

From: [REDACTED]@elgate.co.uk>
Sent: 02 July 2025 11:43
To: DDC Invoices
Subject: PAYMENT REQUEST - Dover District Council - Sales - Invoice INV067269.
Attachments: INV067269.pdf

Importance: High

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Please find invoice attached and advise re payment as overdue.

If there is any query then please contact our Credit Control Department on 01843 609200 or Email [REDACTED]@elgate.co.uk

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
Credit Control Manager



Tel: +44 (0)1843 609200

Web: www.elgate.co.uk

Email: [REDACTED]@elgate.co.uk

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Registered No: 101 3962 London, England. Registered Office: Delandale House, 37 Old Dover Road, Canterbury, Kent CT1 3JF

INVOICE



Elgate Products Limited
1 Patricia Way
Pysons Road Industrial Estate
Broadstairs
Kent CT10 2LF

Invoice To:
Dover District Council
White Cliffs Business Park
Dover
Kent CT16 3PJ

Shipped To:
Dover Museum
Market Square
Dover
Kent CT16 1PB

Invoice No.	Date	Our Ord No.	Despatch No.	Account No.	Your Ord. No.	VAT Reg. No.
	17/04/25					
Item No.	Description	Qty.	Unit Price	Amount		
06595-000	St George Flag 6" x 9" wood pole	60	Piece £0.38	£22.80		
06544-000	St George Flag 12"x 18" wood pole	60	Piece £0.65	£39.00		
67477-000	Great Britain Map Tea Towel	24	Piece £1.75	£42.00		
11055-000	Telephone Box Metal Die Cast Keyring	48	Piece £0.65	£31.20		
11057-000	Post Box Metal Die Cast Keyring	48	Piece £0.65	£31.20		
73556-000	Union Jack Alphabet Charm Pen Letter G	12	Piece £0.55	£6.60		
73557-000	Union Jack Alphabet Charm Pen Letter H	12	Piece £0.55	£6.60		
73565-000	Union Jack Alphabet Charm Pen Letter P	12	Piece £0.55	£6.60		
73563-000	Union Jack Alphabet Charm Pen Letter N	12	Piece £0.55	£6.60		
Carriage Charge : CARTON DELIVERY CHARGE			1 £12.00	0	£12.00	
				Total GBP Excl. VAT	£204.60	
				20% VAT	£40.92	
				Total GBP Incl. VAT	£245.52	

CHANGE TO TERMS & CONDITIONS:

Section 2. Notification must be within two days of receipt of goods

Copy to rep. 10

Payment in full is due by 17/05/25.

From: DDC Invoices
Sent: 02 July 2025 12:11
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fw: PAYMENT REQUEST - Dover District Council - Sales - Invoice INV067269.
Attachments: INV067269.pdf

Hi [REDACTED] they are chasing payment of this one - please let us know when it is ready for payment 😊



Finance Assistant

Dover District Council, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, CT16 3PJ
Tel: [REDACTED]
Web: [dover.gov.uk](https://www.dover.gov.uk)



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From: [REDACTED]@elgate.co.uk>
Sent: 02 July 2025 11:42
To: DDC Invoices <Invoices@DOVER.GOV.UK>
Subject: PAYMENT REQUEST - Dover District Council - Sales - Invoice INV067269.

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Kind regards

[REDACTED]

Credit Control Manager



Tel: +44 (0)1843 609200

Web: www.elgate.co.uk
Email: [REDACTED]@[elgate.co.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@elgate.co.uk)

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Registered No: 101 3962 London, England. Registered Office: Delandale House, 37 Old Dover Road, Canterbury, Kent CT1 3JF

From: Hampshire Flag Company (HFC) <info@hampshireflag.co.uk>
Sent: 18 August 2025 15:44
To: Asset Management
Subject: The Women's Rugby World Cup is Here! Are You Match-Ready?

You don't often get email from info@hampshireflag.co.uk. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hi [REDACTED]

Imagine the scene: The final whistle of the Women's Rugby World Cup. We've won. The place erupts. Pints are flying. Strangers are hugging.

And you?

You're just clapping. Awkwardly. Empty-handed.

We can't let that happen. Our official WRWC range is here to save you from that specific kind of fan shame.

Official Supporters Flags



Striking and durable, made to be seen in the stands, at home, or in the local.

Shop flags here



High- Performance Handwavers

Compact and easy to carry, perfect for sharing the energy of the match.

Shop handwavers here



Instant Fan Zone Bunting

Turn any space into a hub of team spirit, ready for kick-off.

Shop bunting here

The first whistle is about to blow. Don't get caught on the sidelines. Let's do this properly.

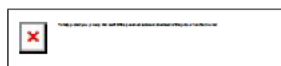
-The HFC Team

Let's get social!



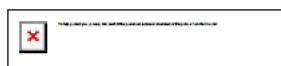
United Kingdom (Union Jack) Flag

£4.99



British Red Ensign Flag

£4.99



England (St. George) Flag

£4.99





Custom Bunting

£0.00

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From: LGIU <correspondence@lgiu.org>
Sent: 19 August 2025 06:00
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: LGIU Daily News - Councils spending £4bn a year to service debts - 19.08.25

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Daily News from LGIU

Tuesday August 19, 2025

Produced by Early Morning Media



You are a member of the Local Government Information Unit (LGIU)

Today's New Briefing

We have a library of local government resources exclusive to LGIU members. If you can't find what you're looking for, [let us know](#), and we'll look into covering it.

Fair Funding 2.0 – LGIU's consultation response

Release | 14-min read

The Fair Funding 2.0 review is a necessary step towards a sustainable and resilient system of local government finance that works for communities. However, it does not get us the whole way there. Our response highlights areas where the review leaves work to be done.

[Read here](#)



Today's Top News Stories

Good morning LGIU members! Grab your morning brew as we catch you up on everything happening in the world of local government today.

