rehire more than 23,000 staff** — letters go out after pay talks with unions broke down over an overhaul of pay and grading agreed at a meeting last month. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c6x2z7xwrwy4o
- **The Papers: Healey looks at targeted help with energy bills, and the Mail counts "Labour's army of migrants"** — the Times reports ministers are examining ways to help poorer households as fears grow of a "winter cost of living crisis", with the chancellor asking officials for options to "cushion" households from price rises ahead of next month's Budget, though sources warn support is likely to be targeted. The Daily Mail says 83,279 migrants have crossed in small boats since the last general election, citing shadow home secretary Chris Philp — "larger than the entire British Army". The Telegraph carries allegations about the care of Sir Ranulph Fiennes. The Metro reports the UK's first retail facial recognition payment system, in a Revolut-powered London coffee shop, and claims it "endangers civil liberties". https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cwz0z5pdy1kdo

Health & Public Services

- **NHS bodies in England impose two-year minimum waits for ADHD and autism assessments** — four integrated care boards covering large regions have adopted the approach because they cannot afford the assessments being sought, and 15 ICBs covering 19 million people have brought in various forms of rationing. West Yorkshire introduced a two-year minimum wait from referral after its bill for such assessments rose from £7m in 2023-24 to £21m last year; North East and North Cumbria ICBs are working to a 78-week minimum, Somerset 52 weeks. Minimum waits block patients from exercising their legal right to choose a private provider even though private clinics now do half of NHS-funded ADHD assessments and a third of autism ones. ADHD UK called the waits "heartless and dangerous"; Finally Seen said "a two-year minimum wait is not a waiting list. It is a locked door with a date on it." Some 960,000 people in England are waiting for an ADHD assessment and 295,000 for autism. The 700-page Fonagy review of rising mental illness and neurodiversity diagnoses, due Thursday, was postponed to early next month; its figures show autism prevalence among boys aged 7–18 rising from 0.2% in 2000 to 4.7% in 2025. https://www.theguardian.com/society/2026/sep/24/nhs-integrated-care-boards-england-two-year-waiting-times-adhd-autism-assessments
- **A&E overcrowding is linked to more than 500 deaths a week, with emergency rooms averaging 175% capacity** — the i Paper's front-page claim ahead of the Fonagy review. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cwz0z5pdy1kdo
- **Brain tumour diagnosis cut from weeks to hours with a rapid new genomic test** — NHS England will pilot the nanopore-sequencing test, developed with University of Nottingham software, at five specialist centres in Nottingham, Birmingham, London and Newcastle before extending to Bristol, Oxford, Leeds and Manchester. In the first case the BBC followed, 55-year-old Steve Palmer's grade 4 glioblastoma was identified 20 minutes into surgery to remove it. Consultant neurosurgeon Stuart Smith called it "almost magical" — full molecular results previously took six to eight weeks. More than 12,000 people in the UK are diagnosed with a primary brain tumour each year; it is the biggest cancer killer of

children and adults under 40. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cr3wj04d88ywo
- **Public Health Wales refuses to run blood tests for cancer-causing PCBs** — the health body says a testing programme is "not recommended" because it would not reveal how or where people were exposed and there is no treatment, risking "causing worry". Campaigners living near the former Monsanto works in Cefn Mawr, Acrefair and Trevor — and around Llwyneinion lagoon near Wrexham, called "a shame on Britain" in Michael Sheen's BBC documentary — say they have been left "frightened and upset", and want a national soil testing programme too. Michael Phillips, who played in the lagoon as a child, has "very high" PCB levels and says most friends who played in the water have died. Labour MP Steve Witherden called PHW's response "chilling". PHW's Prof Sarah Jones insisted cost was not a factor. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cw05rym38gdqo

