# Kemi Badenoch’s provocative PMQs language sparks concern among Commons clerks



Kemi Badenoch’s fiery rhetoric at Prime Minister’s Questions (PMQs) has sparked concern among Commons clerks, who are increasingly wary of her boundary-pushing language. This week, political observers are anticipating whether she will again flirt with exceeding the limits of parliamentary decorum. Her previous outbursts have already raised eyebrows; only six weeks ago, Badenoch bluntly claimed that Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer ‘had no balls’ when it came to his dismal record on gender self-identification and the protection of single-sex spaces.

This inflammatory critique was followed by an equally charged assessment, where she accused Starmer of ‘shafting the country’—both phrases revealing her penchant for undiplomatic candour. Such provocations are rare in the House of Commons, where decorum typically reigns, making it all the more astonishing that they have drawn only mild admonition from Speaker Sir Lindsay Hoyle. He and his aides will now have to weigh whether Badenoch’s language merits a further reprimand, with more colourful terms likely to require asterisks from Hansard, the official record of parliamentary proceedings.

Amidst this, the public perception of Labour continues to wane. A recent YouGov poll has shown that under Starmer’s leadership, the party’s approval rating has plummeted to 21%, a figure reminiscent of the party’s struggles during Jeremy Corbyn's tenure. Badenoch’s attacks, while perhaps aimed at the heart of Labour’s weaknesses, also reflect a strategic pivot towards issues that resonate with a segment of the electorate grappling with concerns over gender identity and rights.

In a particularly pointed exchange, Badenoch labelled Starmer a ‘weather vane’ who lacked the fortitude to maintain a consistent stance on the contentious issue of gender identity, notably highlighting his previous statement that ‘trans women are women’ before he recalibrated his position following a Supreme Court ruling. Her comments also included a call for Starmer to apologise to Independent MP Rosie Duffield for her controversial expulsion from the Labour Party, making it clear that Badenoch intends to position herself as a champion of certain gender-related debates that divide public opinion.

On the broader political stage, reactions to Badenoch's claims have been mixed. While her supporters might praise her bravery in tackling sensitive subjects, critics argue that such language could deepen divisions rather than foster dialogue. Her recent remarks have prompted discussions on the evolution of discourse within the Commons and the role of MPs in exploring and challenging sensitive societal issues.

Badenoch’s confrontational style has transformed her into a significant figure within the Conservative Party, as she strives to articulate the concerns of constituents who feel unrepresented in the ongoing debates about gender and identity. However, it remains to be seen whether her approach will bolster her standing or merely alienate moderate voters who prefer more measured discussions.

As the week progresses, all eyes will be on Badenoch during PMQs, with anticipation surrounding both her words and the potential fallout they may provoke in an increasingly polarised political climate.

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

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