# Starmer Rejects Sunak's Weekly TV Debate Challenge, Prioritising Direct Voter Communication



### Starmer Declines Sunak’s Weekly TV Debate Proposal, Insisting on Direct Voter Engagement

**May 24, 2024 - London**: Sir Keir Starmer, the Labour leader, has declined Prime Minister Rishi Sunak’s challenge to hold weekly TV debates leading up to the general election on July 4. Starmer argues that Sunak has “nothing new to say” and prefers to speak directly to voters. This follows Sunak’s request for a record six debates, which he justifies as necessary to discuss critical issues.

During an interview on ITV’s 'Good Morning Britain', Starmer emphasized his willingness to debate but criticized Sunak for claiming that ongoing economic issues like the cost of living crisis are resolved. Starmer did indicate readiness to participate in two major debates on BBC and ITV but not the six proposed by Sunak.

The Conservative party, represented by figures like Energy Secretary Claire Coutinho, has labeled Starmer “scared” and accused him of lacking a clear plan. Meanwhile, Sunak taunted Starmer on social media for dodging frequent confrontations.

Simultaneously, Starmer is promoting Labour's commitment to reducing household energy bills by £400 and establishing a publicly owned green electricity generator headquartered in Scotland. Contrarily, the Conservatives pledge to maintain the Ofgem price cap and simplify price comparison services to help mitigate energy costs.

The backdrop of this debate is the Ofgem announcement that the typical household energy bill will fall by £122 annually starting July 1. Sunak regards this as proof of his administration’s effective policies, while Labour criticizes that current bills are still significantly higher than in 2021.

The general election campaign sees both leaders presenting contrasting visions for energy policy and economic management as they seek voter support.