

## Former Ministers Warn Politicians Risk Undermining Trials with Immigration Rhetoric

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Senior former ministers and legal figures have warned that inflammatory language used by Conservative and Reform UK politicians on immigration risks undermining the justice system and potentially breaching contempt of court laws.

The criticism follows a Reform UK press event where an individual facing legal proceedings was publicly referred to as “the criminal,” despite the case still being before the courts. The comment, supported by prominent figures within the party, including Nigel Farage, drew concern from former Attorney General Dominic Grieve and other senior legal voices, who described the statement as reckless and prejudicial.

These remarks, they argue, not only endanger the right to a fair trial but also fuel public unrest and distort the legal principle of “innocent until proven guilty.” Former policing and justice officials have warned that such rhetoric creates pressure on the judicial system and could result in miscarriages of justice if allowed to influence proceedings.

The issue arises amid rising political tension surrounding immigration, with public protests and heightened discourse dominating the national conversation. Critics say that unverified claims and emotive messaging from political platforms are increasingly replacing factual debate, risking long-term damage to legal and democratic institutions.

Legal experts have called for greater restraint, noting that public commentary about ongoing cases must adhere to strict legal standards. While the Attorney General has yet to issue any formal reprimand, officials stress that the law regarding public comments on active trials remains clear and enforceable.

Lady Chief Justice Sue Carr has also recently defended the independence of the judiciary, cautioning political leaders against undermining court rulings, particularly in high-profile immigration cases. Her comments come as courts continue to face pressure from both political narratives and backlogs in the legal system.

The warning from former ministers serves as a reminder that, while robust political debate is a fundamental part of a democratic society, it must not come at the cost of judicial integrity. As immigration remains a dominant political issue, politicians are being urged to uphold legal responsibilities while shaping policy.