# Lee Anderson sparks Commons uproar by linking migrants and Jeremy Corbyn in deportation comments



During a recent debate on the Border Security, Asylum, and Immigration Bill, Reform UK MP Lee Anderson made headlines with a provocative statement suggesting that migrants crossing the Channel should be detained and deported alongside Jeremy Corbyn, the former leader of the Labour Party and current MP for Islington. His remarks elicited audible groans from fellow MPs, highlighting the contentious nature of immigration discussions in the House of Commons. The response from a Home Office minister was one of disbelief, stating, "I'm quite shocked that the honorable gentleman thinks that that's an appropriate thing to say in this place."

Anderson’s comments occurred against the backdrop of an ongoing national debate about the UK's immigration policies, particularly concerning irregular crossings by small boats. Just months earlier, in August 2023, he had openly acknowledged the Conservative Party’s failures in managing illegal immigration, attributing the rising numbers to impediments caused by "lefty lawyers," human rights advocates, and charitable organisations. His earlier remarks on the topic had also attracted controversy; during discussions about housing asylum seekers on the Bibby Stockholm barge, he instructed those unhappy with the arrangement to “f\*\*\* off back to France.” While such language drew widespread criticism from opposition parties, it received tacit support from members of the Conservative leadership, including Justice Secretary Alex Chalk, who described Anderson's frustration as well-placed.

This latest episode illustrates the escalating rhetoric surrounding immigration in the UK. Anderson, who serves as the Deputy Chairman of the Conservative Party, has become a polarising figure in these discussions. His approach appears to echo the broader sentiment within segments of the Conservative base, advocating for stricter measures against migrant crossings and a hardline stance on immigration enforcement. However, as Anderson himself noted, addressing the complexities of immigration is fraught with challenges, acknowledging the intricate interplay of legal, humanitarian, and logistical factors that complicate deportation policies.

Moreover, the debates around these issues have not only sparked political dissent but have also led to increased scrutiny of the government’s policies and their implementation. Recent committee sessions have revealed gaps in information regarding the deportation of failed asylum seekers, raising questions about the government's ability to manage immigration effectively. Home Office officials have at times appeared unprepared to answer specific inquiries about deportation numbers, underscoring the challenges facing the current administration.

Ultimately, Anderson’s comments serve to highlight the deepening divisions within British politics concerning immigration. As debates continue to unfold in Parliament and public discourse, the implications of such rhetoric may shape not just political landscapes but also the lived realities of those navigating the UK's asylum system. The situation may evolve further as both the government and opposition grapple with the pressing need for coherent and humane policies that reflect the complexities of migration in today's world.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraph 1: Sources 1, 2
2. Paragraph 2: Sources 3, 4, 5
3. Paragraph 3: Sources 3, 4, 6
4. Paragraph 4: Sources 4, 5, 7
5. Paragraph 5: Sources 1, 2, 6

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.independent.co.uk/tv/news/lee-anderson-jeremy-corbyn-migrants-channel-b2749568.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.independent.co.uk/tv/news/lee-anderson-jeremy-corbyn-migrants-channel-b2749568.html> - On May 12, 2025, during a debate on the Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Bill, Reform UK MP Lee Anderson suggested that migrants crossing the Channel should be detained and deported alongside Jeremy Corbyn, the member for Islington. His remark prompted groans in the House of Commons, with a Home Office minister expressing shock at the appropriateness of such a statement.
3. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/08/09/lee-anderson-admits-tories-failed-tackling-illegal-migrants/> - In August 2023, Lee Anderson, Deputy Chairman of the Conservative Party, admitted that the Tories had failed to tackle illegal immigration. He acknowledged that small boat Channel crossings were 'out of control' and attributed the failure to opposition from 'lefty lawyers', human rights campaigners, and charities. Robert Jenrick, the immigration minister, responded by stating that there are no simple fixes to this complex issue.
4. <https://www.sundayworld.com/news/world-news/fury-in-britain-after-tory-deputy-chairman-tells-asylum-seekers-to-f-off-back-to-france/a1251956838.html> - In August 2023, Lee Anderson, Conservative Party Deputy Chairman, told asylum-seekers complaining about being moved into the Bibby Stockholm barge to 'f\*\*\* off back to France'. His comments were defended by Justice Secretary Alex Chalk, who described Anderson's indignation as well-placed, despite the use of 'salty language'.
5. <https://news.sky.com/story/lee-anderson-downing-street-backs-tory-deputy-chairman-after-he-told-migrants-who-dont-like-barges-to-go-back-to-france-12935966> - In August 2023, Downing Street backed Lee Anderson after he told asylum seekers who didn't want to be housed in barges to 'f\*\*\* off back to France'. Labour and Liberal Democrats criticized his remarks as 'wholly unacceptable' and 'toe curling'. Justice Secretary Alex Chalk supported Anderson, stating his indignation was well-placed.
6. <https://www.parallelparliament.co.uk/mp/lee-anderson/debate/2024-09-10/commons/westminster-hall/illegal-immigration> - In September 2024, during a Westminster Hall debate on illegal immigration, Lee Anderson criticized the previous Conservative Government for losing control of the UK's borders. He emphasized the need to tackle criminal gangs facilitating small boat crossings and highlighted the human cost, referencing a recent tragedy in the Channel.
7. <https://news.sky.com/video/home-office-officials-left-stumped-when-asked-deportation-figures-in-staggering-exchange-with-mp-13018956> - In November 2023, during a committee session, Conservative MP Lee Anderson questioned Home Office officials about the number of failed asylum seekers deported. The officials appeared unprepared and unable to provide the requested figures, leading to a 'staggering' exchange.