# Rayner's legislation threatens London Mayor Sadiq Khan's parliamentary ambitions



Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner has advanced a legislative move that could effectively prevent Sadiq Khan, the current Mayor of London, from returning to the UK Parliament as a Member of Parliament (MP) while still serving as mayor. The Bill, known as the English Devolution Bill, proposes to amend the Greater London Authority Act of 1999 by disqualifying any individual from holding the mayoralty if they concurrently serve as an MP. This initiative aims to ensure that officeholders can fully focus on their local responsibilities by prohibiting dual mandates, a practice previously allowed and politically utilised by Boris Johnson, Khan’s predecessor, who served simultaneously as Mayor of London and MP before ascending to the Conservative party leadership.

Rayner’s department spokesperson emphasised that the changes would align the rules so that all mayors, including those of other cities, would be required to concentrate on their substantial local duties without the distraction of parliamentary roles. While framed as a measure to improve governance, the Bill notably closes off Khan’s most direct and politically significant path back to Westminster ahead of the next general election—a move critics argue is politically motivated. A Tory strategist quoted by The Telegraph dismissed the legislation as a manoeuvre to undermine potential leadership rivals within Labour, accusing Rayner of prioritising party tactics over national interests.

Sadiq Khan, who secured his third term as London Mayor in May and is widely expected to serve his final term, first entered Parliament in 2005 representing Tooting. His career trajectory has invited frequent comparisons to Boris Johnson, who also transitioned from MP to Mayor of London and back to Parliament before becoming Prime Minister. Although Khan has publicly denied ambitions to lead the Labour Party or return to the Commons, political commentators note that such denials are often tactical.

Beyond the immediate implications of Rayner’s Bill, Khan’s mayoralty has been marked by significant policy initiatives and controversial battles over the extent of his powers. Since taking office in 2016, Khan has pursued an ambitious agenda to transform London’s environment and social landscape, including plans for a greener city with initiatives like the Ultra-Low Emissions Zone and expanded public transportation networks to achieve net-zero emissions by 2030. These efforts have earned him both praise and criticism, with some sectors balking at the cost and scale of his plans.

Khan has also faced challenges managing industrial relations, illustrated by a higher number of strike days on Transport for London (TfL) under his administration compared to Johnson’s tenure. Moreover, relations between City Hall and Whitehall have been strained, with critics alleging a concerted effort by the UK government to curtail the mayor’s authority over key areas such as transport, policing, and housing. Some observers perceive these tensions as a residue of political rivalries and ideological differences, intensified by the legacy of Boris Johnson’s mayoralty and his subsequent national political role.

The backdrop to Rayner’s legislative move is a Labour Party factional context in which she herself has been linked to future leadership ambitions. Alongside this, she has been involved in other political strategies, including reopening electoral loopholes that could influence Labour’s standing in marginal seats. The broader picture is one of intense intra-party competition, with key figures jockeying for position amid ongoing debates about the party’s direction and strategy.

While the Daily Mail approached Khan for comment on the Bill, no response was immediately provided. The legislation, once passed, is set to reshape the political landscape by legally compelling mayors to choose between their executive local role and a parliamentary career, thus entrenching the divide between local and national political ambitions.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-15027749/Angela-Rayner-scupper-Sadiq-Khans-chances-return-Parliament-blocking-running-MP-mayor.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sadiq_Khan)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-15027749/Angela-Rayner-scupper-Sadiq-Khans-chances-return-Parliament-blocking-running-MP-mayor.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-15027749/Angela-Rayner-scupper-Sadiq-Khans-chances-return-Parliament-blocking-running-MP-mayor.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sadiq_Khan)
* Paragraph 4 – [[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sadiq_Khan), [[6]](https://time.com/6084138/sadiq-khan-plan-for-greener-london/), [[7]](https://www.gq-magazine.co.uk/politics/article/sadiq-khan-mayor)
* Paragraph 5 – [[5]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2021/08/07/sadiq-khan-suffers-tfl-strike-days-boris-johnson/), [[2]](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/aug/16/whitehall-power-grab-mayor-sadiq-khan-who-runs-london)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-15027749/Angela-Rayner-scupper-Sadiq-Khans-chances-return-Parliament-blocking-running-MP-mayor.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/aug/16/whitehall-power-grab-mayor-sadiq-khan-who-runs-london), [[3]](https://news.sky.com/story/london-mayor-runners-are-often-publicity-seekers-and-oddballs-whose-careers-ended-in-disgrace-livingston-and-johnson-prove-that-12912066)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-15027749/Angela-Rayner-scupper-Sadiq-Khans-chances-return-Parliament-blocking-running-MP-mayor.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/aug/16/whitehall-power-grab-mayor-sadiq-khan-who-runs-london> - This article discusses concerns over a perceived 'power grab' by the UK government, which is seen as eroding the authority of London's mayor, Sadiq Khan. Allies of Khan argue that the government's actions, including changes to transport, housing, policing, and planning, are diminishing the mayor's influence. The piece highlights the tension between City Hall and Whitehall, with critics suggesting that former associates of Boris Johnson, who served as mayor before Khan, are now in positions of power that could undermine the current mayoralty.
3. <https://news.sky.com/story/london-mayor-runners-are-often-publicity-seekers-and-oddballs-whose-careers-ended-in-disgrace-livingston-and-johnson-prove-that-12912066> - This article examines the backgrounds of individuals running for the position of London mayor, noting that many have been publicity seekers or individuals whose careers ended in disgrace. It references previous mayors, including Ken Livingstone and Boris Johnson, highlighting the often unconventional paths to the mayoralty and the controversies that have surrounded some candidates.
4. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sadiq_Khan> - This Wikipedia page provides a comprehensive overview of Sadiq Khan's life and political career. It details his early life, education, legal career, and his tenure as the Member of Parliament for Tooting. The page also covers his time as Mayor of London, including his policies, achievements, and re-elections, as well as his knighthood in 2025 for political and public service.
5. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2021/08/07/sadiq-khan-suffers-tfl-strike-days-boris-johnson/> - This article reports on the number of strike days experienced by Transport for London (TfL) under Mayor Sadiq Khan's tenure. It reveals that Khan's administration has overseen more strike days per year compared to his predecessor, Boris Johnson. The piece highlights the challenges Khan faces in managing industrial relations within TfL and the impact of these strikes on London's transport services.
6. <https://time.com/6084138/sadiq-khan-plan-for-greener-london/> - This article discusses Sadiq Khan's plans to build a greener and fairer London in the post-pandemic era. It outlines his strategies for job creation, improving deprived areas, and achieving net-zero emissions by 2030. The piece also covers initiatives like the Ultra-Low Emissions Zone (ULEZ) and the expansion of eco-friendly transportation networks, despite facing criticisms from some sectors.
7. <https://www.gq-magazine.co.uk/politics/article/sadiq-khan-mayor> - This article provides an analysis of Sadiq Khan's tenure as Mayor of London, highlighting his successes and challenges. It discusses his efforts to improve air quality, including the introduction of low-emission buses and charges to deter polluting vehicles. The piece also examines the difficulties Khan faces due to limited powers and the political dynamics between City Hall and the national government.