# Ukrainian man charged with arson at properties linked to Keir Starmer as counterterrorism probe launched



A 21-year-old Ukrainian man, Roman Lavrynovych, has been remanded in custody following his appearance at Westminster Magistrates’ Court, facing three counts of arson with intent to endanger life. Lavrynovych stands accused of setting fires to properties linked to the Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer, including his former residence in Kentish Town and a Toyota RAV4 previously owned by the Labour leader. These troubling incidents unfolded over just five days, with the most recent blaze reported on May 12.

Lavrynovych's arraignment came after his arrest in Sydenham, south-east London, early on Tuesday. During a brief court appearance, he spoke only to confirm his name, date of birth, and address, aided by a Ukrainian interpreter. The prosecutor, Sarah Przybylska, noted that the circumstances surrounding the alleged offences were "unexplained," underscoring the alarming implications of the case against a figure now presiding over a divided nation.

The first incident occurred on May 8 when his car was targeted, followed by subsequent fires at the residence and another property. Although there were no reported injuries, the damage was substantial. The Metropolitan Police have now categorized this investigation under counterterrorism, highlighting the severity of threats to public figures. Starmer condemned the attacks as assaults on democratic values, an assertion shared by other political figures, including Conservative MP Kemi Badenoch. However, under his leadership, the public is increasingly questioning whether the safety of officials is adequately prioritized amid rising tensions fueled by Labour's controversial policies.

Central to the allegations is the claim that Lavrynovych purchased accelerant materials from a local B&Q hardware store just days before executing these calculated attacks. This raises serious concerns about premeditated intent, as Przybylska stated that the defendant allegedly planned these incidents for several days.

Despite the gravity of the charges, Lavrynovych’s legal team has opted not to seek bail, a decision that underlines the seriousness of the situation as he awaits his next court appearance at the Old Bailey on June 6. The ongoing investigation by counterterrorism detectives is crucial to uncovering the motives behind these troubling incidents, especially as Lavrynovych reportedly denies responsibility during police questioning.

In the broader context of UK politics, this incident calls into question the current governing party's approach to safety and the responsibilities accompanying public office. Starmer, who previously resided in the targeted properties before moving into Downing Street, now faces an unsettling reality underscored by threats that are becoming increasingly common in today’s volatile atmosphere. While such acts of vandalism are certainly alarming, they also shine a light on the broader issue of how public officials are perceived by a public disillusioned with the current political landscape.

As the case unfolds, it serves not only as an immediate concern for Starmer’s safety but also as a reflection of the deterioration of political discourse in the UK, provoking critical questions about security and the public’s faith in democratic institutions amidst Labour's rise to power.

