# Iain Dale withdraws from Conservative candidate race for Tunbridge Wells over resurfaced podcast comment



Iain Dale has exited the race to become the Conservative candidate for Tunbridge Wells just days after announcing his bid. The withdrawal follows the resurfacing of a 2022 podcast clip where Dale, a presenter for LBC, remarked that he never liked living in Tunbridge Wells and would gladly reside elsewhere. The clip was highlighted by the Liberal Democrats and shared with the local Conservative association.

Dale, who has lived in Tunbridge Wells since 1997, decided to step down, fearing more potentially damaging material from his extensive broadcasting career could emerge. He feared the comment would appear on every Liberal Democrat campaign leaflet, and he preferred to avoid a prolonged controversy that could harm his campaign and the party.

The media personality, who had bid to succeed retired Tory MP Greg Clark, described his decision as avoiding "death by a thousand cuts." He announced his withdrawal on LBC, explaining the challenges posed by the resurfaced comments and stating his unwillingness to risk further detrimental revelations. Despite stepping back from his political ambitions, Dale will continue his role on the "For the Many" podcast with co-host Jacqui Smith.