# Kemi Badenoch’s sharp barbs spark Commons row over parliamentary decorum



Kemi Badenoch’s recent performances during Prime Minister’s Questions (PMQs) have generated considerable interest and controversy within the Commons. Known for her bold rhetoric, Badenoch has pushed the boundaries of parliamentary discourse, igniting discussions about appropriateness in political dialogue. Her comments, particularly her stark assertion that Prime Minister Keir Starmer “has no balls” regarding his record on gender identity issues, have raised eyebrows and concerns among Commons clerks. This is indicative of a growing trend in political exchanges where blunt language often overshadows the decorum traditionally associated with parliamentary debate.

Just days ago, Badenoch escalated her criticisms, suggesting that Starmer's policies were essentially “shafting the country.” This particular remark has not only sparked outrage but has also invited scrutiny from Speaker Sir Lindsay Hoyle, who may need to decide whether such comments merit rebuke. The gravity of the situation is underscored by whispered concerns that Hansard, the official record of parliamentary proceedings, might soon adopt a more edited format to manage the increasingly colourful language of its members.

The context surrounding Badenoch's remarks is critical to understanding their impact. Following a Supreme Court ruling affirming that the terms "woman" and "sex" in the Equality Act refer to biological sex, Badenoch positioned herself as a staunch defender of single-sex spaces, critiquing Starmer for his perceived indecisiveness on gender identity. She described him as a “weather vane who twists in the wind,” highlighting a significant divide on these contentious issues. This exchange marks a pivotal moment in British politics, especially as public sentiment on gender matters continues to evolve and provoke passionate responses from both parties.

Amidst this political frenzy, the Labour Party appears to be struggling with its identity under Starmer's leadership, as reflected in a recent YouGov poll that recorded the party's lowest approval ratings since the Jeremy Corbyn era. With only 21 per cent approval, Labour seems to be grappling with the fallout from past leadership decisions, including its stance on gender issues. The juxtaposition of Labour's difficulties with examples of provocative Tory rhetoric raises questions about the future dynamics in Parliament and whether this approach will resonate with voters amid growing discontent.

Beyond the immediate drama of PMQs, local issues are surfacing in other realms of political discourse. London Mayor Sadiq Khan's simultaneous call for decriminalising cannabis, alongside a steep 20 per cent increase in the congestion charge, illustrates the complexities facing urban leaders. Londoners’ frustrations over the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) fines offer further fodder for political discourse, with Khan facing criticism for perceived hypocrisy at a time when he raises charges while advocating for more progressive social policies.

Furthermore, reactions within the political landscape to figures like Nigel Farage also underscore a broader trend of surprising alliances and positions on key issues, further complicating the political landscape. Lord Michael Farmer's critique of Farage's proposal regarding child benefit caps highlights not only the contentiousness of welfare policies but also a growing concern for fiscal responsibility among traditional Conservative members.

In this ever-evolving political theatre, Kemi Badenoch’s confrontational style and the challenges faced by her counterparts reflect a turbulent time in British politics, with issues revolving around gender identity, fiscal responsibilities, and party unity taking centre stage. The question remains: will these developments and explosive exchanges catalyse a shift in voter sentiment, or merely heighten the theatre of parliamentary debates?

