# Angela Rayner's stamp duty controversy intensifies political tensions amid calls for investigation



Deputy Prime Minister and Housing Secretary Angela Rayner is at the centre of a political controversy after admitting to underpaying stamp duty on a flat she purchased in Hove. Rayner revealed that the underpayment resulted from receiving inaccurate legal advice regarding the transaction in May. In response to the disclosure, she referred herself to the Government’s independent ethics adviser as well as HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) to ensure an impartial investigation into the matter.

The admission has sparked calls from the Conservative Party for a thorough probe into the possibility of tax evasion. Tory leader Kemi Badenoch and Reform party’s Nigel Farage have both pressed for Rayner’s resignation, adding to the pressure on the Labour frontbencher. Conservative chairman Kevin Hollinrake openly criticised Rayner’s explanation, stating it “cannot withstand scrutiny,” and demanded a full investigation by HMRC.

Despite the backlash from the opposition, Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer has voiced strong support for his deputy. Starmer praised Rayner’s decision to self-report the issue, describing it as “the right thing to do,” and said he is “very proud to sit alongside” her. This defence comes as the Prime Minister faces ongoing political attacks not only related to this issue but also from broader critiques of his government’s handling of economic and welfare policies.

Kemi Badenoch, a leading Conservative voice, has accused Starmer’s Cabinet of being embroiled in “open warfare” over taxes and questioned the Prime Minister’s credibility following policy U-turns, including recent welfare reforms. Badenoch also challenged how MPs could trust Starmer’s leadership after decisions like the reversal on winter fuel payments. These confrontations underline the broader political tensions surrounding Starmer’s administration amid economic challenges.

The situation highlights the heightened scrutiny government officials face over transparency and tax compliance. While Rayner’s referral to HMRC and the ethics adviser demonstrates a procedural commitment to accountability, the calls for resignation and investigation reflect the adversarial nature of UK politics, where financial propriety remains a potent issue.

As the inquiry progresses, it remains to be seen whether the investigation will find any fault beyond the admitted underpayment. The developments around Rayner’s stamp duty case thus serve as a focal point in the ongoing contest between the ruling Labour government and the opposition Conservatives, encapsulating wider debates over governance, trust, and financial ethics.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/angela-rayner-keir-starmer-hmrc-government-kemi-badenoch-b1245889.html), [[3]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/prime-minister-kemi-badenoch-hove-mps-conservative-b1245784.html)
* Paragraph 2 – [[2]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/angela-rayner-keir-starmer-hmrc-government-kemi-badenoch-b1245889.html), [[6]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/angela-rayner-hmrc-keir-starmer-kemi-badenoch-nigel-farage-b1245882.html)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/prime-minister-kemi-badenoch-hove-mps-conservative-b1245784.html), [[2]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/angela-rayner-keir-starmer-hmrc-government-kemi-badenoch-b1245889.html)
* Paragraph 4 – [[4]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/kemi-badenoch-keir-starmer-angela-rayner-cabinet-mps-b1229019.html), [[7]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/kemi-badenoch-keir-starmer-mps-angela-rayner-prime-minister-b1245795.html), [[5]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/keir-starmer-government-people-prime-ministers-questions-pmqs-b1216221.html)
* Paragraph 5 – [[2]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/angela-rayner-keir-starmer-hmrc-government-kemi-badenoch-b1245889.html), [[6]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/angela-rayner-hmrc-keir-starmer-kemi-badenoch-nigel-farage-b1245882.html)
* Paragraph 6 – [[2]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/angela-rayner-keir-starmer-hmrc-government-kemi-badenoch-b1245889.html), [[6]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/angela-rayner-hmrc-keir-starmer-kemi-badenoch-nigel-farage-b1245882.html)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/angela-rayner-keir-starmer-hmrc-government-kemi-badenoch-b1245889.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/angela-rayner-keir-starmer-hmrc-government-kemi-badenoch-b1245889.html> - Angela Rayner, the Deputy Prime Minister and Housing Secretary, is under scrutiny after admitting to underpaying stamp duty on a flat in Hove. She has referred herself to both the Government's independent ethics adviser and HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC). The Conservatives have called for HMRC to investigate potential tax evasion, with Tory leader Kemi Badenoch and Reform's Nigel Farage both calling for Rayner's resignation. Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer has expressed strong support for Rayner, stating he is 'very proud to sit alongside' her.
3. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/prime-minister-kemi-badenoch-hove-mps-conservative-b1245784.html> - Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer has backed Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner after she admitted to underpaying stamp duty on a seaside flat. Starmer praised Rayner's decision to refer herself to the independent ethics adviser as 'the right thing to do'. Rayner, who is also the Housing Secretary, stated that she received inaccurate legal advice leading to the underpayment when purchasing a flat in Hove in May.
4. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/kemi-badenoch-keir-starmer-angela-rayner-cabinet-mps-b1229019.html> - Conservative leader Kemi Badenoch has claimed that Sir Keir Starmer's Cabinet is in 'open warfare' over taxes. She accused Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner of demanding tax rises and questioned how MPs could trust Starmer after a U-turn on winter fuel cuts. Badenoch also criticised Starmer's response to inflation and the economy during Prime Minister's Questions.
5. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/keir-starmer-government-people-prime-ministers-questions-pmqs-b1216221.html> - Kemi Badenoch accused Sir Keir Starmer of leading a 'job-killing Government' and talking 'trash' during Prime Minister's Questions. She highlighted issues such as unemployment and the economy, questioning Starmer's handling of the situation. Starmer defended his government's record, citing job creation and economic growth.
6. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/angela-rayner-hmrc-keir-starmer-kemi-badenoch-nigel-farage-b1245882.html> - The Conservatives have called for HMRC to investigate Angela Rayner over potential tax evasion after she admitted to underpaying stamp duty on a seaside flat. Tory chairman Kevin Hollinrake stated that Rayner's explanation of receiving inaccurate legal advice 'cannot withstand scrutiny' and requested a full investigation into the matter.
7. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/kemi-badenoch-keir-starmer-mps-angela-rayner-prime-minister-b1245795.html> - Kemi Badenoch has claimed that Sir Keir Starmer is 'too arrogant to admit he got things wrong' after a major U-turn on welfare reforms. She criticised Starmer for creating a 'punishing welfare trap' and questioned his ability to stick to decisions, highlighting the impact of his policies on the economy and public services.