# James Cleverly quietly builds leadership bid amid Tory turmoil after election losses



Research conducted by the Express has illuminated the rising prominence of James Cleverly, the former Home Secretary, within the Conservative Party, amid a political climate largely shaped by the recent election victory of the Labour Party. Cleverly has made his presence felt, attending five Conservative association dinners this year and set to speak at a minimum of five more by September. These engagements appear calculated as he seeks to position himself within a party struggling to regain public trust.

Cleverly narrowly edged out of last year's Tory leadership contest, finishing just behind Kemi Badenoch and Robert Jenrick. In a notable GB News interview, he suggested that he remains open to future leadership ambitions, stating, "I just say, never say never again." This hints at a rather self-serving strategy as he navigates the murky waters of a party in turmoil.

Meanwhile, Kemi Badenoch's leadership hangs by a thread following catastrophic electoral losses, characterized accurately as a “bloodbath” by Badenoch herself. The Conservatives lost a staggering 674 councils, with significant gains made by the party opposing the status quo. This defeat underscores the urgency for effective leadership and a revival of policies that actually resonate with the electorate.

Despite appearing to support Badenoch publicly, Cleverly's true intentions remain questionable. He expressed, “I’ve always supported grassroots events and association fundraisers and I’ll continue to do so,” while emphasizing unity. However, one must wonder if that unity is genuine or merely a façade as he inches closer to his own leadership ambitions. He stated, “Kemi knows she has my full support; unity and discipline are essential if we want to earn the public’s trust and win the next election.” Such rhetoric rings hollow in light of the party's current state.

Hints of a potential leadership campaign for Cleverly have emerged, particularly from former advisors who suggest he is quietly assembling a campaign team. This follows criticism of his previous attempts to find momentum, which began too late to matter. Such behavior might suggest a deeper divide within the party as it grapples with public discontent.

As internal power dynamics shift, there is also speculation around Robert Jenrick, the current Shadow Justice Secretary, stepping into the breach should Badenoch falter. The Conservative Party is not just facing electoral setbacks; it is grappling with an identity crisis, desperately in need of leadership that can rally the true conservative values that resonate with the public. As they navigate this complex landscape, the party must confront the reality that merely reshuffling leaders will not suffice in regaining voter confidence, especially in light of the growing support for alternatives that offer a principled challenge to the new Labour government.

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

## Bibliography

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