FINANCE

Councils spending £4bn a year to service debts

Analysis by the *Times* based on Freedom of Information requests has found that local authorities across Great Britain are now spending the equivalent of around a fifth of their council tax revenue on debt interest

payments, with councils collectively owing at least £148.5bn. Council debts have risen by around 60% in the last decade, the paper notes, as councils have faced funding cuts and sought to invest to boost revenue. Across the 254 councils who responded to the paper, annual interest bills averaged £12.8m, which would equate to more than £4bn across the country, more than the £2.2bn spent on emergency housing and the £1.1bn spent on libraries, culture, heritage and tourism. Cllr Pete Marland from the Local Government Association said council finances "remain in a fragile position, the impact of which has been cumulative for some time. A sustainable, long-term financial model for local government must lead to all councils having adequate resources to meet growing cost and demand pressures."

The Times

Chancellor considering overhaul of property tax

Chancellor Rachel Reeves is understood to be considering a substantial overhaul of property tax in the UK - including proposals to replace stamp duty on primary residences with a "national property tax" on the sale of homes for more than £500,000. The Treasury reportedly drew on a report from the centre-right think tank Onward, which also proposed replacing council tax with a new local annual property levy on homes valued at up to £500,000, with a national levy on property values above that threshold. While stamp duty is currently charged on around 60% of home purchases, the *Guardian* notes, the new national property tax would only apply on around a fifth of transactions.

Daily Express *Financial Times* *The Daily Telegraph* *The Guardian* *The*
I The Sun *The Times*

Council audit costs rise due to 'market chaos'

A report from academics at the University of Sheffield has found that then-Prime Minister David Cameron's 2014 decision to abolish the Audit Commission - justified with promised savings of £100m a year - has exacerbated the local government funding crisis, with the average cost of external auditors having risen by £50,000 in cash terms over the subsequent decade. The report's authors say it "now seems clear that these reform ambitions have failed", noting that just "1% of audits were delivered on time in 2022-23, with many audits delayed by several years. Audit costs have risen dramatically in response." "An unwieldy, but ultimately operational centralised bureaucracy was replaced by market chaos", they say, while the "£100m per annum savings heralded by the UK Government in 2014 are now a distant memory."

The Guardian

SOCIAL

Flag campaign sparks backlash against councils

A number of local authorities across England have been criticised by the Conservatives and Reform UK after taking down English and UK flags attached to lampposts and telegraph poles by local groups, amid a national campaign led by Operation Raise the Colours. **Birmingham City**

Council and **Tower Hamlets Council** have both removed flags from council properties, with flags removed from lampposts in Birmingham as work is carried out to upgrade street lighting, and with both councils stressing their responsibility to maintain council infrastructure, including removing flags and other items attached without permission. A spokesperson for the Prime Minister said that while the flags in question were "a matter for those councils", Sir Keir Starmer had "always been clear about his pride in Britain, reflected in the fact we often have the St George's flag, and other fags, flying in Downing Street".

Daily Express The Daily Telegraph The Independent UK The Sun The Times

INFRASTRUCTURE

Almost £200bn of infrastructure projects at risk

A report from the National Infrastructure and Service Transformation Authority (NISTA) has warned that the total value of major infrastructure projects where "successful delivery of the project appears to be unachievable" has doubled in a year, from £97bn to £198bn. The list of projects identified as serious concerns by NISTA now covers around a fifth of Government liabilities for major capital expenditure, including projects ranging from prison expansions to Northern Powerhouse Rail. Of a total of 213 major projects, NISTA gave just 30 a "green" rating, indicating confidence that they will be delivered on time and on budget with no major issues, while almost two thirds were rated "amber", for

projects that appear "feasible" but where "significant issues already exist".

The Daily Telegraph The Times

LGIU member event

Trust and tech: AI's future with local government



Online | 08:30-10:00 | 23 Oct

This Future Local Lab panel discussion, in partnership with Smart Cities World, will explore how local authorities are carving out different roles for AI and consider potential and pitfalls as the tech continues to evolve.

*Book your **FREE** LGIU member place now!*

Book here

CHILDREN

A quarter of children under 11 exposed to porn online

Dame Rachel de Souza, the Children's Commissioner for England, has said that a new survey shows that two years on from the introduction of the Online Safety Act, 27% of children now report being exposed to online pornography before the age of 11, with some reporting exposure before the age of six. Dame Rachel said there was little sign of improvement despite the new law and promises from tech giants, saying: "Violent pornography is easily accessible to children, exposure is often accidental and often via the most common social media sites, and it is impacting children's behaviours and beliefs in deeply concerning ways. This report must be a line in the sand." New protections introduced last month, she said, "provide a real opportunity to make children's safety online a non-negotiable priority for everyone: policymakers, big tech giants and smaller tech developers".

The Guardian The Sun

UKRAINE

A third of housing funding for Ukrainians going unspent

The *Guardian* reports on figures showing that across 150 local authorities in England, a total of at least £327m of funding to support refugees from Ukraine as they move into private rented accommodation

has gone unspent. The figure represents around a third of the total Government funding of £1bn for the scheme - with the paper finding that the majority of the funds that have been spent have gone to staffing costs and payments to partner organisations, with £22m spent directly on temporary accommodation and £15m spent directly on helping refugees move into rented homes. Stan Bene from Opora, which supports Ukrainians living in the UK, said the "quality of council support for Ukrainians is often a postcode lottery", with councils having "significant discretion over how to use government-allocated funds, and whether to top them up from their own budgets".

The Guardian

WELFARE

Conversations on benefit cap 'ongoing'

Care minister Stephen Kinnock has told *Times Radio* that while lifting the two-child benefit cap is "not Government policy", conversations on the issue "are ongoing". Mr Kinnock was asked to comment on calls by his father, the peer Lord Kinnock, for the cap to be scrapped - saying his father has "strong opinions on a wide range of things", but that Chancellor Rachel Reeves is the only person "who's making decisions about how the Budget will look", in partnership with the Prime Minister and Cabinet. The *Times* looks at the possible impact of lifting the cap - with official figures identifying 71,580 families with five or more children who are in receipt of Universal Credit - including 424 families with 10 or more children.