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2056085/ukrainian-accelerant-keir-starmer> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://apnews.com/article/b09bd6b972d44a3965319c149bff8863> - A 21-year-old Ukrainian man, Roman Lavrynovych, has been charged with three counts of arson with intent to endanger life after allegedly setting fires to properties associated with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer. The incidents occurred over five days in north London, targeting Starmer’s former residence, a building he once lived in, and a Toyota RAV4 he previously owned. No injuries were reported. Lavrynovych appeared in Westminster Magistrates’ Court, confirmed his identity through an interpreter, but did not enter a plea. He remains in custody and is scheduled for a plea hearing on June 6 at the Central Criminal Court. The case is being handled by counterterrorism detectives, given its implications for national security, and prosecution is led by the Crown Prosecution Service’s Counter Terrorism Division. Prime Minister Starmer and political leaders, including Conservative Party’s Kemi Badenoch, condemned the attacks as assaults on democratic values. Starmer had moved to the official Downing Street residence after his July election.
3. <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/ukrainian-man-court-over-fires-linked-uk-pm-starmer-2025-05-16/> - Roman Lavrynovych, a 21-year-old Ukrainian man, appeared at Westminster Magistrates' Court in London facing three counts of arson with intent to endanger life. The charges relate to a series of fires this month linked to UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer. The incidents included blazes at Starmer’s previous residence in Kentish Town, a nearby apartment block in Islington, and a Toyota RAV4 car in Kentish Town. No injuries were reported, though the fires caused property damage. Lavrynovych, arrested the day after one of the fires, has denied involvement during police interviews, and the motive behind the acts remains unclear. Prosecutor Sarah Przybylska noted all the targeted locations and the vehicle were tied to Starmer, who described the attacks in Parliament as assaults on democracy and shared values. Lavrynovych's lawyer, James Scobie, requested an educational assessment for his client and suggested the case might hinge on narrow issues. Lavrynovych is remanded in custody and will appear at the Old Bailey on June 6. The investigation, led by counter-terrorism police, is ongoing.
4. <https://www.ft.com/content/4af155d6-c2f3-4277-b32a-8f01130140dd> - Roman Lavrynovych, a 21-year-old Ukrainian national, has been remanded in custody after being charged with three counts of arson with intent to endanger life, related to attacks on property linked to UK Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer. The alleged incidents include a fire at Starmer's family home in Kentish Town and a prior car fire on the same street in north London. Lavrynovych appeared at Westminster Magistrates' Court, where prosecutor Sarah Przybylska noted the offenses were currently 'unexplained,' and stated he had used accelerants to start the fires. Lavrynovych, who has no fixed UK address and was arrested in Sydenham, south-east London, denied the charges when questioned by police. He spoke only to confirm his identity and received interpretation in Ukrainian during the proceedings. His lawyers did not apply for bail, and he is set to appear at the Old Bailey on June 6.
5. <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/man-charged-over-fire-british-pm-starmers-house-2025-05-15/> - British police have charged 21-year-old Ukrainian national Roman Lavrynovych with three counts of arson with intent to endanger life following a counter-terrorism investigation into a series of fires in London. One of the incidents involved a fire early Monday at the Kentish Town residence of Prime Minister Keir Starmer, which caused damage to the entrance but resulted in no injuries. Lavrynovych was arrested the next day and is also linked to a Sunday fire at a property entrance in Islington, possibly connected to Starmer, and a vehicle fire in Kentish Town the prior Thursday. The suspect is scheduled to appear at Westminster Magistrates' Court on Friday. Prime Minister Starmer condemned the arson as 'an attack on all of us, on ... .' He had lived in the Kentish Town ... with his family before moving into the official residence at Number 10 Downing Street in July of the previous year.
6. <https://elpais.com/internacional/2025-05-15/la-policia-britanica-acusa-a-un-ucranio-de-los-incendios-en-varias-propiedades-de-starmer.html> - La Policía Metropolitana de Londres ha identificado a Roman Lavrinovich, un ucraniano de 21 años, como el principal sospechoso de haber provocado tres incendios relacionados con el primer ministro británico, Keir Starmer. Lavrinovich fue arrestado en el barrio de Sydenham y enfrenta cargos por incendiar dos inmuebles residenciales y un vehículo entre el 8 y el 12 de mayo. Uno de los inmuebles incendiados, en Kentish Town, pertenecía a Starmer, aunque actualmente está alquilado a su cuñada. También se incendió un vehículo Toyota Rav 4, anteriormente propiedad de Starmer. Adicionalmente, fue atacado un edificio en Islington donde residía Starmer en los años noventa. La unidad antiterrorista de la policía asumió la investigación por tratarse de una figura pública, y Starmer calificó los ataques como un atentado contra la democracia. Las acusaciones apuntan a que los actos fueron realizados con la intención de poner vidas en peligro o de forma extremadamente imprudente.
7. <https://apnews.com/article/318507c3eed9a1c0a9e694d4c966e385> - A 21-year-old Ukrainian man, Roman Lavrynovych, has been charged with three counts of ar ... after fires targeted properties linked to UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer. The incidents occurred over the past week, involving a car fire on May 8, a fire at Starmer’s private residence on May 12, and another outside a north London apartment building on May 11 connected to the Prime Minister. No injuries were reported. Lavrynovych remains in custody and is scheduled to appear in court on Friday. The investigation, overseen by counterterrorism detectives and the Crown Prosecution Service's Counter Terrorism Division, is being treated as a potential threat to the state given the political implications. Prime Minister Starmer condemned the incidents as attacks on democracy and shared values, a sentiment echoed by other political figures, including Conservative MP Kemi Badenoch. Previously, Starmer’s former residence also faced protests, including an incident involving three pro-Palestinian activists.