# Eluned Morgan discusses political challenges and personal reflections in new podcast



In a recent podcast appearance on The Political Party with Matt Forde, Eluned Morgan, First Minister of Wales, addressed the political landscape her party faces, specifically highlighting challenges from Reform UK and Plaid Cymru. The discussion, which delved into both personal anecdotes and political strategies, provided insight into her views and experiences in office.

Regarding the political threats posed by Reform UK and Plaid Cymru, Morgan stated, "I think we have to take the threat from Reform really seriously." She acknowledged the need for her party to engage with constituents' concerns, especially in the wake of Brexit, where many voters felt disconnected from the financial assistance provided to their communities by the EU. "We've got to listen to people, hear what they're saying and respond," she remarked, emphasising her dual concerns about both parties vying for influence.

Morgan's critique of Plaid Cymru was also pointed, as she asserted that the party’s recent decision against supporting a budget, which could have resulted in a potential loss of £4 billion, indicated a willingness to prioritise political gamesmanship over community welfare. She expressed her concern that this kind of political behaviour detracted from sincere governance, stating, "That's concerning." Despite these criticisms, she noted that both parties do share "lots in common," hinting at complexities in their political interactions as the next election approaches.

The First Minister also reflected on shifting public opinion regarding Brexit, acknowledging that her own insights are informed by various tracking data she has reviewed. When discussing an upcoming investment summit scheduled for December in Wales, she touched on the possibility of former US President Donald Trump participating, given the venue's historical significance as the host of the Ryder Cup.

In response to a hypothetical meeting with Trump, Morgan said, "Hello Mr President, why are you being so mean to Canada?" She clarified her role within Welsh governance, allowing UK Labour leader Keir Starmer to handle international matters while maintaining focus on local issues. Acknowledging the presence of around 300 American companies in Wales that contribute significantly to local employment, she expressed a desire to ensure their satisfaction while navigating the complexities of US-British relations.

When asked about Labour potentially losing voters to other left-leaning parties, Morgan conceded the possibility, but remarked that there is broad recognition of the need for reform within the system. She shared concerns surrounding public perceptions of welfare, reflecting on the balance required between providing support for those in need and addressing taxpayer frustrations regarding contributions.

In a discussion about her role as Wales' first female leader, she addressed the historical absence of women in leadership roles within UK Labour, stating, "I don’t know, I don’t know but we keep doing it." She noted the importance of mechanisms that foster gender equality in political representation, reflecting on how women elected to the Senedd have made significant impacts in ministerial positions.

Morgan also conveyed her experiences and challenges as a young woman in politics, especially after being elected at the age of 27. Speaking about the immense pressure to succeed in a role where she felt scrutiny, she highlighted her determination to prove herself in a historically male-dominated environment. "I do think I did feel I had to work incredibly hard," she said, acknowledging the journey of women who paved the way for future leaders, alluding to her commitment to not let down those who have come before her.

Overall, Morgan's interview encapsulated a blend of personal reflection, political strategy, and the ongoing dynamics within Welsh and UK politics.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/the-political-party/id595312938> - This URL supports the claim that Eluned Morgan appeared on 'The Political Party' podcast with Matt Forde, where she discussed various political issues.
* <https://www.thesenedd.wales/en/members/eluned-morgan-ms-4707/> - This page provides background information on Eluned Morgan, supporting her role as the First Minister of Wales and her political career.
* <https://www.reformparty.org.uk/> - This URL is the official page for Reform UK, one of the parties mentioned as posing a challenge to Morgan's party.
* <https://www.plaidcymru.org/english/> - This is the official website of Plaid Cymru, another party referenced in Morgan's recent discussion.
* <https://www.britishchambers.org.uk/article/american-firms-in-wales> - This article highlights the presence and impact of American companies in Wales, aligning with Morgan's discussion about US-British relations and economic importance.