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? World & International

- **Poland says a fire at a Starlink-linked satellite station was sabotage, as Denmark warns of rising Russian hybrid threat** — Deputy PM Krzysztof Gawkowski said the fire at the state-owned station in Wola Krobowska was "deliberately designed to disable the station... disrupting internet access for various institutions, including the Ukrainian army", and that "many indications suggest" a "new Russian doctrine of attack". The Kremlin has not commented. Denmark's intelligence service expects Russia to escalate hybrid warfare and sees "a low but growing risk" of a limited Russian military attack on Nato. Also on Thursday, Moldova said four Russian drones crossed its airspace with at least one exploding, and Romania's defence ministry said a drone crashed on its territory. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cmp30r1klk37o
- **Russia pounds Ukraine around the clock** — six agricultural workers were killed and 12 injured in a strike on a farm in Stara Hnylytsia in the Kharkiv region, where onions still covered the floor. In Kyiv there were multiple explosions on Wednesday night; in 24 hours a bakery, a pharmaceutical plant and a jewellery workshop were hit, and strikes on data centres disrupted internet in parts of the city. Zelensky, at the UN, said "we need ballistic interceptors to protect lives". https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cmp30r1klk37o
- **Four civilians killed in Pakistani strikes in Afghanistan, the Taliban says** — the strikes hit Kandahar, Paktia and Khost provinces, according to Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid, who called the attack "reckless, careless, and hostile" and promised an "appropriate response". Pakistan said it struck 10 targets and that the action was "deliberately, precise, calibrated, and proportionate" against "identified military objectives"; Islamabad accuses Kabul of harbouring the TTP, which claimed the 18 September attack on a police compound in north-west Pakistan that killed at least 31. The UN says cross-border violence killed at least 499 civilians between October 2025 and June 2026. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cm86xn0nnw58o
- **Hundreds of thousands expected in Paris for Pope Leo XIV's visit** — an altar is being built on the Place de la Concorde and around 600,000 faithful are expected along the Champs-Élysées up to the Arc de Triomphe for Saturday's afternoon Mass. Macron greets him at Orly and holds talks at the Élysée on geopolitics and AI, but will not attend

any Mass to respect France's separation of church and state; Brigitte Macron and PM Sébastien Lecornu will, along with presidential candidates Marine Le Pen, Edouard Philippe, Gabriel Attal and Bruno Retailleau. 80,000 young people are due at the Stade de France on Friday evening and 150,000 have signed up for Sunday's Mass at Lourdes. The Pope also meets migrants in Paris and abuse survivors in Lourdes. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cmq8j904212po

- **Italy's cabinet agrees to ban the burqa and niqab in schools and cap non-Italian pupils at 30%** — the cap applies to children without Italian citizenship or with poor Italian in the first year of primary, middle and high school. Meloni called the measures "common-sense tools that do not divide but really help to integrate"; Education Minister Giuseppe Valditara said the limit was "purely linguistic". The hijab is not covered. Opposition parties accuse the government of pandering to the hard-right Futuro Nazionale party of Roberto Vannacci ahead of next year's general election; the decree takes effect immediately but must be ratified by parliament within 60 days. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cw99d8g48873o
- **A priest has been killed and four other people injured in a knife attack at a Polish abbey** — a 31-year-old Ukrainian man was arrested after the stabbings on the grounds of a Catholic abbey in Jarosław. President Karol Nawrocki said the attack "demands a firm response from the state"; PM Donald Tusk said the perpetrator "will be punished with the full severity of Polish law"; Zelensky said Ukraine was "shocked by this evil" and the Ukrainian embassy warned against "pain escalating into hatred". https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c607lrvm41l3o
- **Ethiopia's army says it has repelled attacks in its first comment on fresh fighting with Tigray** — the army said hostilities began in Amhara near the Tigray border and that it inflicted heavy casualties; the TPLF, which seized three airports from federal police on Wednesday, has not commented and the BBC cannot independently verify the claims. A TPLF vice-president is quoted saying "we are in the situation of full-blown war now". Ethiopian Airlines has cancelled all flights to Tigray; residents of Mekelle report the city is calm but short of cash. The 2020–22 war is estimated to have killed some 600,000 people. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cqevwm09w4xmo
- **A Yom Kippur shooting outside a Canadian synagogue was a "hate-motivated" attack, police say** — the gunman, 29-year-old Sean Ward, opened fire outside the Sons of Jacob Synagogue in Belleville, Ontario; around 20–30 shots were fired. Constable Jeff Smith, shot multiple times in his car, got out and engaged the attacker until a second officer arrived nearly three minutes later; he remains in hospital facing multiple surgeries for serious head trauma. The attacker died of his injuries. The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs said that "if not for the extraordinary bravery of Constable Jeff Smith, Canadians would have experienced the type of mass-casualty terror attack our security services have warned is a realistic possibility". https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c6804n1r100eo
- **A 105-year-old is being investigated over alleged crimes at a Nazi PoW camp in Germany** — Dortmund prosecutors say he is alleged to have been a camp guard at Stalag 326 VI K in Senne, accused of being an accessory to multiple murders. A parallel case against a second guard died with the 99-year-old suspect a few months ago; a centenarian guard from Hemer Stalag VI A is also under investigation. One in three Soviet PoWs entering Nazi Germany between 1941 and 1945 passed through Senne. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cwzrzjy3pynvo

