# Farage leverages Reform UK election wins to demand national inquiry into grooming gangs



Nigel Farage has announced plans to leverage the recent electoral successes of his party, Reform UK, to press the Government for a comprehensive investigation into the ongoing scandal involving child sex grooming gangs. Following the local elections in which Reform UK secured 677 seats and took control of ten councils, Farage aims to mobilise the newly elected councillors to advocate for an inquiry addressing the historical abuse perpetrated by men of Pakistani heritage against predominantly white young girls in areas such as Rotherham and Oldham.

Despite calls from numerous quarters for a national inquiry, the Government has maintained that these investigations should occur at the local level. Reform UK contends that local efforts have been obstructed by Labour representatives in affected areas. Farage has stated that the influence gained through their significant electoral victories, which notably included two councils previously held by Labour, has altered the dynamics of the debate surrounding this issue.

Mr Farage articulated a firm stance, declaring, "We're putting the Government on notice: Reform councils will never sweep abuse by rape gangs under the carpet." The grooming scandal has its roots in a 2001 incident where reports of taxi drivers allegedly involved in the abuse of girls from care homes were brought to the attention of local authorities, yet the first major convictions did not occur until 2010. The issue continued to unfold, with a recent conviction marking a total of 61 offenders since the beginning of the scandal.

A highly anticipated inquiry led by Professor Alexis Jay in 2022 detailed the extent of the abuse and offered 20 recommendations, none of which have yet been acted upon. Farage pointed out that some councillors, such as Simon Evans, deputy leader-elect of Lancashire Council, are already collaborating with victims to advocate for the inquiries necessary to ensure justice. Among them is Elizabeth Harper, who, having become a victim at the age of 13, participated in a rally alongside Farage to raise awareness about the need for change.

However, the political conversation around this issue is fraught with tension. Commons Leader Lucy Powell faced backlash for remarks made on BBC Radio 4’s "Any Questions," where she likened concerns about grooming gangs to "dog whistle" politics, a comment that led to her issuing a clarification to underline that her challenge was against political opportunism rather than the seriousness of the issue itself. This exchange has highlighted the deeply polarised views within British politics regarding the discourse surrounding grooming gangs.

On a broader scale, the political landscape in the UK is undergoing significant transformation. Farage has asserted that his party has surpassed the Conservatives as the primary opposition party following its substantial gains in the May 2025 local elections, evidencing a shift away from the traditional two-party system. This was further reinforced by achievements such as the historic gain of a parliamentary seat in Clacton-on-Sea, where Farage won with a remarkable 46.2% of the vote—marking the largest single-seat swing in modern UK electoral history.

In the wake of these developments, it is evident that discussions around past abuses are gaining new urgency. Justice Secretary Shabana Mahmood has acknowledged the need for accountability, promising a "moment of reckoning" for those who previously overlooked the issues surrounding grooming gangs. Additionally, a forthcoming review by Baroness Louise Casey is expected to conclude with findings related to the societal factors contributing to the abuse.

Home Secretary Yvette Cooper’s office has indicated a willingness to facilitate local inquiries to ensure accountability and safeguard children from future harm. Cooper's spokeswoman noted, "We welcome local areas working with us on local inquiries so we can uncover the truth." This statement hints at an openness to collaboration, albeit within the framework of localised efforts.

As Farage and his party seek to influence policy and public discourse concerning these grave issues, the implications are far-reaching—for both the political landscape of the UK and for efforts to ensure justice and protection for victims of grooming gangs. The Reform UK leader's ambitions may not only reshape local governance but could also herald a new chapter in national politics, as sources predict the party’s potential to gain a substantial number of seats in future general elections.