GOVERNANCE

Leicestershire deputy leader removed

Cllr Joseph Boam has been removed from his positions as deputy leader and cabinet member for adult social care at **Leicestershire County Council**, the *BBC* reports. Cllr Boam had been part of Reform UK's minority administration, formed after the party won 25 of 55 seats on the council at the local elections. While council leader Cllr Dan Harrison said he would not comment until the party group met this week, Cllr Boam said he had not "stepped down from any role. I am no longer deputy leader or in cabinet. But have been offered a cabinet support role which I'm inclined to take."

BBC News

Editor's Pick

A must-read from the team at LGIU



Is the Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill the foundation of a 'devolution revolution'?

Do the recent policy announcements culminating in the Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill amount to a coherent whole? This think piece considers the spate of major UK government announcements in June and July 2025.

[Read here](#)

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LGIU - 251 Pentonville Road - London, London N1 9NG - United Kingdom

From: The Kent Politics Briefing <noreply@iliffemedia.co.uk>
Sent: 22 August 2025 09:30
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: 'Why I worry about the new Online Safety Act'

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[View Online](#)



Welcome to the latest edition of the newsletter. It's great to have you with us ahead of the long weekend.

This week, the government received an unwelcome shock when the High Court ruled a hotel in Essex could be prevented from housing asylum seekers after weeks of protests by local people there.

This was seized upon by Kent County Council leader Linden Kemkaran, who encouraged other local authorities to follow the legal route taken by Epping Forest Council.

This subject was discussed on the Kent Politics Podcast, with Labour MP Tristan Osborne saying there was too much "aggressive rhetoric" around the issue. More on that later.

Today's column comes from Dan Esson, who, alongside fellow political reporters Robert Boddy and Simon Finlay, is part of the **Local Democracy Reporting Service**.

He looks at the Online Safety Act and raises concerns that parts of it will be used to curtail legitimate protest.

As usual, we also have our Off the Record gossip section, archive photo, and politics quiz.

As well as this newsletter, there are plenty of other ways to stay in the know when it comes to politics in Kent and Medway.

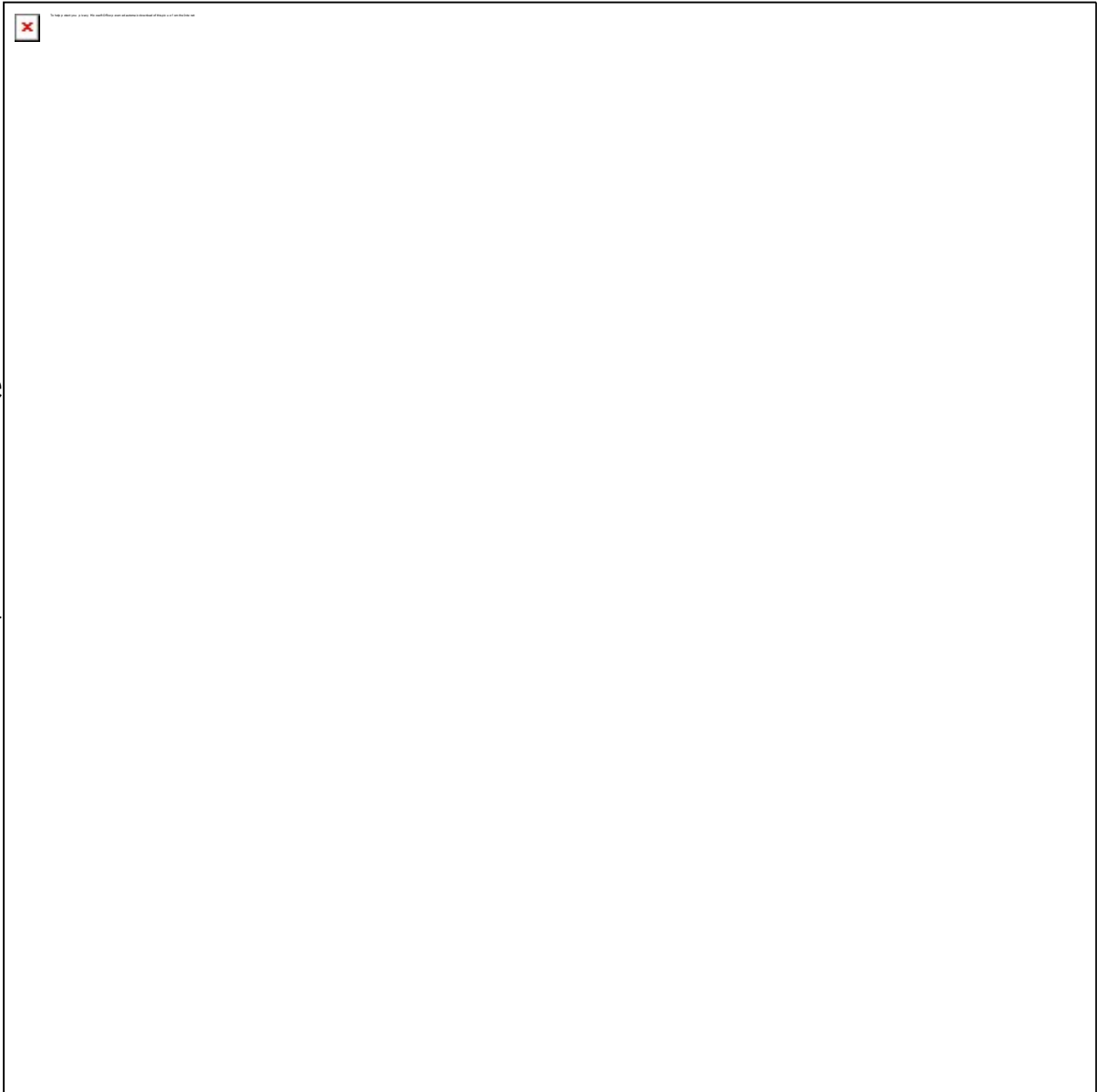
New episodes of our **Kent Politics Podcast** drop every Friday, more on that later, and you can also watch the **KMTV Politics Show** every Friday at 5.30pm on Freeview channel 7 and Virgin Media channel 159.

