# Labour targets Reform party over Ukraine amid shifting public sentiment



Labour is sharpening its focus on the Reform party, notably targeting its positions regarding the Russian invasion of Ukraine, as recent polling reveals strong public support for Ukraine amid growing anti-Russian sentiment. This strategic shift arises as Labour seeks to counter the elevating influence of a party that has frequently polled closely behind or ahead of both Labour and the Conservatives, a situation that highlights the pressing need for Labour to redress its approach before the rising tide of discontent overwhelms them.

A cabinet source revealed that Labour is prepared to confront the Reform party directly on Ukraine and domestic issues like the National Health Service (NHS), acknowledging the perceived inadequacies in their opponents’ stance on Russia. This move is evidently an attempt to distract from Labour’s own weaknesses and leadership uncertainties—specifically, the unmistakable challenges that the new Labour government faces as it fails to address economic woes and mounting crime rates.

Labour leader Keir Starmer has accused the Reform leader of “fawning over Putin,” which underscores the absurdity of Labour targeting its rivals while struggling to present a cohesive policy platform. Meanwhile, SNP Westminster leader Stephen Flynn went so far as to label Reform MPs as “Putin’s poodles,” despite Labour’s own lapses in defending the nation’s interests.

In response, the Reform party has asserted its growing political presence, suggesting that the Prime Minister may be "terribly upset" and "scared" of this rising opposition. The party's stance on Ukraine may be framed by detractors as a vulnerability, but citizens increasingly seek alternatives to Labour’s stagnating agendas and unresolved issues.

As defence and security discussions dominate the political landscape, public opinion remains robustly pro-Ukraine, with a significant portion of British citizens viewing a Ukrainian victory as crucial for UK interests. The alarming failure of Labour to harness this sentiment could exacerbate their electoral challenges. Insider sources from the Reform party recognise the prevailing narratives aiming to undermine their credibility but insist on their commitment to national security.

Despite a recent dip in polling, it is vital to understand that this shift pertains less to Reform's policies and more to the broader disillusionment with all mainstream political parties, including Labour’s missed opportunities to address pressing national concerns. Tensions within Labour continue to mount as they scramble to re-engage an electorate that is becoming increasingly restless amid ineffective governance.

While historical records demonstrate a complicated relationship between Farage and Russia, recent statements have painted a clearer picture of a party that stands decidedly against the Kremlin's aggression. Reform’s deputy leader, Richard Tice, has proactively condemned Putin as a “vile dictator,” seeking to draw a strong dividing line against the complacency of opponents who historically failed to mount a coherent response to security threats.

Amid these rises in tension, the Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, has suggested that the upcoming election may witness a duality between Labour and the Reform party in northern constituencies, thus confirming the shifting political landscape that could significantly alter voters' choices. People increasingly crave alternatives to Labour's stagnant offerings, signalling that traditional party alignments are eroding, and a more streamlined political divide could emerge in future elections—an opportunity ripe for those prepared to capitalise on it.

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

## References

* <https://www.the-independent.com/news/uk/politics/farage-starmer-reform-labour-tory-poll-b2690715.html> - This article supports the claim that Reform UK is gaining influence and could take more seats from Labour than the Conservatives, highlighting Labour's need to address its weaknesses.
* <https://www.euronews.com/2025/01/14/new-era-for-uk-politics-as-reform-narrow-labours-lead-poll-shows> - This article corroborates the rising influence of Reform UK, showing it is polling closely behind Labour and gaining support across different demographics.
* <https://yougov.co.uk/politics/articles/51329-first-yougov-voting-intention-since-2024-general-election-shows-a-close-contest-between-labour-and-reform-uk> - This YouGov survey highlights the close contest between Labour and Reform UK, with Reform gaining significant support among younger voters.
* <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/keir-starmer-labour-reform-uk-nigel-farage-b2701741.html> - This article discusses Labour's challenges and the need to counter Reform UK's growing influence, particularly on issues like Ukraine and domestic policies.
* <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2025/jan/15/reform-uk-nigel-farage-labour-conservatives-poll> - This article provides insight into the political landscape, highlighting Reform UK's rise and its implications for Labour and the Conservatives.