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Concerns are mounting within the Conservative Party as Prime Minister Rishi Sunak faces the possibility of another MP defecting to the Labour Party. This follows the recent defections of Dover MP Natalie Elphicke and Central Suffolk and North Ipswich MP Dan Poulter to Labour, led by Sir Keir Starmer.

Elphicke's defection last Wednesday, just moments before Prime Minister’s Questions (PMQs), prompted significant unrest in Westminster. This switch was particularly controversial due to her alleged lobbying to interfere in her then-husband's sex offences trial.

In anticipation of more potential defections, Tory whips have been put on high alert. It has been noted that Elphicke’s move, orchestrated by Labour's John Healey, has led to increased scrutiny within the Conservative ranks.

As PMQs approach, tensions rise with speculation further fueled by Labour events and speeches from both Sunak and Starmer. The Prime Minister accused Starmer of opportunism, labeling him as "unprincipled" for welcoming Elphicke and previously embracing Jeremy Corbyn. Starmer, on the other hand, criticized the government’s instability and defended Labour’s position on key issues like defence and workers’ rights.

With Labour enjoying a 20 percentage point lead over the Conservatives in recent polls, the political landscape remains highly volatile as both sides gear up for the next general election, due by January next year.