### Reference Map

* Paragraph 1: [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14723269/Reform-call-rape-gang-inquiries-triumph-council-polls.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2025/may/02/reform-uk-is-main-opposition-party-nigel-farage-claims-after-election-wins), [[5]](https://www.itv.com/news/2025-05-03/farage-reform-uk-has-supplanted-tories-after-local-elections-sweep)
* Paragraph 2: [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14723269/Reform-call-rape-gang-inquiries-triumph-council-polls.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[5]](https://www.itv.com/news/2025-05-03/farage-reform-uk-has-supplanted-tories-after-local-elections-sweep)
* Paragraph 3: [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14723269/Reform-call-rape-gang-inquiries-triumph-council-polls.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[4]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/keir-starmer-county-durham-nigel-farage-conservatives-kent-b1225693.html), [[5]](https://www.itv.com/news/2025-05-03/farage-reform-uk-has-supplanted-tories-after-local-elections-sweep)
* Paragraph 4: [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14723269/Reform-call-rape-gang-inquiries-triumph-council-polls.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[6]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/reform-uk-seats-nigel-farage-elon-musk-b1209689.html)
* Paragraph 5: [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14723269/Reform-call-rape-gang-inquiries-triumph-council-polls.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2025/may/02/reform-uk-is-main-opposition-party-nigel-farage-claims-after-election-wins), [[5]](https://www.itv.com/news/2025-05-03/farage-reform-uk-has-supplanted-tories-after-local-elections-sweep)
* Paragraph 6: [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14723269/Reform-call-rape-gang-inquiries-triumph-council-polls.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[4]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/keir-starmer-county-durham-nigel-farage-conservatives-kent-b1225693.html)
* Paragraph 7: [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14723269/Reform-call-rape-gang-inquiries-triumph-council-polls.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[7]](https://www.telegraph.com/news/world/article/farage-s-reform-uk-narrowly-wins-a-seat-in-20306187.php)
* Paragraph 8: [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14723269/Reform-call-rape-gang-inquiries-triumph-council-polls.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[6]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/reform-uk-seats-nigel-farage-elon-musk-b1209689.html)
* Paragraph 9: [[2]](https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2025/may/02/reform-uk-is-main-opposition-party-nigel-farage-claims-after-election-wins), [[5]](https://www.itv.com/news/2025-05-03/farage-reform-uk-has-supplanted-tories-after-local-elections-sweep)

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14723269/Reform-call-rape-gang-inquiries-triumph-council-polls.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2025/may/02/reform-uk-is-main-opposition-party-nigel-farage-claims-after-election-wins> - Nigel Farage's Reform UK has claimed to have overtaken the Conservatives as the main opposition party following significant gains in the May 2025 local elections. The party secured victories in Runcorn and Helsby, Greater Lincolnshire, and numerous council seats across England, including Staffordshire, where they gained control of the county council. Farage stated that the results indicate a shift in the political landscape, positioning Reform UK as a serious contender for government.
3. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2024/07/05/nigel-farage-becomes-mp-clacton-8th-attempt-reform-seats/> - Nigel Farage secured the Clacton-on-Sea seat in Essex during the 2024 general election, marking his first successful parliamentary bid after seven previous attempts. His victory, with 46.2% of the vote, was described as the largest single-seat swing in modern election history, signaling a significant shift in the political landscape and the rise of Reform UK as a political force.
4. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/keir-starmer-county-durham-nigel-farage-conservatives-kent-b1225693.html> - Reform UK, led by Nigel Farage, achieved substantial victories in the May 2025 local elections, gaining control of seven councils and hundreds of seats across England. The party's successes included taking control of councils in Staffordshire, Lincolnshire, Kent, Nottinghamshire, Lancashire, and Derbyshire, and winning a parliamentary by-election in Runcorn and Helsby. Farage declared that the results signify the end of two-party politics as previously known.
5. <https://www.itv.com/news/2025-05-03/farage-reform-uk-has-supplanted-tories-after-local-elections-sweep> - Nigel Farage stated that Reform UK has 'supplanted' the Conservatives as the main opposition party following significant gains in the May 2025 local elections. The party won control of multiple councils and secured a parliamentary seat in Runcorn and Helsby. Farage emphasized that the results indicate a shift in the political landscape, with Reform UK emerging as a serious contender against both Labour and the Conservatives.
6. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/reform-uk-seats-nigel-farage-elon-musk-b1209689.html> - Reform UK, under Nigel Farage's leadership, achieved a 'hat-trick' of election victories, gaining seats in Medway and Tendring councils. The party's chairman, Zia Yusuf, predicted that Reform UK could win between 350 to 400 Members of Parliament in the next general election, highlighting the party's growing influence and support across England.
7. <https://www.telegraph.com/news/world/article/farage-s-reform-uk-narrowly-wins-a-seat-in-20306187.php> - Reform UK, led by Nigel Farage, secured a parliamentary seat in Runcorn and Helsby by a narrow margin, defeating the Labour candidate by six votes. This victory, along with gains in local council seats, signifies a significant shift in the UK's political landscape, with Reform UK challenging the dominance of traditional parties.