# Miliband condemns Musk's political meddling and warns of influence risks in UK



Ed Miliband, the UK Energy Secretary, has launched a forceful critique of Elon Musk, urging the billionaire entrepreneur to "get the hell out of our politics and our country." Miliband's intervention, made at the Labour Party conference in Liverpool, reflects deeper tensions over the influence exerted by Musk on UK political discourse, particularly regarding the country's energy policy and broader political stability. Emphasising the critical nature of the UK’s commitment to a sustainable energy future — highlighted by recent government actions such as the ban on fracking and the Fair Work Charter for renewable energy workers — Miliband framed Musk’s involvement as deeply disruptive. He accused Musk of standing alongside political figures and movements that seek to undermine community cohesion and progress on climate issues, directly linking Musk to Nigel Farage and his Reform UK party.

Miliband’s remarks come amid heightened political friction following Musk's controversial public statements. The Tesla and X (formerly Twitter) owner has been accused of inciting violence and calling for the overthrow of the UK government, comments that Miliband described as "dangerous." Speaking at a Labour conference fringe event, Miliband underscored the severity of Musk’s rhetoric, stating, “He calls for the overthrow of our government,” while also warning that Musk fuels disinformation through his social media platform X. This aligns with growing concerns within the UK political class about Musk's attempts to meddle in the country’s internal affairs, particularly through his vocal criticism of Prime Minister Keir Starmer and support—at least until recently—for far-right figures like Nigel Farage.

The relationship between Musk and Farage has notably soured in recent months. After previously seeming to back Farage, including appearing with him in public, Musk has recently urged Farage to resign as leader of Reform UK, criticizing his leadership. This sudden withdrawal of support followed Farage distancing himself from Musk’s comments supporting controversial activists such as Tommy Robinson, further illustrating the fraught nature of Musk's political alliances in the UK. Farage’s Reform UK party, which garnered 4.1 million votes and five parliamentary seats in the last national election, remains a focal point of debate over the impact of external billionaires on British politics. Reports suggest Musk has even considered donating up to $100 million to Reform UK, a move that has ignited calls for stricter regulations on political donations to prevent foreign or corporate interference.

Government and political leaders across party lines have taken a stand against Musk's interventions. UK Health Minister Wes Streeting has defended Prime Minister Starmer and his cabinet against Musk’s accusations, while Liberal Democrat leader Sir Ed Davey has called for Musk to be held accountable, condemning him as an "over-powerful billionaire US tech magnate." The concerns extend beyond individual rhetoric to broader questions about the integrity of the UK’s political processes. The Electoral Commission has urged reforms to tighten political donation laws after Musk's reported potential support for Reform UK, raising alarms about loopholes that might enable foreign influence through corporate donations.

Miliband’s sharp denunciation marks a break from more cautious government responses to Musk’s provocations. He characterised Musk not only as a disruptive foreign figure but also as a key player in a global network intent on "destroying the ties that bind our communities and our way of life." While Tesla’s application for an energy supply licence in the UK progresses through regulatory channels, Miliband acknowledged the need to let proper processes unfold but made clear his hostility toward Musk’s political posturing. His commitment to sustainable energy policies remains firm, promising to enforce a full ban on fracking, a move designed to protect the UK's transition toward renewable energy and shield consumers from rising bills.