We hope you find something of interest in the Politics Briefing every Friday. If you think

there's a story we should be covering, or you have some juicy political gossip for us, drop us a line at newsletters@thekmgroun.co.uk

**'Beware
the
influence
the
Online
Safety
Act could
have on
people's
lives...'**

By Dan Esson



In recent weeks, if you sought to access any adult corners of the internet, you will have encountered the Online Safety Act in the form of being ID'd by your own phone.

The influence unfettered access to some forms of online content has on children is clear, so clear that the British political class finally hit it with their knee-jerk response to everything: 'Ban it.'

The Act makes social media companies and websites responsible for making sure that age-inappropriate content does not make it before the eyes of children.

In practice, this means sites hosting sexually explicit or violent content will require users to provide identification. It should go without saying that these rules are easy to circumvent for even the least enterprising web surfers.

Users can employ VPNs (which even China has not figured out how to successfully ban), and illegal websites will simply not comply.

Some have also predicted that the Byzantine web of responsibilities, regulations, and possible penalties included in the Act will disincentivise tech firms from operating or starting up in Britain.

According to Big Brother Watch, the Act contains provisions to allow en masse scanning of personal communications.

Given the government's enthusiasm for surveillance and the security state – expanding facial recognition technology and using anti-terror legislation to crack down on protest – it does not seem unduly paranoid to worry about providing ID to websites newly compelled to surrender any info the state asks of them.

The fixation of (mainly older) politicians on the youth's access to certain kinds of online material belies the fact the real influence of the internet is as much in its form as its content.

The real but limited influence of, for example, eating disorder glorification or misogynistic influencers is nothing compared to the overall effects of the internet now being the primary social space for the young.

Indeed, that sort of content has only become prominent and more readily produced because of the internet replacing in-the-flesh conversation as the first frontier of social life.

For those children who have been surfing Instagram Reels since age seven and fluent in the use of iOS before their own native language, the damage might already be done, barring some external intervention.

Whether they will be able to readily access videos of beheadings when they're teenagers is neither here nor there by now.

What was once treated as the paranoid hysteria of parents – that the internet would rot your mind, corrode your mental health and wither your attention span – now seems undeniable.

Especially for children, using TikTok and its ilk is essentially like holding your brain up against a sanding belt.

With the collapse of reading for pleasure among teenagers, we are only beginning to see the impoverished personalities and social life created by the marketisation of attention.

In his 2009 book *Capitalist Realism*, Mark Fisher described the condition of many teenagers

not as *dyslexia*, but *postflexia*.

“Teenagers process capital's image-dense data very effectively without any need to read - slogan-recognition is sufficient to navigate the net-mobile-magazine informational plane,” he wrote.

I believe that it is no coincidence that with the rise of smartphones and internet access, rates of mental illness and SEND have skyrocketed. As Fisher argues, these conditions may be “neurologically instantiated”, but their causes have “a social and political explanation”.

Nobody could deny that easy access to extreme pornography, real violence and aptly named ‘brainrot’ is harmful for children. The media to which we’re exposed helps shape the frame of cultural reference necessary to generate morality and personality, and thus our ability to process, express and control our feelings.

But the Online Safety Act is unlikely to do anything to remedy these ills.

Some children may be prevented from seeing porn or violence, but they’ll watch seven hours at a time of Instagram reels instead. Perfectly PG but probably about as cognitively hazardous.

A generation of children who are less plugged in would not need to be banned from seeing gore and the like online, because they'd be less likely to go looking for it.

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The sights and sounds of protests are often strange to those who don't go to them regularly. A 'stop the boats' rally in Maidstone last weekend, attended by several Reform councillors, featured a young woman in a St George's Flag dress performing a song about immigration. "All your women and your children,

hide," she intoned to the crowd. "All the fighting age men - so many questions that need answering, why are we letting so many in?" Then the chorus: "Everybody now, altogether now, close our borders, oh yeh, close our borders." Needless to say, don't expect to hear this on Radio 1 anytime soon...

The age divide is a common tension in politics, with the wants of the old being pitted against those of the young - but Medway has found a new battleground: meeting the needs of the young at the expense of...the dead. A report on school places in the Towns details how an agreement about land off Woodlands Avenue, Gillingham, had designated 1.75ha of space to accommodate burials for the next 100 years and opened up the remaining 1.6ha for a school usage. However, the report claims "local and national attitudes towards burial are almost certain to change over the next 100 years", meaning even less land might be needed and can be allocated for schools.

After the recently ennobled Lord (Toby) Young floated the idea of Kent as an independent nation, correspondent to the Spectator's letters' page, John Bunyan, of Egerton, harks back to medieval times when there was indeed a Kingdom of Kent, which lasted 400 years. He opines a return to a "restored Kentish monarchy would only be natural". Warming to this notion, Mr Bunyan speculates that "King Nigel" might want to reverse London's "unrelenting incursions" by demanding back lost territories from Deptford outwards. Foreign Secretary David Lammy would be banned from Chevening House, "but Maidstone would magnanimously welcome as UK ambassador Rachel Reeves", he writes. She would be an ideal choice as she was born and bred in the former Kentish lands of Lewisham and Bromley. While all of this comes to pass, Kent County Council leader Linden Kemkaran perhaps took all of this to heart by suggesting one enormous new unitary authority to replace the 14 already in existence under the imminent local government reforms.

Quote from the past: "*He would make a drum out of the skin of his own mother in order to sound his own praises.*" - David Lloyd George on Winston Churchill

From our archives



Back in 2012, veteran Labour MP, former government minister and leadership contender, Tony Benn, met with postal workers from Herne Bay and Whitstable at the University of Kent's Gulbenkian Theatre in Canterbury to support their campaign to stop proposed delivery office closures. He's pictured with campaign leader Chris Stone. Mr Benn, who died in 2014, was an MP, with two short gaps, for almost 50 years. This made him longest-ever serving Labour member of parliament.



One of the county's MPs has warned against "aggressive rhetoric" around the issue of people seeking asylum.