- **Canada's prosecutors drop charges against two people over the Toronto gold heist.** https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c85ydv56grx4o
- **Why Australia chose the world's biggest political stage to reveal the OpenAI hack** — and why an OpenAI system was able to breach Australia's health portal. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cr3eqk15ld14o https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cw24jm9rryy3o

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??????? Wales

- **The crashed RAF Hawk was steered away from built-up areas before the pilots ejected** — Gp Capt Gez Currie, station commander at RAF Valley, said "the aircraft would have been aimed in a direction that the pilot believed was open field, in order to avoid built-up areas and anybody on the ground". The Hawk T2 came down at Pencarnisiog on Anglesey on Wednesday after a routine sortie; the trainee and a highly experienced instructor are expected to make a full recovery. The pause on Hawk T1 and T2 flying now also covers the squadron at RAF Leeming in Yorkshire and the Red Arrows' T1 fleet, though they were not due to fly until the Le Touquet Airshow this weekend. An Anglesey councillor called it "a very lucky escape" given how close the crash was to a village and caravan park. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/crx2zlqqpn2do https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cw8d32vv4l7vo
- **BBC Wales is cutting 45 jobs as part of the corporation's £500m savings plan** — about 20 roles will go from the newsroom, mostly through voluntary redundancies. BBC Wales and Wales Business Operations are making around £9m of savings in 2027-28, with more expected in 2028-29. Twenty hours of TV programming will no longer be produced, live weather forecasts end on Radio Wales from January, and Radio Cymru loses *Dros Ginio*, the Saturday *Dros Frecwast* and *Ar y Marc*, the football discussion programme that has run for 35 years. Public tours of Central Square stop. The NUJ's Laura Davison called the cuts "devastating and demoralising" and demanded UK government intervention. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cv8e3nx22ljxo
- **The crisis-hit Welsh Gender Service cancelled 60 surgeries this year, the health minister says** — Mabon ap Gwynfor gave the first figure for those affected by the August pause in referrals, and said all 60 cases should be reviewed by the end of December by a clinical review panel, prioritising those furthest along the pathway. The Green leader Anthony Slaughter, opening the Senedd debate, said patients faced "unbearable limbo" and felt "abandoned, alone and confused, having had the rug pulled from under them". The NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee said some patients did not meet "the basic requirements for surgery", with unsuitable BMI a factor, and has identified no patients who came to harm. Reform's Cristiana Emsley said continuing irreversible referrals while "serious concerns exist" would be unacceptable. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c61wxyvpg7p4o
- **A Reform Senedd motion declaring Wales should stay in the UK was voted down on the Presiding Officer's casting vote** — the vote tied 45–45, leaving Huw Irranca-Davies to vote against in line with parliamentary convention. A Labour amendment stating

"devolution is the settled will" was defeated by 82 votes to eight; members instead passed a revised motion incorporating a Plaid Cymru amendment that "the people of Wales should decide Wales' constitutional future", by 45 votes to 37 with eight abstentions. Reform's Adrian Mason argued Wales benefits from devolved government inside the UK; Plaid's Dafydd Trystan Davies said "the people of Wales are sovereign". The debate came days after the Welsh government said it would seek powers to hold an independence referendum, though not before the May 2030 Senedd election. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c9lykxg2e4z4o

