# Man remanded over arson attacks on properties linked to Keir Starmer



A 21-year-old man has been remanded in custody following a court appearance linked to a series of arson attacks targeting properties affiliated with Prime Minister Keir Starmer. Roman Lavrynovych, a Ukrainian national, faces three charges of arson with intent to endanger life. The incidents, which unfolded over a few days, include damage to Starmer's former residence in Kentish Town, a nearby property in Islington, and a vehicle he once owned.

During a brief hearing at Westminster Magistrates' Court, Lavrynovych confirmed only his name and personal details, with the proceedings including interpretation services to assist in his understanding. According to prosecutor Sarah Przybylska, the motives behind these alleged crimes remain enigmatic. She highlighted that accelerants were reportedly used to ignite the fires, intensifying concerns over their deliberate nature.

The significance of the case has drawn the attention of the Metropolitan Police’s counter-terrorism unit, underscoring the potential implications for national security due to the high-profile nature of the victims. Lavrynovych was arrested in Sydenham, south-east London, after emergency services responded to the initial fire at Starmer's previous home on May 8. Fortunately, no injuries were reported during these incidents, although the fires caused significant property damage.

In the early hours of Monday, after the alleged attacks, fire services tackled blazes that damaged the entrances of both residential properties associated with Starmer, including one where he lived before transitioning to the official residence at 10 Downing Street. The culmination of these events has led to widespread condemnation from political leaders; Starmer himself described the incidents as assaults on democratic values, mirroring sentiments expressed by opposition figures who rallied behind him.

Notably, Lavrynovych's legal representation did not apply for bail, resulting in him remaining in custody. His next court date is set for June 6, where a plea hearing will take place at the Central Criminal Court. Given the unfolding nature of the investigation, authorities continue to explore any links between the incidents and possible political motivations behind these acts of aggression.

As public discourse around the attacks intensifies, there is a broader concern about the potential risks facing those in positions of power. The response from parliamentary figures, including accusations of a threat to democratic ideals, underscores a pressing need for a comprehensive investigation into the circumstances surrounding these arson attempts, which have shocked the public and political community alike.

The investigation is ongoing, with detectives diligently following various leads to ascertain the motivations for the fires and whether they form part of a broader pattern of politically motivated attacks. The coming months will likely reveal more about what prompted this alarming series of events and the implications for security in the UK, especially concerning public officials and their families.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7: Sources [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/may/16/man-remanded-in-custody-over-arson-at-two-properties-linked-to-keir-starmer), [[2]](https://www.ft.com/content/4af155d6-c2f3-4277-b32a-8f01130140dd), [[3]](https://apnews.com/article/b09bd6b972d44a3965319c149bff8863), [[4]](https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/ukrainian-man-court-over-fires-linked-uk-pm-starmer-2025-05-16/), [[5]](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-police-arrest-man-arson-after-fire-pm-starmers-house-2025-05-13/), [[6]](https://elpais.com/internacional/2025-05-12/la-policia-britanica-investiga-un-pequeno-incendio-en-la-vivienda-propiedad-de-starmer.html), [[7]](https://www.ft.com/content/108be37c-b6d4-4694-9da5-45fa9a4f25ae).

