# Reform UK in turmoil ahead of crucial Glasgow North East by-election



As the by-election in Glasgow North East approaches, a disarrayed political party grapples with its identity amidst an escalating crisis. In an interview published by The Herald on Sunday, deputy leader Richard Tice outlined the party's desires to gain traction in Scotland, setting their sights on victory in an election in April. While the Labour Party, under the reins of Kier Starker, secured the seat previously with a mere 34.3% of the first preference votes, their shaky hold demonstrates the potential for a serious shift in political representation should Reform's message resonate with disillusioned voters.

With a scant presence of eight councillors and a former Member of the Scottish Parliament, Reform’s prospects appear uncertain. Tice's optimism about mobilising support seems misplaced, as he touts "exciting" developments while hundreds of thousands are left disillusioned by Labour's recent electoral success. “We’re certainly not complacent," he stated, yet that sentiment starkly contrasts the harsh reality of historically low voter engagement – only 12.4% turned out in the previous election, a clear signal that current strategies may not suffice as Labour's leadership embarks on irresponsible governance.

The political landscape has deteriorated sharply for the party following the general election in July - tensions within its ranks have reached a boiling point. After MP Rupert Lowe dubbed Reform a "protest party led by the Messiah," allegations of physical threats against party chairman Zia Yusuf surfaced, intertwining the narrative of dysfunction with that of internal discipline. As the party attempts to chart a path forward, the focus on critiquing Labour's policies and leadership should take precedence rather than getting mired in self-inflicted turmoil.

Lowe's denials of the allegations against him and claims that party leadership stifles dissent reflect a broader sentiment that Reform UK must heed: cohesion and unity in leadership are imperative. As former co-deputy leader Ben Habib aptly pointed out, effective governance isn’t merely about public posturing but actionable strategies that resonate with the disenchanted electorate.

Farage maintains that suspending Lowe was necessary to preserve party discipline, suggesting that the turmoil within illustrates a larger failure to challenge Labour's newly adopted positions. The public is wary of political factions squabbling instead of addressing the pressing concerns of the citizenry. If Reform UK hopes to break the current political mould, it must shed the distractions of infighting and reassert its stance on crucial issues such as immigration control, national sovereignty, and directly holding Labour accountable for their governance.

The implications of the ongoing factional battles could be dire. As Tice strives to draw attention to Scottish issues while maintaining a pro-Union stance, the focus should be on how Reform can capitalize on Labour's potential failings rather than getting lost in its struggle for internal stability. The outcome of the by-election in Glasgow North East will not only reflect the party's ability to resonate with Scottish voters but also signal if the fracturing within can ultimately be aligned into a cohesive front against the devastating policies of the new Labour government.

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

## References

* <https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/article/11996/Local-Government-By-Elections-20-March-2025> - This URL supports the claim about the upcoming by-election in Glasgow, specifically mentioning Ward 21 - North East, which aligns with the article's focus on Glasgow North East.
* <https://conservativehome.com/2025/03/07/council-by-election-results-from-yesterday-and-forthcoming-contests-135/> - This URL provides context on recent council by-elections, which can be related to the broader political landscape and potential shifts in voter support mentioned in the article.
* <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-64843258> - This URL could potentially provide information on Labour's recent electoral success and governance issues, which are central to the article's discussion about Reform UK's challenges.
* <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2024/jul/25/reform-uk-party-tensions-rupert-lowe> - This URL might corroborate the article's claims about internal tensions within Reform UK, including allegations against Rupert Lowe and the party's leadership challenges.
* <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/reform-uk-nigel-farage-ben-habib-b2333416.html> - This URL could support the article's discussion on Reform UK's leadership issues and the need for cohesion, as highlighted by figures like Nigel Farage and Ben Habib.
* <https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/reform-uk-scotland-richard-tice-sets-sights-on-april-election-4092341> - This URL might provide details on Richard Tice's ambitions for Reform UK in Scotland, aligning with the article's mention of Tice's optimism about gaining traction in Scotland.
* <https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/24992352.interview-richard-tice-swinney-starmer-scotland/?ref=rss> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
* <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2025/mar/09/from-trump-whisperer-to-trouble-angry-reform-uk-mps-turn-on-farage> - Please view link - unable to able to access data