- **Catherine Zeta-Jones bases a new role on funny Welsh people she knows** — the Swansea-born actor's latest part draws on home. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cq2e0lr39dv7o
- **Gavin and Stacey stars join Ruth Jones at a 60th birthday party in a social club** — the Barry-born writer and actor celebrated with cast members. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c6j9xgprkyl2o
- **'Cheeky' fees prompt choirs to pull out of an Andrea Bocelli gig** — Welsh choirs have withdrawn over charges attached to the performance. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cwr50jjmllv5o
- **Ryan Reynolds and Rob McElhenney buy a Wrexham football pub.** https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cmd68px6eg6vo
- **101-acre data centre plans would be "heartbreaking", campaigners warn.** https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c6lyqp9yq377o
- **A 15-year-old boy who died in the sea has been named at inquest.** https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cm9dw8gn9d62o
- **Wales Green Party leader Anthony Slaughter has been diagnosed with cancer**, and no suspect has been identified over a death threat made against a Reform Senedd member. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cv8e3n4808kko https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cq3d734183exo

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? Business, Tech & Media

- **The UK's first air taxi assembly centre opens at Cotswold Airport** — Bristol-based Vertical Aerospace says its new facility near Kemble in Gloucestershire adds 60,000 sq ft to its flight test centre and is "an important step in Vertical's transition from prototype developer to aircraft manufacturer". Its electric Valo aircraft carry four passengers and fly up to 160km with no operating emissions. Construction begins late 2027, with an initial 25 aircraft a year rising to 900 a year by 2035; the company claims 1,500 orders and aims for certification by 2029. CEO Stuart Simpson said "we're getting really close to this idea of flying cars, flying taxis". https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cwz0z5dppxypo
- **Reported assaults on Britain's railways rose by more than a third** — 13,464 assaults against passengers and the public were recorded on the mainline railway in the year to March 2026, up 36% and the highest since the series began in 2004. Harassment rose 52% and common assaults 30%. Workforce assaults rose 12% to 11,289, of which 2,487 were physical and 6,390 verbal. On the London Underground recorded assaults rose

20% to 5,534. The RMT's Eddie Dempsey blamed cuts to British Transport Police funding and called for an end to lone working. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c6z0z5dz884lo

- **V&A workers strike over pay and conditions today and tomorrow** — Prospect and PCS members walk out at the South Kensington site, meaning only a limited number of galleries will be open; *Schiaparelli: Fashion Becomes Art*, the cafe and Young V&A, V&A East Museum and Storehouse are unaffected. Prospect is seeking a minimum 4% rise for staff above the living wage and time-and-a-half for bank holidays. General secretary Mike Clancy said directors "continue to demonstrate their lack of respect for the very people who make the museum what it is". https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c6kgwe32zlkpo
- **Farmers delivered 240 million litres less milk after the record hot summer** — the Energy and Climate Intelligence Unit says four fewer days of supply than expected between May and August, worth more than £83m, enough to fill over a billion school milk cartons. Poor grazing, stunted harvests and heat strain on livestock have pushed many farmers onto winter feed early. The ECIU warns "the costs don't stop now that the rain has come" and wants help with shade, trees and water for resilience. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cjvgy7qd20wgo
- **The FBI is investigating a claim that hackers have stolen details of all its agents** — the group ShinyHunters says it has every agent's name, role, badge number and personal details including home address and spouse information, and claims to have breached Oracle cloud storage systems used by the FBI. The ex-head of the UK's NCSC, Prof Ciaran Martin, said that if confirmed it was "as serious as it gets when it comes to data breaches". The gang is not asking for money — it wants the FBI to retract a May advisory describing it as attention-seeking "threat actors", and has given the bureau a week to comply. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c9n74574elljo
- **Northern Ireland's economic output rises, but businesses warn of rising costs**, and there is frustration over a scaled-back High Street scheme. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c6vgywjxv14po https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c32l8y88k5l5o
- **Lidl has been banned from selling copycat Birkenstock sandals by a Dutch court**, and protein users are being squeezed as prices soar to £170 a bag. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cqrm90m2g1dzo https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cm93e2gz8y41o
- **Pornhub is being investigated over its age checks**, and OpenAI has given cyber defence tools to Ukraine. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c6eq8dw3dlyqo https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c90kly26d7pzo