Tristan Osborne says although there is a "narrative" that the situation is out of control, the government is making progress.

He was speaking about this week's important High Court ruling where Epping Forest Council in Essex successfully sought to temporarily stop a hotel from housing asylum seekers permanently, sparking fears that other councils would follow a similar legal route.

Also discussed are staffing costs issues at Thanet District Council and Medway Council's proposals for local government reorganisation across Kent.

You can listen to the podcast at **IM Listening**, or download it from Apple Podcasts, Spotify and TuneIn – just search for Kent Politics Podcast.

Politics Quiz

Q: What did former Tory leader Iain Duncan Smith famously describe himself as in 2001?

Q: Who succeeded Nick Clegg as Liberal Democrat leader in 2015?

Q: At number 18, which cabinet position is last in the US presidential line of succession?

The answers to last week's quiz were: Andrew Bonar Law is the only PM born outside the British Isles (Canada); James Madison was US president when the British torched the White House in 1814; and Lambeth Bridge's railings are red as a nod to the nearby House of Lords, which has red benches as opposed to the Commons' green ones. See next week's newsletter for the answers to this week's quiz and more questions on UK and global politics.

Latest news



KCC leader urges councils to check asylum seeker hotels after landmark ruling

The county council's leader has urged district and borough authorities to take legal action against any unlawfully operating asylum seeker hotels.



'Green tape' regulator for Lower Thames Crossing cautiously welcomed

A conservation charity has called on the new environmental regulator appointed for the £9bn tunnel link to ensure it "minimises impacts" on wildlife.



'It's an easy way to make money - but is that the trade off for safety?'

Plans to expand a high street's "no cars" rule have been praised by pedestrians as a "no brainer" but some businesses remain sceptical of its motive.

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 26 August 2025 12:09
To: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
Subject: Union Flag and St George's Flag

Hi both,

I've just had a call from [REDACTED] who has received this enquiry about flags looking unsightly in the district.

Obviously there is a much bigger picture to this across the country as covered by the BBC article. Is there a suitable response we can give to this enquiry?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cx271162ee3o>

Many thanks
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@DOVER.GOV.UK>
Sent: 26 August 2025 12:06
To: [REDACTED]@DOVER.GOV.UK>
Subject:

Type of incident	Other	If other, please provide further details
Use provide the exact location of the incident	London road river and Whitfield hill	* Date incident occurred
Date incident occurred, if known	09:00	Description of what happened and details of anyone involved

Not sure the flags are there for an event ... but looks unsightly - from source



Community Safety Officer

[REDACTED]
Dover District Council
White Cliffs Business Park
Whitfield, Dover
CT16 3PJ

[REDACTED]
[\[REDACTED\]@dover.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@dover.gov.uk)
www.dover.gov.uk/communitysafety

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 26 August 2025 12:12
To: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Union Flag and St George's Flag

Hi,

I am not sure its something we would want to become embroiled in TBH. Unless they are breaking any local laws, I don't think there is much we can do. Like you say, this is something of a bigger picture at the moment.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
Head of Human Resources, Payroll and Corporate Communications
Dover District Council
t [REDACTED]
m [REDACTED]
e [REDACTED] [\[REDACTED\]@dover.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@dover.gov.uk)

From: [REDACTED]@DOVER.GOV.UK>
Sent: 26 August 2025 12:09
To: [REDACTED]@DOVER.GOV.UK>; [REDACTED]@DOVER.GOV.UK>
Subject: Union Flag and St George's Flag

Hi both,

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Obviously there is a much bigger picture to this across the country as covered by the BBC article. Is there a suitable response we can give to this enquiry?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cx271162ee3o>

Many thanks

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Sent: 26 August 2025 12:06
To: [REDACTED]@DOVER.GOV.UK>
Subject:

Type of incident Other	If other, please provide further details
Please provide the exact location of the incident London road river and Whitfield hill	* Date incident occurred 2
Date incident occurred, if known 09:00	Description of what happened and details of anyone involved

Not sure the flags are there for an event ... but looks unsightly - from source



Community Safety Officer

[REDACTED]
Dover District Council
White Cliffs Business Park
Whitfield, Dover
CT16 3PJ

[REDACTED] [@dover.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@dover.gov.uk)
www.dover.gov.uk/communitysafety

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 26 August 2025 12:15
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Union Flag and St George's Flag

Hi [REDACTED]

Please see [REDACTED] thoughts (and BBC article) as below. If we don't have to respond/say anything then that is the advice for now.

Many thanks
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@DOVER.GOV.UK>
Sent: 26 August 2025 12:12
To: [REDACTED]@DOVER.GOV.UK>; [REDACTED]@DOVER.GOV.UK>
Subject: Re: Union Flag and St George's Flag

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t [REDACTED]
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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 26 August 2025 12:20
To: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Union Flag and St George's Flag

Hi Both

Yes, I agree, it's best not to get caught up in this, if we can help it.

If the press ask about this, I'd probably be looking to refer them to KCC as the highways authority.

Thanks

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 26 August 2025 12:23
To: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Union Flag and St George's Flag

Thanks both,

I'll go back to [REDACTED] to say that this would be our position for now.

Interestingly – the public sector headspace group on FB have a thread on this but don't have any answers either!

Regards
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@DOVER.GOV.UK>
Sent: 26 August 2025 12:20
To: [REDACTED]@DOVER.GOV.UK>; [REDACTED]@DOVER.GOV.UK>
Subject: RE: Union Flag and St George's Flag

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From: POLITICO London Playbook <londonplaybook@politico.co.uk>
Sent: 29 August 2025 07:08
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Rebel Bell

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By ANDREW MCDONALD

with BETHANY DAWSON

PRESENTED BY



[Send tips here](#) | [Subscribe for free](#) | [Listen to Playbook and view in your browser](#)

Good Friday morning. This is Andrew McDonald.

DRIVING THE DAY

LAST 5 SECONDS OF SUMMER: Rejoice/weep! It's the last day of recess. But before MPs plod back down to Westminster and prepare for, well, the sh*t to hit the fan, there's one last bit of migrant hotel drama to brace for — after an entire summer of it.

