

UK Headlines — 30 Aug 2026

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? Top Story

PC Harper's killers to stay in jail as PM overhauls early release

Prime Minister Andy Burnham has told BBC Breakfast that anyone convicted of unlawful killing — including all forms of manslaughter — will be **excluded from the early release scheme** in the Sentencing Act, keeping two of PC Andrew Harper's killers (Jessie Cole and Albert Bowers) behind bars. The scheme was designed to ease prison overcrowding (estate is >97% full in England & Wales). Burnham conceded "hundreds" more will stay in prison; space will instead be found by deporting foreign prisoners and ending Imprisonment for Public Protection (IPP) sentences — 2,271 people still serving IPPs as of June, 856 never released. Follows months of campaigning by Harper's family and former colleagues. ([BBC](#))

?? UK Politics

- **Burnham gets his early-release changes — but at what cost?** BBC analysis of the PM's summer tour ending and the looming parliamentary test. ([BBC](#))
- **Burnham rules out voting on assisted dying**, breaking with Starmer's position. ([BBC](#))
- **James Cleverly quits shadow cabinet** to run for Mayor of London. ([BBC](#))
- **Greens call for temporary ban on new data centres** (2,300+ comments — strong engagement). ([BBC](#))
- **Asylum seekers in hotels halve in a year** — nearly 6,000 comments, hottest topic of the day online. ([BBC](#))

- **Sports Direct founder Mike Ashley attacks Burnham's "populist" High Street plans.** ([BBC](#))
- **Scotland:** FM calls for referendum powers as draft independence bill is published (2,200+ comments). ([BBC](#))
- **Northern Ireland:** Burnham says a united Ireland poll is "off the table" on first NI visit. ([BBC](#))
- **'Cowboy builders' targeted** in new government clampdown. ([BBC](#))
- **UK soldiers could get paragliders** to drop behind enemy lines under defence plans. ([BBC](#))

? World

- **Nepal-Tibet floods:** Death toll exceeds **700**; rescue operations in a fifth day, terrain making aid delivery "extremely difficult". Footage of the Tibet floods is being suppressed in China. ([BBC Live](#))
- **Ukraine:** At least **37 dead** and hundreds evacuated after a strike on a Kyiv weapons depot. ([BBC](#))
- **Iceland:** EU membership referendum **on a knife edge** as counting continues. ([BBC](#))
- **Switzerland:** Manhunt after one killed and five injured in a shooting in Aarau. ([BBC](#))
- **US/Venezuela:** Trump hails "historic" deal for US control of **65bn barrels** of Venezuelan oil. ([BBC](#))
- **Milo Yiannopoulos deported from the US to the UK**, DHS confirms. ([BBC](#))
- **Norway:** New King Haakon VIII remembers "my dear father" in first speech. ([BBC](#))
- **Ecuador:** Former president Lenín Moreno imprisoned for corruption. ([BBC](#))
- **9/11:** Landlady to two hijackers reveals their links to an alleged Saudi spy. ([BBC](#))

??????? Wales

- **Girl faces six-month recovery** after "freak accident" bus crash on holiday — mother stresses travel insurance. ([BBC](#))
- **Swimmers urged to avoid Keepers Pond** as drought and fires reveal "hidden hazards". ([BBC](#))
- **Wales NHS gender surgeries paused** pending review into referral numbers. ([BBC](#))
- **Stanley Tucci spotted trying Welsh cakes** at Cardiff Market. ([BBC](#))
- **Man accused of having IRA manual on phone** appears in court. ([BBC](#))

- **Swansea riverside path plans approved** despite moped worries. ([BBC](#))

?? Weather

- **Strong winds and thunderstorms** kick off the bank holiday weekend across the UK. ([BBC Weather](#))

? Other UK

- **Channel rescue continues overnight** for "in distress" vessel carrying five off Devon. ([BBC](#))
- **Royal Navy warships tracked Russian vessels** for three days in UK waters. ([BBC](#))
- **Christian festival "devastated"** after man's death in Sussex. ([BBC](#))
- **Sarah Ferguson expected back in the UK "shortly"**, source says. ([BBC](#))
- **Illegal waste supersite clean-up cost taxpayers £6m** (Kidlington before/after aerials). ([BBC](#))
- **Boxing:** Heavyweight Moses Itauma handed harsh world-title lesson. ([BBC Sport](#))

? Feel-Good Roundup

- **Stanley Tucci tries Welsh cakes** at Cardiff Market — "Happiness is a Warm Welsh Cake".
- **Girl dragged under van in "worst nightmare" crash raises thousands** for her rescuers.
- **15-acre Georgian mansion in Wales shared** by a co-housing group for the price of a two-bed house.
- **Susie Dent says learning Welsh** is on her bucket list — calls the language "special".

? Quick Summary

#	Story	Category
1	Burnham excludes manslaughter from early release — PC Harper killers stay jailed	Politics
2	Asylum seekers in hotels halve in a year	Politics

#	Story	Category
3	Cleverly quits shadow cabinet for London mayor run	Politics
4	Nepal-Tibet flood death toll passes 700	World
5	37 dead in Kyiv weapons depot strike	World
6	Iceland EU referendum on a knife edge	World
7	Trump claims 65bn-barrel Venezuela oil deal	World
8	Wales NHS pauses gender surgeries for review	Wales
9	Bank holiday weekend hit by winds and thunderstorms	Weather
10	Yiannopoulos deported from US to UK	World

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