# Keir Starmer faces calls to remove Attorney General Lord Hermer amid controversy over sentencing remarks



Sir Keir Starmer is facing mounting pressure to oust Attorney General Lord Richard Hermer, as his recent remarks have provoked fierce backlash from across the political spectrum. Critics from the Conservatives have pounced on Hermer’s comments, interpreting them as a distressing indication of an administration that seems to prioritise rhetoric over the significant challenges within the criminal justice system. Shadow Home Secretary Chris Philp underscored a shocking discrepancy in sentencing: a man received merely 28 months for rape, while Lucy Connolly was handed a stiffer 31-month term for inciting racial hatred online. Philp argued this stark disparity reflects Hermer’s alarming judgement and underscores how the government is failing to treat serious crimes with the gravity they deserve.

Conservative leader Kemi Badenoch strongly resonated with these concerns, asserting that Hermer’s remarks reveal a fundamental disconnect from the reality of law and order. The Attorney General's earlier analogies, comparing calls to exit international courts to the rise of Nazism in 1930s Germany, have drawn universal condemnation, highlighting a staggering insensitivity to historical context. In a tone more fitting for a fringe intellectual than a government official, Hermer’s spokesperson has stated that while he regrets his choice of words, he categorically rejects the Conservative interpretation of his comments.

During heated exchanges in the House of Commons, Philp posed a vexing question: “Why does Lord Hermer think rape is less serious than Twitter comments?” Home Secretary Yvette Cooper attempted to deflect by blaming the legacy of the previous Conservative government on the current state of crime, but this hardly addresses the current administration's troubling stance on justice. The escalating tensions around justice and equality within the ranks of Labour paint a picture of a party increasingly out of touch with the realities faced by victims of crime.

While some Labour insiders have rallied around Hermer, Starmer’s defense of him during Prime Minister’s Questions has not soothed the concerns being voiced. Starmer's assertion that legal advisors provide critical guidance, even when their views diverge from government priorities, only illuminates the confusion within the party on matters of justice. The fact that internal divisions are sharpening—with figures like Labour peer Lord Glasman branding Hermer an “arrogant, progressive fool”—underscores a significant credibility crisis.

Moreover, accusations persist that Hermer is hindering vital government initiatives, contributing to a stagnant political climate marked by inaction. Allegations have emerged that he seeks to influence policy rather than strictly provide legal counsel, a characterization he strenuously denies. With whispers of calls for an independent investigation into possible conflicts of interest due to his past legal endeavors, the criticism is mounting.

As these discussions unfurl, Labour must confront a troubling landscape where the lines between legal counsel, political influence, and public perception are increasingly blurred. How Starmer navigates this internal conflict will undoubtedly shape not only his leadership but also the party's broader approach to much-needed reforms within the justice system. With an opposition ready to challenge their every failure, the stakes have never been higher.

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://m.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/uk/starmer-faces-further-calls-to-sack-his-attorney-general/a1781141638.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2025/feb/10/labour-peer-calls-for-arrogant-attorney-general-to-quit> - Labour peer Lord Glasman has called for Attorney General Lord Hermer to resign, describing him as an 'arrogant, progressive fool'. This follows criticism of Hermer's handling of legal matters and his influence within the government. The call for resignation highlights ongoing tensions within the Labour Party regarding Hermer's role and decisions.
3. <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2025/feb/12/keir-starmer-defends-attorney-general-amid-criticism> - Prime Minister Keir Starmer has defended Attorney General Lord Hermer amid mounting criticism and calls for his dismissal. Starmer emphasised the importance of legal representation and the principle that lawyers do not necessarily agree with their clients. The defence comes as Hermer faces scrutiny over his legal guidance and influence within the government.
4. <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2025/feb/13/attorney-general-lord-hermer-accused-of-blocking-government-policies> - Attorney General Lord Hermer has been accused of blocking government policies, leading to a 'freeze on government'. Ministers have expressed frustration over Hermer's legal guidance, with some sources claiming he thinks he makes policy. Hermer has rejected these claims, stating that his changes are intended to provide ministers with an unvarnished assessment of legal risk.
5. <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2025/feb/14/keir-starmer-defends-attorney-general-amid-criticism> - Prime Minister Keir Starmer has defended Attorney General Lord Hermer amid mounting criticism and calls for his dismissal. Starmer emphasised the importance of legal representation and the principle that lawyers do not necessarily agree with their clients. The defence comes as Hermer faces scrutiny over his legal guidance and influence within the government.
6. <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2025/feb/15/labour-mps-call-for-ethics-tsar-to-investigate-attorney-general> - Labour MPs have called for the ethics tsar to investigate Attorney General Lord Hermer over potential conflicts of interest. The calls come amid concerns about Hermer's previous legal work and its impact on his current role. The investigation is sought to ensure transparency and uphold the integrity of the Attorney General's office.
7. <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2025/feb/16/attorney-general-lord-hermer-responds-to-criticism> - Attorney General Lord Hermer has responded to criticism regarding his legal guidance and influence within the government. He rejected claims that his guidance was blocking government policies, stating that his changes were intended to provide ministers with an unvarnished assessment of legal risk. Hermer's response comes amid mounting calls for his dismissal and an investigation into potential conflicts of interest.