Rebel Bell: At 2 p.m., Lord Justice David Bean, Lady Justice Nicola Davies and Lord Justice Stephen Cobb of the Court of Appeal will rule on whether to overturn the injunction requiring the removal of asylum-seekers from Epping's Bell Hotel. That ruling was challenged by both the owner of the Bell Hotel and the Home Office, which will have its fingers crossed all morning and early afternoon.

Bean counting: One small caveat for those planning their days around this though: Bean said he and his judicial pals were only *aiming* to give their judgment today, because of the "great urgency of this matter." He said he'd let people know if that deadline proved impractical. You've been warned.

If the Bell of judgment does ring: As Playbook [wrote Thursday](#), the outcome of this case is of huge importance to the Home Office. On Thursday, its lawyers argued in court that the use of asylum hotels is integral to the asylum system. And that, thanks to the ECHR, Yvette Cooper needs them to meet her requirement of protecting asylum-seekers from the risk of destitution. The Times [has a good roundup](#) of the government's main arguments.

****A message from Parents For Future and #StopRosebank:** Why do so many people oppose Rosebank? Because it won't cut bills, it's mostly oil for export, and it could create a net loss of

hundreds of millions for the Treasury. Critically, scientists warn new fields are incompatible with a safe climate for our children. [Learn more](#).**

Given the backdrop, arguing that the rights of asylum-seekers and Britain's ECHR obligations are more important than the local concerns which led to the injunction in the first place is ... pretty tricky for Labour, with Reform UK topping the polls on an explicitly anti-ECHR platform. But, as the Home Office argued, losing this case could (and likely will) lead to further injunctions in other areas, potentially throwing the government's entire asylum system into chaos. Which wouldn't be the best way to enter a new parliamentary term.

Either way: Whether the ruling goes the government's way or not — there's also the possibility of the case ending up in the Supreme Court, btw — the outcome is likely to have unwelcome effects for officials. Either they'll have to suddenly work out where to place the asylum-seekers currently staying at the Bell Hotel ... or they'll face Reform (and the Tories, I guess) trying to make political hay of the government successfully fighting a battle to keep a migrant hotel open. Conveniently enough, Playbook hears Reform has a press conference penciled in for the first day back on Monday.

OTHER MINDS ARE ELSEWHERE: Labour MPs getting ready to return to Westminster have a wonderfully geeky No. 10 reset to pore over. Some of the more ambitious members might even be pressing their best suits as they wait to find out whether the much-discussed reshuffle will involve them. It's always nice to have hopes and dreams.

What we've got so far: The shifting of top Downing Street civil servant Nin Pandit, as [scooped by the BBC Thursday](#), and the [Guardian's Jessica Elgot tipping](#) HMT's Dan York Smith to replace her. The whole shebang sparked the usual briefing war about how it was handled and the tone of those leaking to the Beeb — Exhibit A being a source close to No. 10 [telling the Telegraph Lobby team](#) it was a "bad look" for Downing Street to "mishandle" the departure of two senior women in the space of less than a year.

What we could be getting: The word around the Lobby matches what Playbook's own Dan Bloom [wrote last week](#) — the reshuffle looks set to be next week. The expectation is still that it won't reach Cabinet level, meaning the most interesting moves might be the deckchair shuffling in Downing Street.

Sound the Louise Casey alarm: [The FT's George Parker hears](#) Starmer is looking for a new senior civil servant to drive his agenda across government. In other words, what he hoped Sue Gray would do. Parker reports one leading contender is Louise Casey, the figure to whom governments of varying stripes constantly turn when they need a troubleshooter to advise on a tricky issue or write a thorough report.

Surely not another one: The briefing against the relatively new Cabinet Secretary Chris Wormald also continues [in the Mail](#), where a Cabinet source tells Jason Groves that Wormald is a "plodder when we need a radical." Binning the head of the Civil Service after less than a year in post, after Starmer personally picked the guy, would certainly be a "radical" choice.

And the last expectation ... is for the appointment of a new economic adviser in No. 10 ahead of the budget. On that very note, Ravinder Athwal — the last guy to hold that gig before his exit in July — tells POLITICO's Patrick Baker on the latest [Westminster Insider podcast](#) that the government he served in will more than likely have to find a way to raise taxes. He also insisted, in his first interview since leaving government, that he stands by the "tax lock" Rachel Reeves signed up to ahead of the election.

Thanks, City's crying: The big business bosses warning against more taxes in the splashes [of the Mail](#) (Asda Chair Allan Leighton) [and the FT](#) (anon senior City figures) won't be best pleased by that, or by the IPPR's report this morning advocating a tax on bank windfall profits — which is [written up in the Standard](#).

FOR A FULL PRIMER ON NEXT WEEK: Anne McElvoy and Sam Coates put in the hard yards to compile this [bumper Politics at Sam and Anne's podcast guide](#) to the new parliamentary term, and to which parties could be up or down by the time we all start thinking about buying Christmas pressies (sorry). Plus, Dan Bloom had a [nice look-ahead](#) in last Friday's Playbook. Enjoy the weekend while you can.

TODAY IN WESTMINSTER

WHAT THE GOVERNMENT WANTS TO TALK ABOUT: Vaccines. The government is announcing a new program for chickenpox from January on the NHS, meaning GPs will offer eligible children a vaccine as part of the routine infant immunization schedule. [The BBC writes it up](#).

The wider backdrop to that ... is Thursday's stats showing that none of the main childhood vaccines in England reached their uptake targets last year. Health Minister Stephen Kinnock will be fielding questions on the morning round.

SCOOP — NFI'D TO THE ARMS FAIR: Israeli officials will not be invited to a major defense conference in London because of their country's actions in Gaza, my colleague Esther Webber reports. Israel's Ministry of Defense has previously been prominently represented at DSEI, a huge arms exhibition taking place next month. A British government spokesman told Esther: "The Israeli government's decision to further escalate its military operation in Gaza is wrong. As a result, we can confirm that no Israeli government delegation will be invited to attend DSEI UK 2025."

