# Labour candidate faces door slamming during tense Runcorn and Helsby by-election canvassing



On Tuesday, 29 April, Karen Shore, the Labour candidate for the Runcorn and Helsby by-election in Cheshire, experienced a tense moment while canvassing in the constituency. As she knocked on a resident's door, the occupant responded by slamming the door in Ms Shore’s face. During the brief interaction, the woman expressed her disapproval of the Labour leader, stating she “can’t stand the man,” referring to Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer.

The incident was captured on film by ITV News, highlighting the charged atmosphere surrounding the upcoming by-election. The Runcorn and Helsby by-election is scheduled to take place on Thursday and has attracted a diverse field of candidates. Karen Shore will face challengers including Conservative Sean Houlston, Liberal Democrat Paul Duffy, Green Party candidate Chris Copeman, and Reform Party's Sarah Pochin.

Sir Keir Starmer has acknowledged the difficulty of the election, describing it as “tough,” yet he remains confident in Labour’s position. Speaking about the by-election, he insisted that Labour had “a positive case to tell,” signalling the party’s determination to retain the seat despite the challenging political climate.

The Independent is reporting that tensions among voters and candidates in Runcorn and Helsby reflect a broader national political environment marked by contested loyalties and heated opinions ahead of this closely watched by-election. The results, due later this week, will contribute insights into the current standing of the main political parties in the region.

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.itv.com/news/granada/2025-03-14/labour-selects-candidate-for-by-election-to-replace-shamed-mike-amesbury> - This article reports that Karen Shore, a Cheshire West & Chester councillor, has been selected as Labour's candidate for the Runcorn and Helsby by-election, following the resignation of MP Mike Amesbury after his assault conviction.
2. <https://www.ft.com/content/5b3e2997-20ea-450a-865f-2635320d14fa> - The Financial Times discusses the upcoming by-election in Runcorn and Helsby, highlighting the contest between Labour's Karen Shore and Reform UK's candidate, with tensions reflecting broader national political dynamics.
3. <https://www.ft.com/content/c220d52e-6515-4b9b-931f-17aae0087879> - This article details the conviction of MP Mike Amesbury for assaulting a constituent, leading to his resignation and the subsequent by-election in Runcorn and Helsby.
4. <https://www.ft.com/content/f39b23fd-fe39-4868-8f32-0720cc817fbe> - The Financial Times reports on Mike Amesbury's resignation from Parliament following his assault conviction, triggering the first by-election since Sir Keir Starmer became prime minister.
5. <https://www.ft.com/content/43df338b-f6c8-4cbe-a34d-76fdc9a02fbf> - This article examines the potential outcomes of England's local elections, including the Runcorn and Helsby by-election, and discusses the challenges faced by traditional parties amid rising support for Reform UK.
6. <https://www.ft.com/content/a52fae13-7bbf-432e-bb74-4ec5618cb3a3> - The Financial Times' Political Fix podcast delves into key contests in the upcoming local elections, including the Runcorn and Helsby by-election, and the rising momentum of Reform UK.
7. <https://www.independent.co.uk/tv/news/runcorn-helsby-by-election-labour-karen-shore-door-shut-b2741543.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data