# Former Conservative MP Julian Knight to Run as Independent in General Election Following Whip Withdrawal



Former Conservative MP Julian Knight has announced he will stand as an Independent in the upcoming General Election. Knight, who represented Solihull from 2015 to 2022, lost the Conservative whip in December 2022 amid police investigations into a serious sexual assault allegation. Both the Metropolitan Police and Essex Police subsequently dropped their probes, and Knight has consistently denied the allegations.

Despite initially stating he would not seek re-election, Knight has reversed his decision. He cited a desire to "make a stand" against what he terms a "false allegation," which he claims is now under investigation for perversion of the course of justice. Knight aims to contest the newly created Solihull West and Shirley seat.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak defended the party's decision to withdraw the whip from Knight and confirmed the Conservatives would field a different candidate. The election will take place on July 4, 2024.