# Labour MP accuses Reform Party leader Nigel Farage of ‘sucking up’ to Putin during heated BBC debate



In an intense exchange on BBC Politics Live on 6 May, Labour MP Jeevun Sandher and Reform Party's head of press, Gawain Towler, engaged in a heated debate regarding local election outcomes and broader issues, including foreign policy. The discussion took a sharp turn when Sandher accused the Reform Party and its leader, Nigel Farage, of courting favour with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The debate occurred during a segment analysing recent local election results, where differing political perspectives were clearly on display. Towler claimed that the Labour government had neglected important demographics, specifically farmers and pensioners. In response, Sandher articulated Labour's commitment to supporting veterans and the armed forces, underlining the party's stance on national defence and international relations.

The confrontation escalated when Sandher asserted, “The difference between us and you is that we stand up to Putin and your leader (Farage) sucks up to Putin.” This charge underscored a growing concern among some political critics regarding the extent of Farage's relations with foreign leaders, particularly in light of Russia's ongoing geopolitical actions.

Towler quickly refuted Sandher's allegation, stating, “Absolute rubbish... we don't suck up to foreign dictators.” His response aimed to clarify Reform's position and reject any implications of collusion with authoritarian regimes.

This exchange highlights not only the contentious nature of British political discourse but also the continuing relevance of foreign policy issues within domestic political debates, particularly in the context of the Russian conflict and its implications for UK partnerships.

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jeevun_Sandher> - This page provides information about Dr. Jeevun Sandher, a British Labour Party politician who has served as the Member of Parliament for Loughborough since 2024, gaining the seat from Jane Hunt.
2. <https://www.parallelparliament.co.uk/debate/2023-05-09> - This source details parliamentary debates from May 9, 2023, including discussions on the impact of Putin's actions on the UK's economy and energy security, highlighting the relevance of foreign policy in domestic political debates.
3. <https://archive.org/details/BBCNEWS_20240607_200000_BBC_Election_Debate> - This archived broadcast of the BBC Election Debate from June 7, 2024, features discussions involving Nigel Farage, leader of the Reform Party, and other political figures, providing context to the political dynamics mentioned in the article.
4. <https://inews.co.uk/news/politics/bbc-election-debate-updates-live-conservatives-labour-reform-3098041> - This article provides live updates and analysis of the BBC Election Debate, including statements from Nigel Farage and other political leaders, offering insights into the political discourse surrounding the Reform Party and its leader.
5. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c0447d7y70mo> - This BBC article discusses key takeaways from a political debate, including consensus on social care and immigration, reflecting the contentious nature of British political discourse as mentioned in the article.
6. <https://www.parallelparliament.co.uk/debate/2023-03-14> - This source details parliamentary debates from March 14, 2023, including discussions comparing the UK's actions to those of Putin's Russia, highlighting the relevance of foreign policy in domestic political debates.
7. <https://www.independent.co.uk/tv/news/reform-labour-russia-putin-jeevun-sandher-clash-b2745647.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data