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? Culture & Entertainment

- **The V&A's South Kensington site runs a reduced service as staff strike** — see Business, Tech & Media. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c6kgwe32zlkpo
- **Sarah Ferguson has received "seven-figure offers" for her autobiography and is "days away" from a deal**, the Sun reports, adding that the Royal Family is still reeling from Earl Spencer's memoir about Princess Diana.

https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cwz0z5pdy1kdo
- **Rick Wakeman played piano to an audience of 150 bears at a sanctuary in Vietnam** — the former Yes keyboardist joked: "Before you ask, I won't be playing teddy bear's picnic." https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cwz0z5pdy1kdo
- **Rapper Macklemore announces a "Free Palestine" tour after the Ed Sheeran fallout.** https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cqzjzlve8jg7o
- **From Nagaland to a path to the Oscars** — an Indian film brings a rarely seen world to global cinema. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cv2dwk3z7x5eo
- **'She's back': fans dance, sing and cry at Céline Dion's comeback concert in Paris.** https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/videos/cpq01p1wn78o
- **Uproar in France over an award-winning author accused of using AI**, and the Netherlands will return to Eurovision after its 2026 boycott. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ck7v4y45893go https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c674kyg43d3lo
- **First look at The Other Bennet Sister Christmas special revealed.** https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cm2dw2r7wz0no
- **The Papers: "It's on at last"** — the Sun and the Star lead on the Fury–Joshua fight being confirmed; the Mirror and Star lead on former England striker Andy Carroll revealing he was sexually assaulted in 2021. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cwz0z5pdy1kdo

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?? Climate & Weather

- **Temperatures peak at 27–28°C in parts of the south east today before freshening** — the Met Office says temperatures will rise in southern England over the next couple of days, peaking around 27–28°C in the south east on Friday. BBC Weather has London sunny with light north-westerly winds, a high of 24°C and a low of 13°C; Saturday is sunny and 21°C, Sunday turns cloudier at 22°C, and Monday brings light rain. The Met Office long-range outlook from 25 September to 4 October expects Atlantic weather systems to keep bringing spells of rain. https://www.bbc.co.uk/weather/2643743 https://weather.metoffice.gov.uk/forecast/uk
- **Just how hot and dry was your summer?** — the BBC's postcode lookup lets you check your area against the record-breaking 2026 summer of five intense heatwaves and drought declarations. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cy9zvw47v90o
- **The record summer cost dairy farmers 240 million litres of milk** — see Business, Tech & Media. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cjvgy7qd20wgo
- **Poland says a fire at a Starlink station was sabotage, and Denmark warns of rising Russian hybrid warfare** — see World & International. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cmp30r1klk37o

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? Polling

The newest poll is **Find Out Now (23 September, n=2,559)**, putting Labour on 24%, Reform on 23% and the Conservatives on 19%. PollCheck's 7-poll moving average for 24 September has Labour on 26.6%, Reform UK on 22.9%, the Conservatives on 20.3%, the Greens on 11.0%, the Lib Dems on 10.1%, Restore Britain on 3.9% and the SNP on 2.7%. Over 30 days Reform is down 1.9 points and Labour up 1.3. **YouGov's MRP** (23 Aug – 18 Sep, 16,758 respondents) shows Labour would be the largest party in a hung parliament, with 63–68% of Lib Dem and Green voters saying they would vote tactically for Labour to stop Reform UK winning their seat.

Date(s)	Pollster	Client	Area	n	Lab	Con	Ref	LD	Grn	SNP	PC	RB	Lead
23 Sep	Find Out Now	—	GB	2,559	**24%**	19%	23%	12%	13%	2%	1%	—	Lab +1
20–21 Sep	YouGov	The Times/Sky News	GB	2,286	**23%**	21%	21%	12%	14%	2%	1%	4%	Lab +2
18–21 Sep	More in Common	—	GB	2,113	**26%**	23%	22%	11%	8%	2%	1%	6%	Lab +3
23 Aug – 18 Sep	YouGov (MRP)	The Times/Sky News	GB	16,758	**24%**	21%	22%	12%	12%	3%	1%	3%	Lab +2
16–18 Sep	Opinium	The Observer	GB	2,050	**27%**	18%	24%	10%	11%	3%	1%	—	Lab +3
16 Sep	Find Out Now	—	GB	2,621	**25%**	18%	23%	11%	12%	3%	1%	—	Lab +2
11–15 Sep	More in Common	—	GB	2,038	**25%**	22%	23%	10%	9%	2%	1%	6%	Lab +2
10–15 Sep	Ipsos	—	GB	1,033	**27%**	21%	23%	8%	13%	4%	1%	3%	Lab +4
13–14 Sep	YouGov	The Times/Sky News	GB	2,149	**23%**	20%	**23%**	13%	11%	3%	1%	3%	Tie
11–14 Sep	Delta poll	—	GB	2,056	**29%**	19%	25%	8%	9%	4%	1%	—	Lab +4