In summary, Ed Miliband's public confrontation with Elon Musk encapsulates a broader struggle within the UK over the influence of wealthy tech entrepreneurs on national politics and energy strategy. This episode highlights the increasingly complex intersection of business interests, political ideologies, and social media power in shaping the UK’s future, particularly as the government pushes ahead with progressive environmental reforms. The escalating tensions underline a pushback from established political figures against what they perceive as external interference that threatens both democratic governance and vital policy objectives.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://opentools.ai/news/ed-miliband-to-elon-musk-stop-meddling-in-uk-politics), [[4]](https://www.the-independent.com/news/uk/politics/ed-miliband-elon-musk-tommy-robinson-labour-conference-b2837211.html), [[6]](https://www.morningstaronline.co.uk/article/miliband-tells-musk-get-out-british-politics)
* Paragraph 2 – [[3]](https://www.upday.com/uk/politics/energy-secretary-slams-dangerous-musk-over-uk-violence-threats/d9b2pl8), [[6]](https://www.morningstaronline.co.uk/article/miliband-tells-musk-get-out-british-politics)
* Paragraph 3 – [[2]](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/musk-says-farage-should-step-down-leader-reform-uk-2025-01-05/), [[5]](https://apnews.com/article/6eb3ea7806b31275a52d71919d6fc35f)
* Paragraph 4 – [[2]](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/musk-says-farage-should-step-down-leader-reform-uk-2025-01-05/), [[7]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/tech/elon-musk-liberal-democrat-keir-starmer-trump-trevor-phillips-b1208604.html), [[5]](https://apnews.com/article/6eb3ea7806b31275a52d71919d6fc35f)
* Paragraph 5 – [[4]](https://www.the-independent.com/news/uk/politics/ed-miliband-elon-musk-tommy-robinson-labour-conference-b2837211.html), [[6]](https://www.morningstaronline.co.uk/article/miliband-tells-musk-get-out-british-politics), [[1]](https://opentools.ai/news/ed-miliband-to-elon-musk-stop-meddling-in-uk-politics)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://opentools.ai/news/ed-miliband-to-elon-musk-stop-meddling-in-uk-politics), [[3]](https://www.upday.com/uk/politics/energy-secretary-slams-dangerous-musk-over-uk-violence-threats/d9b2pl8), [[6]](https://www.morningstaronline.co.uk/article/miliband-tells-musk-get-out-british-politics)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://opentools.ai/news/ed-miliband-to-elon-musk-stop-meddling-in-uk-politics> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/musk-says-farage-should-step-down-leader-reform-uk-2025-01-05/> - Elon Musk has urged Nigel Farage to resign as leader of Britain's right-wing Reform UK party, criticizing Farage's leadership capabilities. This marks a sudden withdrawal of support from Musk, who had previously seemed to back Farage, including appearing in a photograph with him last month. Farage's Reform UK party secured 4.1 million votes and five parliamentary seats in the last national election. The relationship between Musk and Farage has soured, partly due to Farage's distancing from Musk's comments supporting British anti-immigration activist Tommy Robinson. Farage responded by expressing disagreement with Musk while maintaining his stance against aligning with Robinson. Musk, closely allied with U.S. President-elect Donald Trump, has previously tried to influence British politics, notably supporting the anti-immigration Alternative for Germany party. He has also been critical of UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer, particularly regarding the handling of child abuse cases during Starmer’s tenure as head of the government's prosecution service. The situation remains tense as UK health minister Wes Streeting defended Starmer and his cabinet colleague Jess Phillips against Musk’s criticisms.
3. <https://www.upday.com/uk/politics/energy-secretary-slams-dangerous-musk-over-uk-violence-threats/d9b2pl8> - Energy Secretary Ed Miliband has branded Tesla boss Elon Musk as 'dangerous' following the billionaire's recent controversial statements about the UK government. The Cabinet minister accused Musk of calling for the overthrow of the government and inciting violence on British streets. Tesla has applied for an energy supply licence in the UK through regulator Ofgem. Miliband said it was 'very tempting' to comment on the application but acknowledged the need to follow proper regulatory processes. Musk, who owns Tesla and the X social media platform, previously called for urgent governmental change in the UK and suggested 'violence is coming' during his address to the Unite the Kingdom rally earlier this month. Speaking at a Labour conference fringe event, Miliband said: 'Look, he called for the overthrow of our government.'
4. <https://www.the-independent.com/news/uk/politics/ed-miliband-elon-musk-tommy-robinson-labour-conference-b2837211.html> - Ed Miliband has told Elon Musk to 'get the hell out of our politics and our country' in a dramatic intervention on the main stage of the Labour Party conference in Liverpool. The energy secretary’s criticism of the tech billionaire came as part of a wider attack on Reform leader Nigel Farage, who he claimed is part of a 'global network who together want to destroy the ties that bind our communities and our way of life'. It comes after Elon Musk drew condemnation from Downing Street for telling demonstrators at a London rally organised by Tommy Robinson to 'fight back' or 'die'. 'The threat from Reform goes beyond their climate denying agenda', Mr Miliband said in a speech on the final day of the Labour Party conference. 'The truth is, I wish Nigel Farage was just the snake oil, Tory city boy we've known about for years. But the truth is, he has morphed into something even more dangerous. He's now a key part of a global network who together want to destroy the ties that bind our communities and our way of life. And I can sum up the threat in two words: Elon Musk.'
5. <https://apnews.com/article/6eb3ea7806b31275a52d71919d6fc35f> - Elon Musk is reportedly considering donating up to $100 million to Nigel Farage's Reform U.K. party, sparking a political stir in the UK. This potential donation, the largest in British political history, has triggered calls to tighten political donation rules. Reform U.K., a right-wing party founded in 2021, seeks to capitalize on social media's power, inspired by Trump, to appeal to disaffected voters. Farage's party previously secured 14% of the vote but aims for significant growth. Critics warn Musk's involvement could influence UK politics, highlighting loopholes that enable foreign intervention via corporate donations. The UK's Electoral Commission urges legal reforms to safeguard political financing integrity.
6. <https://www.morningstaronline.co.uk/article/miliband-tells-musk-get-out-british-politics> - Elon Musk was told to 'get the hell out of our politics' by Ed Miliband as the Energy Secretary addressed the Labour Party conference today. The sharp challenge to the multibillionaire US technology tycoon marked a break from the government’s policy of avoiding talking about him, despite his endless far-right provocations. The former Labour leader cast aside those restraints and told delegates: 'He incites violence on our streets. He calls for the overthrow of our elected government. He is an enabler of disinformation through X. He thinks he can tell us how to run Britain. We have a message for Elon Musk — get the hell out of our politics.' Mr Miliband also told a fringe meeting that he planned to upgrade the present moratorium on fracking to a total ban. Addressing the conference, he said: 'Fracking will not take a penny off bills.'
7. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/tech/elon-musk-liberal-democrat-keir-starmer-trump-trevor-phillips-b1208604.html> - Sir Ed Davey said Elon Musk 'needs to be held to account' for his comments about the UK, as the Liberal Democrat leader responded to the billionaire calling him a 'sniveling cretin'. Sir Ed told Sky News’s Sunday Morning With Trevor Phillips that Mr Musk was an 'over-powerful billionaire US tech magnate'. In a poll posted last month on X, the social media platform owned by Mr Musk, the businessman asked whether 'America should liberate the people of Britain from their tyrannical government'. Sir Ed subsequently called for the US ambassador to be summoned 'to ask why an incoming US official is suggesting the UK government should be overthrown'.