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-14770127/ANDREW-PIERCE-Kemi-Badenoch-blue-Conservative-Commons.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)
* Paragraph 2 – [[2]](https://www.itv.com/news/2025-04-23/badenoch-says-pm-doesnt-have-the-balls-to-share-his-views-in-trans-debate), [[5]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/kemi-badenoch-keir-starmer-rosie-duffield-supreme-court-prime-ministers-questions-b2738004.html)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/kemi-badenoch-keir-starmer-trans-women-pmqs-b1223784.html), [[4]](https://www.politico.eu/article/keir-starmer-kemi-badenoch-pmqs-uk-government-trans-ruling/), [[6]](https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/keir-starmer-doesnt-have-the-balls-to-say-true-views-on-gender-ruling-kemi-badenoch-claims-5095859)
* Paragraph 4 – [[5]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/kemi-badenoch-keir-starmer-rosie-duffield-supreme-court-prime-ministers-questions-b2738004.html)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-14770127/ANDREW-PIERCE-Kemi-Badenoch-blue-Conservative-Commons.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-14770127/ANDREW-PIERCE-Kemi-Badenoch-blue-Conservative-Commons.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-14770127/ANDREW-PIERCE-Kemi-Badenoch-blue-Conservative-Commons.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.itv.com/news/2025-04-23/badenoch-says-pm-doesnt-have-the-balls-to-share-his-views-in-trans-debate> - In April 2025, during Prime Minister's Questions, Kemi Badenoch accused Prime Minister Keir Starmer of lacking the courage to express his views on gender issues. She criticised his previous statement that 'trans women are women' and labelled him a 'weather vane who twists in the wind'. This exchange followed the Supreme Court's ruling that the terms 'woman' and 'sex' in the Equality Act refer to biological sex, allowing transgender women with a gender recognition certificate to be excluded from single-sex spaces if 'proportionate'. ([itv.com](https://www.itv.com/news/2025-04-23/badenoch-says-pm-doesnt-have-the-balls-to-share-his-views-in-trans-debate?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/kemi-badenoch-keir-starmer-trans-women-pmqs-b1223784.html> - In April 2025, Kemi Badenoch, Leader of the Conservative Party, accused Prime Minister Keir Starmer of lacking the courage to express his views on gender issues during Prime Minister's Questions. She criticised his previous statement that 'trans women are women' and labelled him a 'weather vane who twists in the wind'. This exchange followed the Supreme Court's ruling that the terms 'woman' and 'sex' in the Equality Act refer to biological sex, allowing transgender women with a gender recognition certificate to be excluded from single-sex spaces if 'proportionate'. ([standard.co.uk](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/kemi-badenoch-keir-starmer-trans-women-pmqs-b1223784.html?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.politico.eu/article/keir-starmer-kemi-badenoch-pmqs-uk-government-trans-ruling/> - In April 2025, during Prime Minister's Questions, Kemi Badenoch, Leader of the Conservative Party, accused Prime Minister Keir Starmer of lacking the courage to express his views on gender issues. She criticised his previous statement that 'trans women are women' and labelled him a 'weather vane who twists in the wind'. This exchange followed the Supreme Court's ruling that the terms 'woman' and 'sex' in the Equality Act refer to biological sex, allowing transgender women with a gender recognition certificate to be excluded from single-sex spaces if 'proportionate'. ([politico.eu](https://www.politico.eu/article/keir-starmer-kemi-badenoch-pmqs-uk-government-trans-ruling/?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/kemi-badenoch-keir-starmer-rosie-duffield-supreme-court-prime-ministers-questions-b2738004.html> - In April 2025, during Prime Minister's Questions, Kemi Badenoch, Leader of the Conservative Party, accused Prime Minister Keir Starmer of lacking the courage to express his views on gender issues. She criticised his previous statement that 'trans women are women' and labelled him a 'weather vane who twists in the wind'. This exchange followed the Supreme Court's ruling that the terms 'woman' and 'sex' in the Equality Act refer to biological sex, allowing transgender women with a gender recognition certificate to be excluded from single-sex spaces if 'proportionate'. ([independent.co.uk](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/kemi-badenoch-keir-starmer-rosie-duffield-supreme-court-prime-ministers-questions-b2738004.html?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/keir-starmer-doesnt-have-the-balls-to-say-true-views-on-gender-ruling-kemi-badenoch-claims-5095859> - In April 2025, during Prime Minister's Questions, Kemi Badenoch, Leader of the Conservative Party, accused Prime Minister Keir Starmer of lacking the courage to express his views on gender issues. She criticised his previous statement that 'trans women are women' and labelled him a 'weather vane who twists in the wind'. This exchange followed the Supreme Court's ruling that the terms 'woman' and 'sex' in the Equality Act refer to biological sex, allowing transgender women with a gender recognition certificate to be excluded from single-sex spaces if 'proportionate'. ([scotsman.com](https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/keir-starmer-doesnt-have-the-balls-to-say-true-views-on-gender-ruling-kemi-badenoch-claims-5095859?utm_source=openai))