7-poll moving average (PollCheck, 24 September): Lab 26.6%, Ref 22.9%, Con 20.3%, Grn 11.0%, LD 10.1%, RB 3.9%, SNP 2.7%, PC 1.0%. RB = Restore Britain. Sources: Wikipedia's opinion-polling

tracker for the next UK general election; PollCheck; YouGov.

? Feel-Good Roundup

- **Both pilots who ejected from the RAF Hawk over Anglesey are "in extremely good spirits and expected to make a full recovery"** — and the jet was steered clear of homes and a caravan park before it came down. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/crx2zlqqpn2do
- **Steve Palmer got his brain tumour diagnosis while surgeons were still operating** — 20 minutes into the operation, so he could "get on with the next phase of treatment and recovery" instead of waiting six to eight weeks. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cr3wj04d88ywo
- **A woman gave birth to a baby boy in a Kyiv shelter during an overnight Russian attack.** "Even on such a terrible night, life goes on," the hospital's director said. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cmp30r1klk37o
- **Betty the "cold-stunned" turtle is set for release in the Azores** after being found stranded in the UK. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c6x2zkrvx10wo
- **The Newcastle fan kitting out Zambian footballers.** https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c9vgy8mr1e5ro
- **The Deadlifting Grandma: "I'm a world champion".** https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/crd68wev7wj2o
- **Rick Wakeman serenaded 150 rescued bears in Vietnam** — on the piano, in a sanctuary, to raise awareness of their conditions. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cwz0z5pdy1kdo

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? Quick Summary

Category	Top story
□□ Top	Burnham's first Labour conference as PM opens in Liverpool tomorrow under "Hope Again" — with a windfall-tax fight brewing over cost of living
□□ World	Trump toasts Xi at a White House state dinner: "we've never gotten along better", but little hard progress
□□ UK Politics	Chris Bryant says the £1.5bn Stormont package is "the final offer"; NI executive six months late on a budget
□□ Home Affairs	Anti-migrant activist Daniel Thomas charged over the Channel dinghy slashing, in court today; Lucy Powell says there is no "switch" to stop the boats

Category	Top story
□□ Health	NHS bodies impose two-year minimum waits for ADHD and autism assessments; A&E overcrowding linked to 500 deaths a week
□□□□□□□□□□□□□□ Wales	RAF Hawk steered away from built-up areas before the pilots ejected; BBC Wales to cut 45 jobs; Reform's Senedd motion defeated on the Presiding Officer's casting vote
□□ Business	Rail assaults up 36% to 13,464 — the highest since records began in 2004; V&A strikes today and tomorrow
□□ Culture	Fergie's seven-figure book offers; Fury–Joshua "It's on at last"; Macklemore's Free Palestine tour
□□ Polling	Find Out Now (23 Sep): Lab 24%, Ref 23%, Con 19% — PollCheck 7-poll average Lab 26.6%, Ref 22.9%
□□ Weather	27–28°C peak in the south east today; sunny 24°C in London, freshening into the weekend

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Compiled 08:07 BST, Friday 25 September 2026 • Sources: BBC News homepage, UK, Politics, World, Europe, Wales, Business, Health and Tech indexes plus 25+ individual articles (live Playwright fetches), The Guardian, Met Office, BBC Weather, Wikipedia opinion-polling tracker and PollCheck. Nitter, Reddit, Phice and Flaresolverr skipped as dead per job config. Sky News was blocked (403 via Akamai); the Metro and i Paper fetches returned 403/404 and their stories were taken from the BBC's "The Papers" roundup instead.

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