

Peter Ward — Rejoin EU Candidate, Makerfield By- Election 2026

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| **Last updated:** 27 May 2026 (new: full candidate list confirmed; race remains dominated by Labour-Reform-Restore) **By-election date:** Thursday 18 June 2026

Bio

Detail	Info
Full name	Peter Mark Ward
Occupation	Barrister (Manchester-based)
Party	Rejoin EU
Constituency	Makerfield
Announced	24 May 2026 (Wigan Today)

How They Got Selected

Announced as Rejoin EU candidate on 24 May 2026. The party said "rejoining the EU has come back into the British political debate in a big way." Confirmed by party leader Brendan Donnelly on X: "Barrister Peter Ward will be the Rejoin EU Party Makerfield by-election candidate."

About Rejoin EU

Single-issue party founded in 2019, advocating for the UK to rejoin the European Union. Originally led by Brendan Donnelly. Contests by-elections and local elections, usually polling 1-3% in seats they contest. Not to be confused with the Liberal Democrats or Green Party — explicitly a single-issue pro-European vehicle.

What It Means

The Rejoin EU party is a marginal candidate but their presence adds to a crowded field — 8+ candidates confirmed. Every vote that goes to a minor candidate fragments the vote further.

Twitter/X Discussion

📌 Source: Nitter search, May 2026

Ward gets minimal Twitter coverage. Key mentions:

- **Announcement coverage:** "Barrister Peter Ward will be the Rejoin EU Party Makerfield by-election candidate" — shared by local news accounts and a handful of pro-European accounts
- **Minor candidate treatment:** Predicted in amateur polling projections at <1%. Generally lumped in with the "fringe" category alongside the Loony Party
- **The Rejoin EU angle:** Some Remain-leaning accounts share his candidacy as a way to "send a message" but most acknowledge the party has no realistic path to winning
- **Full candidate list confirmed (27 May):** Ward is one of 10 candidates on the ballot. With 10 candidates splitting the vote, Ward's <1% projection is even more marginal. The Blair/Harman interventions on 27 May focused entirely on Burnham leadership implications, with no mention of the EU — suggesting the Rejoin issue remains peripheral to the campaign.

Reddit Discussion

Ward is essentially undiscussed on Reddit. Rejoin EU as a party is acknowledged as a single-issue vehicle with negligible electoral impact. Some pro-European users mention the candidacy in passing but without enthusiasm.

- [BBC — Rejoin EU announce Makerfield by-election candidate](#)
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