But but but: Israeli arms firms will still be able to take part, Esther hears, with no word of any restrictions similar to those attempted by the French authorities at this year's Paris Air Show. [More here](#).

IS TONTY BLAIR BEHIND THIS: The [i's Richard Vaughan and Jane Merrick](#), and [the Telegraph's Paul Nuki](#), have great dispatches on Tony Blair's lobbying of the U.S. government on the future of Gaza. The [i](#) hears Blair alerted No. 10 to his (personal capacity) White House meeting beforehand, and that Blair is trying to steer Trump away from his "more extreme" post-war plans for Gaza.

THE OTHER TONY: The outgoing head of the Armed Forces Tony Radakin spoke to the [Ukrainian website European Pravda](#), his final interview before he is succeeded as chief of the defense staff by Richard Knighton on Tuesday. Radakin insists that since the Alaska summit and last week's Washington meetings, there has been "some momentum" and "drive" to determine the assurances and commitments (in other words: security guarantees) the West would offer Ukraine going forward once a ceasefire emerges. "But we've got to be sensible about not playing all of this out in public," he said.

BLOCKED: Seventy-six MPs have written to the prime minister urging him to block Fujitsu from multimillion-pound government contracts following its role in the Post Office Horizon scandal, the Times' Aubrey Allegretti reports (print only).

FLAPPING ABOUT FLAGS: My colleague Annabelle Dickson has been looking at whether politicians should be getting in a flap about the classic recess flags row after heading to an anti-immigration protest in Norwich this week.

It ain't no MAGA: Ex- Labour minister-turned-professor John Denham tells her politicians should be relaxed about the summer of flag-flying. “If you put a MAGA hat on, you are clearly declaring your support for Trump. If you fly a St. George’s Cross or a union flag, for somebody like me, that’s my flag and whatever the intentions of the person who put the flag up, I’m entitled to see it in the way that I want.” [You can read the full dispatch here.](#)

(Not) waving the Green flag: Green leadership hopefuls Ellie Chowns and Zach Polanski last night waded into the debate, with both telling Newsnight they wouldn’t hang the flag (outside of football tournaments, in Chowns’ case). Chowns said it’s “not traditionally part of British culture” and that “we can love our country without having to be performative about the utilization of symbols.” Leadership rival Zack Polanski said he wouldn’t hang an English flag outside his house because to some people it represents the country’s “problematic history with Empire and colonialism.” The Greens leadership ballot closes Saturday with a result announced Tuesday.

WALKIES TIME: Oxford Street will be pedestrianized on Sept. 21 as a precursor to the mayor of London’s [wider plans](#), City Hall announced overnight. The traffic-free street will have “themed zones” throughout.

DIVINE INTERVENTION: Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell [told the Mirror](#) that Nigel Farage’s deportation policy is “beneath us as a nation,” adding: “We cannot simply close the door on people fleeing war, violence and persecution. ‘Send them all back’ is not a sensible or compassionate response.” The archbishop is one of the many seats-for-life peers in the House of Lords who may eventually have to vote on such a scheme if Farage makes it into Downing Street.

BY-ELECTION RUNE-READING: The Lib Dems were delighted to win a council by-election in West Hampstead overnight, taking a seat from Labour on Camden Council — the borough that contains Keir Starmer’s constituency. A Lib Dem source described the win as being the result of a “Gaza backlash in [Starmer’s] own backyard.”

FOR THOSE WHO CARE: Prince Harry is set to see his father, that dude with the big crown, for the first time in 19 months when he returns to Britain in two weeks, [according to the Mirror](#). If it happens, the meet-up will dominate news bulletins for days.



BEYOND THE M25

CHARGED: Labour MSP **Colin Smyth** has been charged over allegations he planted a hidden camera in Scottish parliament toilets, the Daily Record’s [Paul Hutcheon and Mark McGivern report](#). Smyth was suspended from the party last week after being charged in connection with possession of indecent images.

GOING GREEN: Results will be announced at **10 a.m.** in the Scottish Greens leadership election. Current Co-Leader Lorna Slater is running against fellow MSPs Ross Greer and Gillian Mackay, as well as party member Dominic Ashmole. Because it’s the Greens, we’re getting any combination of two co-leaders out of that four. The Herald has [a handy guide](#) to the race to get you up to speed.

JOINT OP-ED KLAXON: David Lammy and his German and French counterparts have [written for POLITICO](#) on their decision to reimpose U.N. sanctions on Iran over its nuclear ambitions.

IN THE FRENCH CORNER: Likely contenders for the next French presidential election took to Paris' Roland Garros for a debate Thursday, where they blasted the current prime minister and then turned on each other. The line-up — which included Jordan Bardella of the National Rally; Emmanuel Macron's Renaissance party leader Gabriel Attal; Les Républicains' Bruno Retailleau; and Manuel Bompard of the far-left France Unbowed — squared off on center court before a high-stakes Sept. 8 confidence vote [that seems all but certain to torpedo](#) Prime Minister François Bayrou's minority government. My colleague [Clea Caulcutt has a write-up](#).

Which raises the obvious question: Which of the U.K. broadcasters will be brave enough to try to arrange an election debate on center court at Wimbledon?

GOING NOWHERE: The director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Susan Monarez, is in a standoff with the Trump administration after the White House said she'd been fired because she wasn't "aligned with the president's agenda." Monarez's lawyers insisted her sacking is illegal and that she was targeted because she refused to implement "unscientific, reckless directives," [the BBC reports](#).

****A message from Parents For Future and #StopRosebank:** The proposed Rosebank oil field is a defining test of the UK's climate leadership. The scientific evidence is clear: there is no room for new oil and gas projects if we are to stay within safe climate limits. Rosebank, which would emit more CO₂ than the 700 million people living in the world's poorest countries do in a year, is incompatible with the UK's climate commitments. But it's also a bad deal for the UK. Mostly oil for export, Rosebank would do little to improve energy security and won't lower bills. Yet thanks to generous tax breaks, the UK public would shoulder most of the development costs and the Treasury could see a net loss of hundreds of millions, while the field's owners take the profits. Join us in calling on the UK government to do the right thing and [Stop Rosebank](#). [#ForFuturesSake](#).**

MEDIA ROUND

Care Minister Stephen Kinnock broadcast round: Times Radio (7.05 a.m.) ... Sky News (7.15 a.m.) ... BBC Breakfast (7.30 a.m.) ... LBC (7.50 a.m.) ... GB News (8.20 a.m.) ... GMB (8.30 a.m.).

