# British security probes possible Russian role in arson attacks on Keir Starmer properties



British security officials are investigating potential links between Russian involvement and a series of arson attacks targeting properties connected to Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer. The incidents, which spanned several days in early May, involved fires at Starmer’s current residence in Kentish Town, as well as a former residence in Islington and a vehicle he previously owned. The ongoing inquiry has led to the arrest of three men: two Ukrainians and a Romanian national, all of whom have been charged with conspiracy to commit arson with intent to endanger life. Each remains in custody pending further hearings scheduled for June.

Sources suggest that while the motives behind these attacks remain unclear, they may be part of a broader orchestrated campaign by Russian actors aiming to create chaos across Europe amidst the continued war in Ukraine. Intelligence experts point out that the Kremlin has, in the past, utilised foreign recruits to carry out operations when their own agents have been expelled from various nations. Thus, the involvement of these charged individuals may indicate an extension of Russian strategies beyond its borders.

One of the suspects, 21-year-old Roman Lavrynovych, an aspiring model originally from Ukraine, was arrested early on May 13. He was later charged with multiple counts of arson linked to these incidents. His co-accused, 26-year-old Stanislav Carpiuc, was detained at Luton Airport while attempting to leave the UK, highlighting the urgency with which authorities are treating the case. The third suspect, 34-year-old Petro Pochynok, was apprehended in Chelsea and is said to have connections to the fashion industry.

The response from both the government and law enforcement has been swift. Counter-Terrorism Command took charge of the investigation due to its implications involving the Prime Minister. Sir Keir Starmer condemned the attacks as assaults on democracy and the values that underpin British society, emphasising the seriousness of acts that could threaten public trust and safety.

Investigators have yet to establish a definitive link tying these individuals to the Kremlin. Law enforcement officials have noted the challenge in "connecting the dots" conclusively. While there is no evidence at this stage directly implicating the Russian state, multiple Whitehall sources have expressed concern that these incidents could represent a dangerous escalation in hostilities. The Kremlin has intensified its activities in Western Europe in recent years, often targeting nations that support Ukraine, with previous allegations involving attempts to gather intelligence and disrupt political stability.

Notably, this escalation follows a pattern of incidents where foreign nationals have been implicated in actions perceived to undermine the safety of prominent political figures. For instance, incidents of espionage and sabotage orchestrated by Russian intelligence services in various EU countries have increased, creating a climate of heightened alert within European security agencies.

As the investigation unfolds, there remains a palpable sense of urgency among security officials to uncover the broader implications of these attacks. Authorities are committed to ensuring that the integrity of the political sphere in the UK is preserved, as they scrutinise not only the individuals involved but also the potential networks supporting such activities. The implications of any confirmed links to state-sponsored violence could result in a significant diplomatic strain between the UK and Russia.

The London community remains on edge as the details of these troubling incidents continue to emerge, underlining the delicate interplay between local safety and international geopolitical tensions.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14746459/Putin-Keir-Starmer-arson-attacks-Russia.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.ft.com/content/0fb7a268-1bf6-4faf-ac60-67c53ddf1e62)
* Paragraph 2 – [[2]](https://www.ft.com/content/0fb7a268-1bf6-4faf-ac60-67c53ddf1e62), [[4]](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-police-arrest-third-man-over-fire-pm-starmers-house-2025-05-19/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://apnews.com/article/0ffaa52f338f6b57f416fb6073898f43), [[5]](https://www.ft.com/content/34d074c4-0a39-4d52-90ae-590972f32bb6)
* Paragraph 4 – [[6]](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/third-man-charged-over-fires-properties-linked-uk-pm-starmer-2025-05-21/), [[7]](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/second-man-charged-over-fires-properties-linked-uk-pm-starmer-2025-05-20/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14746459/Putin-Keir-Starmer-arson-attacks-Russia.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[3]](https://apnews.com/article/0ffaa52f338f6b57f416fb6073898f43)
* Paragraph 6 – [[2]](https://www.ft.com/content/0fb7a268-1bf6-4faf-ac60-67c53ddf1e62), [[6]](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/third-man-charged-over-fires-properties-linked-uk-pm-starmer-2025-05-21/)