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/may/16/man-remanded-in-custody-over-arson-at-two-properties-linked-to-keir-starmer> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.ft.com/content/4af155d6-c2f3-4277-b32a-8f01130140dd> - Roman Lavrynovych, a 21-year-old Ukrainian national, has been remanded in custody after being charged with three counts of arson with intent to endanger life, related to attacks on property linked to UK Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer. The alleged incidents include a fire at Starmer's family home in Kentish Town and a prior car fire on the same street in north London. Lavrynovych appeared at Westminster Magistrates' Court, where prosecutor Sarah Przybylska noted the offenses were currently 'unexplained,' and stated he had used accelerants to start the fires. Lavrynovych, who has no fixed UK address and was arrested in Sydenham, denied the charges when questioned by police. He spoke only to confirm his identity and received interpretation in Ukrainian during the proceedings. His lawyers did not apply for bail, and he is set to appear at the Old Bailey on June 6.
3. <https://apnews.com/article/b09bd6b972d44a3965319c149bff8863> - A 21-year-old Ukrainian man, Roman Lavrynovych, has been charged with three counts of arson with intent to endanger life after allegedly setting fires to properties associated with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer. The incidents occurred over five days in north London, targeting Starmer’s former residence, a building he once lived in, and a Toyota RAV4 he previously owned. No injuries were reported. Lavrynovych appeared in Westminster Magistrates’ Court, confirmed his identity through an interpreter, but did not enter a plea. He remains in custody and is scheduled for a plea hearing on June 6 at the Central Criminal Court. The case is being handled by counterterrorism detectives, given its implications for national security, and prosecution is led by the Crown Prosecution Service’s Counter Terrorism Division. Prime Minister Starmer and political leaders, including Conservative Party’s Kemi Badenoch, condemned the attacks as assaults on democratic values. Starmer had moved to the official Downing Street residence after his July election.
4. <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/ukrainian-man-court-over-fires-linked-uk-pm-starmer-2025-05-16/> - Roman Lavrynovych, a 21-year-old Ukrainian man, appeared at Westminster Magistrates' Court in London facing three counts of arson with intent to endanger life. The charges relate to a series of fires this month linked to UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer. The incidents included blazes at Starmer’s previous residence in Kentish Town, a nearby apartment block in Islington, and a Toyota RAV4 car in Kentish Town. No injuries were reported, though the fires caused property damage. Lavrynovych, arrested the day after one of the fires, has denied involvement during police interviews, and the motive behind the acts remains unclear. Prosecutor Sarah Przybylska noted all the targeted locations and the vehicle were tied to Starmer, who described the attacks in Parliament as assaults on democracy and shared values. Lavrynovych's lawyer, James Scobie, requested an educational assessment for his client and suggested the case might hinge on narrow issues. Lavrynovych is remanded in custody and will appear at the Old Bailey on June 6. The investigation, led by counter-terrorism police, is ongoing.
5. <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-police-arrest-man-arson-after-fire-pm-starmers-house-2025-05-13/> - On May 13, 2025, UK police arrested a 21-year-old man on suspicion of arson with intent to endanger life following a fire at Prime Minister Keir Starmer's private residence in Kentish Town, north London. The fire occurred early Monday morning and damaged the property's entrance, though no injuries were reported. The suspect, now in custody, is also being investigated in connection with two other related incidents: a fire at another property in nearby Islington on Sunday—reportedly also linked to Starmer—and a vehicle fire in Kentish Town on Thursday. Due to the involvement of a high-profile figure, officers from the Metropolitan Police Counter Terrorism Command are leading the investigation. Prime Minister Starmer had lived at the affected property with his family before moving into Number 10 Downing Street in July 2024. A spokesperson for Starmer expressed gratitude to emergency services for their response.
6. <https://elpais.com/internacional/2025-05-12/la-policia-britanica-investiga-un-pequeno-incendio-en-la-vivienda-propiedad-de-starmer.html> - Un hombre de 21 años ha sido arrestado por su presunta implicación en tres incendios provocados con pocas horas de diferencia en Londres, todos relacionados con propiedades del primer ministro británico, Keir Starmer. Los incidentes ocurrieron en una vivienda en Kentish Town, un inmueble en Islington y un coche aparcado, y se sospecha que fueron intencionados. La Policía Metropolitana ha asignado el caso a su unidad antiterrorista debido a la relevancia pública del afectado. En Kentish Town, el fuego se controló rápidamente sin heridos, aunque causó daños en la entrada. El inmueble había sido previamente objetivo de protestas. Las autoridades investigan la posible conexión entre los tres fuegos, tratados como deliberados. Starmer no ha comentado por tratarse de una investigación en curso.
7. <https://www.ft.com/content/108be37c-b6d4-4694-9da5-45fa9a4f25ae> - UK police have obtained a 36-hour extension to detain a 21-year-old suspect from Sydenham, London, in connection with a series of suspected arson attacks targeting Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer. The incidents include fires at Starmer's family home in Kentish Town, a vehicle previously owned by him, and another associated property in Islington. These attacks, which have caused property damage but no injuries, are being investigated by counterterrorism police, though the suspect is not being held under the Terrorism Act. Authorities are still determining whether the attacks were politically motivated or part of a coordinated campaign. In Parliament, Starmer described the incidents as assaults on his family, democracy, and shared national values. Opposition leader Kemi Badenoch expressed her support. Police investigations continue to explore various leads to determine connections between the incidents and any motives behind them.