# Sadiq Khan faces fresh backlash over fare evasion row with Robert Jenrick



Sadiq Khan’s recent clash with Conservative MP Robert Jenrick has stirred significant political outrage, drawing unfortunate but striking parallels to the combative and often misleading style of political rhetoric we've come to expect from figures like Donald Trump. The London Mayor faced harsh criticism after his defensive retort to Jenrick’s viral video, which highlighted rampant fare evasion on London's transport system, declaring, “Sadiq Khan is driving a proud city into the ground. Lawbreaking is out of control.” This back-and-forth has led many to accuse Khan of resorting to personal attacks rather than addressing substantive issues, echoing tactics designed to sidestep responsibility.

While Khan did acknowledge the pressing issue of fare evasion on public transport, he quickly deflected blame onto the previous Conservative government, lamenting the cuts to the police budget initiated during Jenrick's tenure. “What I find ironic... is that he was in government when the government cut more than a billion pounds from their police budget,” Khan maintained, attempting to highlight Jenrick's alleged hypocrisy while evading accountability for his own flagging leadership in London. Such a pivot prompts questions about Khan's priorities as he faces rising scrutiny over his performance and approach.

Moreover, Khan’s leadership style has come under fire, facing accusations of sexism and a lack of decorum throughout the past year. His Conservative opponent, Susan Hall, has levelled serious claims against him, stating he is “verging on being a misogynist.” This narrative exemplifies the troubling climate of personal attacks and disrespect that has crept into London’s political arena, reflecting an alarming decline in civility and professionalism that mirrors how political figures elsewhere engage.

While Khan’s attempts to tackle fare evasion are purportedly important, the impact of his measures is highly questionable. Transport for London reported a staggering £130 million lost due to fare evasion last year, which has driven Khan to raise penalty fines from £80 to £100 in an effort to combat this blatant disregard for the law. However, his claims that fare evasion rates in London are still lower than in many other cities seem flimsy, suggesting a desperate attempt to downplay the crisis he faces in leading a thriving capital.

Conversely, Jenrick himself is not without his own baggage. Recently fined and banned from driving for six months due to speeding, his credibility as a champion of law and order could justifiably be challenged. This irony adds a layer of complexity to his criticisms, as it casts a shadow over his authority in denouncing the very issues he himself has experienced.

As this political drama unfolds, the exchanges between Khan and Jenrick do more than just reflect a clash of personalities; they highlight the dire straits of governance in London. Khan's tendency to deflect blame underscores his failure to address pressing social issues and communicate a coherent plan, while Jenrick's combative approach illustrates a focused effort to capitalize on the perceived inadequacies of the current administration. These interactions signal a fracturing political environment and could well shape public opinion as citizens grapple with the growing array of challenges affecting their daily lives.

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/politics/2063243/sadiq-khan-accused-copying-Trump> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2023/apr/04/robert-jenrick-banned-from-driving-for-six-months-for-speeding> - In April 2023, Robert Jenrick, the Conservative MP for Newark, was banned from driving for six months and fined over £1,600 after being caught driving at 68mph in a temporary 40mph zone on the M1 in Northamptonshire. Jenrick admitted to the offence, stating he did not see the variable speed limit signs. He was fined £1,107, with additional costs and a victim surcharge, and accepted the court's decision, expressing that he would not knowingly exceed the speed limit.
3. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/transport/tfl-fare-evasion-london-underground-tube-sadiq-khan-penalty-fines-increase-b1210261.html> - In February 2025, Mayor Sadiq Khan announced an increase in penalty fines for fare dodging on London's public transport, raising the fine from £80 to £100. This measure aims to deter fare evasion, which resulted in an estimated 3.8% of journeys being unpaid between April 2023 and March 2024. Khan stated that fare evasion remains lower than in many comparable cities but acknowledged it denies Londoners investment in a reliable transport service.
4. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/transport/sadiq-khan-tfl-tube-buses-fare-dodging-evasion-transport-london-mayor-susan-hall-b1134358.html> - In January 2024, Mayor Sadiq Khan addressed the issue of fare dodging on London's public transport, acknowledging that the rate of evasion was 'still too high'. He urged Londoners to report fare evasion to station staff. Transport for London estimated a loss of about £130 million due to fare dodging in the 2022-23 financial year, with 3.9% of journeys being unpaid. Khan emphasized the importance of tackling this issue to ensure a safe and reliable transport service.
5. <https://www.cityam.com/housing-secretary-robert-jenrick-slams-sadiq-khans-london-homes-plan/> - In 2024, Housing Secretary Robert Jenrick criticized Mayor Sadiq Khan's housing plan for London, arguing that it focused too much on small flats and could push families out of the capital. Jenrick blocked the publication of Khan's plan until 'significant improvements' were made, stating that the proposed plan would deliver 52,000 homes annually, falling short of the 66,000 needed. A spokesperson for Khan responded, accusing Jenrick of trying to override efforts to provide affordable housing in London.
6. <https://news.sky.com/video/sadiq-khan-astonished-by-robert-jenricks-allahu-akbar-comments-13193288> - In August 2024, Mayor Sadiq Khan expressed astonishment at comments made by Robert Jenrick suggesting that individuals chanting 'Allahu Akbar' should be arrested. Khan emphasized the importance of unity and thanked the police and Londoners for demonstrating that the city stands together. The comments by Jenrick had raised concerns about potential targeting of certain communities, prompting Khan's response to uphold London's values of inclusivity and solidarity.
7. <https://covid19.public-inquiry.uk/so/documents/inq000118889-letter-from-sadiq-khan-mayor-of-london-to-robert-jenrick-mp-secretary-of-state-for-housing-communities-and-local-government-regarding-housing-impacts-of-covid-19-dated-25-03-2020/> - In March 2020, Mayor Sadiq Khan wrote to Robert Jenrick, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, regarding the impact of COVID-19 on housing. The letter addressed concerns about housing during the pandemic, including the need for support for renters and the homeless, and the importance of maintaining housing supply during the crisis. Khan urged the government to take action to protect vulnerable individuals and ensure housing stability during the pandemic.