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14746459/Putin-Keir-Starmer-arson-attacks-Russia.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.ft.com/content/0fb7a268-1bf6-4faf-ac60-67c53ddf1e62> - British security officials are investigating potential Russian involvement in recent arson attacks targeting UK Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer. The incidents involved fires at Starmer’s current and former residences in north London, including a car, and occurred earlier this month. Three men—two Ukrainians and one Romanian—have been charged with conspiracy to commit arson with intent to endanger life. Authorities suggest they acted alongside unknown co-conspirators, possibly recruited by Russian actors. While investigations continue and motives remain unclear, officials warn of potential links to a broader Russian campaign aimed at generating chaos across Europe amid the Ukraine war. UK counterterrorism police are leading the case but have filed criminal rather than national security charges. The suspects have shown no clear ideological ties to Russia. The attacks are seen as a concerning escalation, possibly jeopardizing stability and security if foreign involvement is confirmed. Sir Keir Starmer condemned the assaults as attacks on democracy and shared values. The suspects are expected back in court on June 6.
3. <https://apnews.com/article/0ffaa52f338f6b57f416fb6073898f43> - A third suspect has been arrested in connection with a series of arson attacks targeting properties linked to UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer. The 34-year-old man was detained in Chelsea, west London, on suspicion of conspiracy to commit arson with intent to endanger life. This follows the earlier arrest of a 26-year-old man and the court appearance of 21-year-old Ukrainian national Roman Lavrynovych. Lavrynovych has been charged with setting fire to Starmer’s current and former residences, as well as a small SUV previously owned by him. The attacks occurred over three nights between May 8 and May 12 in north London, but fortunately, no injuries were reported. During his court appearance, Lavrynovych did not enter a plea and denied responsibility for the fires. Authorities have not disclosed any motives or the nationalities of the second and third suspects. Starmer and his family had moved into Downing Street earlier, following his election in July.
4. <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-police-arrest-third-man-over-fire-pm-starmers-house-2025-05-19/> - British police have arrested a third suspect in connection with a series of arson attacks in north London, including a fire at the home of Prime Minister Keir Starmer. The 34-year-old man was detained in Chelsea on suspicion of conspiracy to commit arson with intent to endanger life. Earlier, 21-year-old Ukrainian national Roman Lavrynovych and an unnamed 26-year-old man were also arrested. Lavrynovych faces three counts of arson with intent to endanger life after fires last week, including one at Starmer’s Kentish Town residence. Though no injuries occurred, the front of the property was damaged. Starmer lived there with his family before moving to 10 Downing Street after becoming prime minister in July 2024. Additional incidents under investigation include a fire at an apartment block in Islington and a vehicle fire in Kentish Town, both reportedly linked to Starmer. Counter-terrorism police are overseeing the investigation due to the prime minister's involvement. Starmer condemned the acts as attacks on democracy and the values it upholds.
5. <https://www.ft.com/content/34d074c4-0a39-4d52-90ae-590972f32bb6> - Three men have been arrested in connection with suspected arson attacks on properties linked to UK Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer. The latest suspect, a 34-year-old man, was arrested in Chelsea on suspicion of conspiracy to commit arson with intent to endanger life. The investigation centers around three fires: one at Starmer's family home in Kentish Town, another involving a vehicle he previously owned, and a third at a property in Islington also tied to him. Over the weekend, a 26-year-old man was detained at Luton Airport and remains in custody under an extended detention warrant. Additionally, Roman Lavrynovych, a 21-year-old Ukrainian national, has already been charged with three counts of arson with intent to endanger life. He appeared in Westminster Magistrates' Court on Friday and is scheduled for a June 6 hearing at the Old Bailey. Lavrynovych reportedly used accelerants but denied the charges when questioned. The investigation, handled by the Metropolitan Police’s Counter Terrorism Command, reflects the potential targeting of a high-profile public figure. Starmer described the incidents as attacks on democracy and shared values during Prime Minister's Questions last week.
6. <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/third-man-charged-over-fires-properties-linked-uk-pm-starmer-2025-05-21/> - British police have charged a third man, Ukrainian national Petro Pochynok, with arson in connection to a series of fires tied to UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer. The incidents, which occurred over five days earlier this month, involved fires at Starmer’s current and former residences in north London, as well as a car previously owned by him. Pochynok, 34, has been charged with conspiracy to commit arson with intent to endanger life and is scheduled to appear in a London court. Previously, two other individuals—21-year-old Ukrainian Roman Lavrynovych and 26-year-old Romanian national Stanislav Carpiuc, who was born in Ukraine—were charged and remain in police custody. Authorities have confirmed that none of the accused have been charged under terrorism statutes or the National Security Act, which addresses hostile state activity. Prime Minister Starmer condemned the attacks, describing them as assaults on democracy and national values.
7. <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/second-man-charged-over-fires-properties-linked-uk-pm-starmer-2025-05-20/> - British police have charged a second individual, 26-year-old Romanian national Stanislav Carpiuc, in connection with a series of arson attacks targeting properties linked to Prime Minister Keir Starmer. Carpiuc was arrested at Luton Airport and is accused of conspiracy to commit arson with intent to endanger life. This follows the earlier charging of 21-year-old Ukrainian Roman Lavrynovych. The investigation covers three separate fires: one at Starmer’s private residence in north London, which caused damage but no injuries, and two additional incidents involving a nearby flat and a car. A third man has also been arrested and remains in custody. Due to the political implications, the investigation is being led by counter-terrorism police. Prime Minister Starmer condemned the attacks as assaults on democracy and shared values. He currently resides at 10 Downing Street since assuming office in July 2024.