Shadow Crime Minister Matt Vickers broadcast round: Talk (7.20 a.m.) ... GMB (7.35 a.m.) ... GB News (8 a.m.) ... Sky News (8.15 a.m.) ... LBC (8.45 a.m.).

Also on BBC Breakfast: Criminal Cases Review Commission Chair **Vera Baird** (7.15 a.m.).

Also on Nick Ferrari at Breakfast: Former Defence Secretary **Grant Shapps** (7.40 a.m.) ... Liberal Democrat Leader **Ed Davey** is special guest presenter from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Also on Times Radio Breakfast: **Grant Shapps** (8.35 a.m.).

TODAY'S FRONT PAGES

POLITICO UK: The far-right bid to deck England in flags has politicians squirming.

Daily Express: French police 'won't go in sea' to stop boats.

Daily Mail: Now Asda boss tells Reeves: stop taxing everything.

Daily Mirror: Harry 'to meet Charles.'

Daily Star: X marks the bot.

Financial Times: City fears mount over Reeves' tax raid on banks to help fill £20bn fiscal hole.

Metro: They think itch all over.

The Daily Telegraph: Rayner dodges £40,000 stamp duty.

The Guardian: Russian envoys summoned as UK and EU offices hit in Kyiv.

The Independent: PM: Putin's strike on British target 'sabotages peace.'

The Sun: Balloonacy.

The Times: All babies to be offered chickenpox vaccination.

TODAY'S NEWS MAG

The Economist: What Brazil can teach America.

THANK POD IT'S FRIDAY

Westminster Insider: Host Patrick Baker explores how Labour might use the coming months to reset the narrative, with expertise from Labour's former head of policy **Ravinder Athwal** — speaking publicly for the first time since he left No. 10 — as well as Scotland Office Minister **Kirsty McNeill**, former Treasury comms director **Poppy Trowbridge** and former government Chief Whip **Simon Hart**.

EU Confidential: Host Sarah Wheaton unpacks fresh threats by the U.S. to hit countries with tariffs over their digital rules — drawing instant reactions from European Commission trade official **Sabine Weyand** and Nobel laureate **Joseph Stiglitz**. She then sits down with former Spanish Foreign Minister **Arancha González Laya** to ask how Europe can move from "limping along" to setting the pace on trade, tech and alliances.

Plus six of the best political podcasts to listen to this weekend ...

Political Currency: Foreign Affairs Select Committee Chair **Emily Thornberry** joins George Osborne to discuss the Corbyn era, Starmer's first year and being snubbed for a job.

Oh God, What Now: Creative Industries Minister **Chris Bryant** talks about his life, career, upcoming autobiography "A Life and a Half," and Shirley Bassey wigs.

The Political Party: Mayor of London **Sadiq Khan** joins Matt Forde live to discuss Donald Trump and Starmer's first year.

Iain Dale All Talk: Former Scottish First Minister **Nicola Sturgeon** explores her views on JK Rowling, Alex Salmond and Tinder.

Quiet Riot: Labour MP **Andrew Lewin** joins to talk about his Citizens Advance policy, which would see the state give you the choice to access one year of your state pension a year early if you make at least 10 years of national insurance contributions.

Politics Inside Out: Blue Labour founder **Maurice Glasman** talks to former MPs Jonathan Ashworth and Gloria de Piero about whether Labour is still the party of the working class.

LONDON CALLING

WESTMINSTER WEATHER: Tipping it down — watch out for those yellow weather warnings for seriously heavy rain. High 22C, low 14C.

JOB ADS: The Resolution Foundation is hiring a [researcher](#) ... an [economist or research and policy analyst](#) ... and a [principal economist or researcher](#).

BEST WISHES TO: Conservative Councillors' Association Head of Operations **Dan Chapman**, who is hosting a [day of donations](#) on Sept. 20 across South Holland (Lincolnshire) to help find him an urgently needed stem cell donor.

NOW READ: Stanford Student Elsa Johnson [writes for the Times](#) about the exact playbook (no relation, we promise) a Chinese spy used to recruit her at university.

WRITING PLAYBOOK PM: Emilio Casalicchio.

WRITING PLAYBOOK MONDAY MORNING: Andrew McDonald.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO: Nottingham East MP **Nadia Whittome** ... Wales Office SpAd **Matthew Hexter** ... Times Literary Supplement editor **Martin Ivens** ... Google spinner **Rosie Johnston-Luff** ... TUC Director of Communications **Alex Rossiter** ... The Economist's China Editor **Roger McShane**.

And celebrating over the weekend: Skipton and Ripon MP **Julian Smith** ... former Calder Valley MP **Craig Whittaker** ... former Shadow Social Security Minister **Karen Buck** ... former Exeter MP **Ben Bradshaw** ... Tory peer and Times columnist **Daniel Finkelstein** ... former Tory MP **Jonathan Aitken** ... President of Belarus **Alexander Lukashenko** ... former Labour and Change U.K. MP **Ann Coffey** ... former Ipswich MP **Tom Hunt** ... the Guardian's Whitehall Editor **Rowena Mason** ... Lexington Associate Director **Emma McNicholas** ... former No. 10 spinner **Paul Harrison** ... former independent MP and BBC reporter **Martin Bell** ... Daily and Sunday Express Chief Political Commentator **David Williamson** ... FT Political Correspondent **Anna Gross** ... Saudi Crown Prince **Mohammed bin Salman**.

PLAYBOOK COULDN'T HAPPEN WITHOUT: My editors **Zoya Sheftalovich** and **Alex Spence**, diary reporter **Bethany Dawson** and producer **Catherine Bouris**.

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