# Critics slam Sir Keir Starmer as Home Office stats reveal doubling of Channel crossing opportunities



In a heated exchange on GB News, a leading voice in British politics has sharply condemned the Labour Party's Sir Keir Starmer for suggesting that the recent surge in small boat crossings is merely a result of favourable weather conditions. This criticism comes in the wake of alarming new Home Office statistics revealing that suitable days for traversing the Channel have more than doubled compared to previous years. The timing is particularly striking, as these figures were released shortly after a record day that saw nearly 1,200 migrants make the dangerous crossing—illustrating the escalating crisis under Labour's watch.

The statistical evidence paints a dire picture, showing a staggering 42% increase in crossings this year compared to the same time last year, and a shocking 95% rise since the same period in 2023. It was highlighted that "red days," characterized by ideal weather, have significantly facilitated this upward trend, reflecting a critique of the current government's failure to manage the situation effectively. The present Labour administration, which once derided the Conservatives for similar justifications, now finds itself embroiled in its hypocrisy.

The ongoing debate about immigration policy is intensifying, particularly as the latest figures reveal that more than 52,000 irregular migrants have entered the UK in the year ending June 2023, marking a 17% increase from the previous year, with a staggering 85% arriving via small boats. Despite Labour's promises to enhance border security and implement tougher deterrents against crossings, the numbers continue to stagnate around 20,000 for the year. Critics argue that Labour’s plans are woefully inadequate and echo ineffective strategies seen in the previous government, demonstrating a lack of real action to resolve the pressing issue of illegal crossings.

The implications of these statistics are significant, highlighting the urgent need for an overhaul of current asylum policies. While Labour seeks to strengthen collaboration with European nations to dismantle smuggling routes from France, skepticism abounds regarding their capacity to effect tangible change. Public sentiment reflects mounting frustration over the ongoing immigration crisis, spotlighting the inadequacies of both the current and past governments in addressing this critical issue. Only decisive, robust policies can hope to bring the chaos under control, yet Labour seems ill-equipped to meet this challenge head-on.

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/politics/2063938/nigel-farage-keir-starmer-small-boats-weather> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/politics/1941684/nigel-farage-keir-starmer-migrant-channel> - Nigel Farage has criticised Sir Keir Starmer for failing to address the surge in migrant boat arrivals. Despite Prime Minister Starmer's call for increased British-German operations to prevent asylum seekers from reaching northern France, Farage highlighted that over 520 people were intercepted in the Channel on a recent Tuesday. He noted that the number of crossings has surpassed 20,000 for the year, indicating no end to the issue. Farage emphasised that the smuggling business model remains thriving, with bad weather being the best deterrent. He called for more decisive action to refuse permission to stay and remove individuals from the UK.
3. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/politics/1929160/nigel-farage-dover-keir-starmer> - Nigel Farage issued a sharp critique of Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer's handling of small boat crossings. Sharing footage of migrants disembarking a Border Force vessel in Dover, Farage remarked, "Nothing is changing and Labour have no clue." He asserted that only Reform UK would effectively stop the boats. Despite Labour's pledge to strengthen border security, small boat crossings remain a focal political issue, with over 500 crossings recorded since Starmer's election, bringing the total for the year to just over 1,400.
4. <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/irregular-migration-to-the-uk-year-ending-june-2023/irregular-migration-to-the-uk-year-ending-june-2023> - The UK Home Office reported that in the year ending June 2023, there were 52,530 irregular migrants detected entering the UK, marking a 17% increase from the previous year. Notably, 85% of these arrivals came via small boats. The data indicates that small boats have been the predominant method of entry for irregular migrants since 2020, with seasonal fluctuations influenced by weather conditions. The report also highlights a significant rise in the average number of people per boat, reaching 44 in 2023, up from 32 in 2022.
5. <https://migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/resources/briefings/people-crossing-the-english-channel-in-small-boats/> - The Migration Observatory at the University of Oxford provides an analysis of small boat crossings in the English Channel. In 2023, approximately 29,000 people were detected crossing the Channel in small boats, a decrease from 46,000 in 2022. The report notes that while most crossings occur during the second half of the year, there can be large, short-term fluctuations due to factors including local weather conditions. The first half of 2024 saw 12,646 small boat arrivals, a 16% increase compared to the same period in 2023.
6. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/english-channel-iranian-turkish-albania-home-office-b1129764.html> - The Standard reports on key statistics for small boat arrivals in the UK for 2023. According to provisional figures from the Home Office, there were 29,437 arrivals in 2023, a 36% decrease from the 45,774 arrivals in 2022. This marks the first year-on-year decline since current records began. Afghan nationals accounted for the largest group of arrivals, comprising 20% of the total. The report also highlights that the number of small boat arrivals has increased substantially since 2018, with significant fluctuations influenced by weather conditions.
7. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2024/dec/01/weather-blamed-for-small-boat-arrivals-rising-to-20000-under-labour> - The Guardian reports that under Prime Minister Keir Starmer, the number of small boat arrivals has surpassed 20,000, with the Home Office attributing this surge to a record number of calm autumnal days in the Channel. A 31-day period in October and November had the highest ratio of "red days"—when weather conditions make crossings likely or very likely—since records began in 2018. During this time, 6,288 people crossed the Channel, compared to 768 over the same period the previous year.