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Trump Renews Criticism of London Mayor During UK Visit; Prime Minister Starmer Offers Brief Response

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U.S. President Donald Trump has reignited tensions with London Mayor Sadiq Khan, calling him a “nasty person” and claiming he’s “done a terrible job.” The comments were made during a press conference at Trump’s Turnberry golf resort in Scotland on July 28, 2025. British Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer responded briefly, stating, “He’s a friend of mine, actually.”

Trump’s remarks came during a four-day informal visit to the United Kingdom, where he made several appearances but no official state engagements. Though the U.S. President did not elaborate extensively on his criticism, his statement continues a pattern of public

hostility toward Khan, which dates back to Trump's first term in office. The two have frequently clashed over crime rates, policing, and public safety in London.

"I think he's done a terrible job. He's a nasty person. I'm not a fan," Trump said in response to a reporter's question. The U.S. President also alluded to issues of urban governance, hinting that London's leadership is emblematic of broader problems facing major Western cities.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer, who has held office since July 2024 following Labour's general election win, was quick to acknowledge Khan but avoided engaging directly with Trump's criticisms. "He's a friend of mine, actually," Starmer remarked during an unrelated event, steering clear of further political commentary.

While Trump's comments were brief, they highlight ongoing debates surrounding law and order in large cities, as well as public dissatisfaction with metropolitan leadership. Critics of Khan have frequently cited concerns over rising knife crime, housing shortages, and transportation delays during his administration. Supporters argue he has implemented progressive policies focused on inclusivity and environmental reform.

Trump's return to the international stage as a sitting president—following his victory in the 2024 U.S. election—has already drawn renewed scrutiny and interest. His blunt style and willingness to criticize foreign leaders continue to appeal to his base at home while stirring controversy abroad.

Though Starmer's response was diplomatic and minimal, the exchange underscores the stark differences in political tone and leadership style between the two figures. With both leaders now firmly in power, their interactions will likely remain a point of transatlantic media attention in the months ahead.