
Starmer Faces Labour MPs Amid Mandelson Appointment Controversy



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LONDON, Feb. 9: Labour Party leader Keir Starmer is set to address MPs following a growing storm over the appointment of Peter Mandelson as ambassador to the United States, amid renewed scrutiny of Mandelson's links to convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

Mandelson, initially appointed in December 2024, was removed nine months later. Recent reports allege he may have passed sensitive government information to Epstein, prompting a Metropolitan Police investigation into possible misconduct in public office. Mandelson maintains he acted lawfully and was not financially motivated.

The controversy has sparked political turbulence within Labour. Starmer's long-term adviser, Morgan McSweeney, resigned on Sunday taking responsibility for recommending Mandelson's appointment, followed by communications director Tim Allan the next day. Despite these resignations, calls for Starmer to step down continue, with Scottish Labour leader Anas Sarwar publicly demanding the prime minister resign.

For now, Starmer retains unanimous backing from his cabinet, though his position remains precarious ahead of several upcoming elections. Political analysts say the prime minister faces a leadership test to restore confidence in his authority and control over party affairs.

The address to Labour MPs aims to reassure colleagues and consolidate support, but uncertainty persists over Starmer's long-term prospects. Recent resignations and public criticism underline the intensity of the challenge he faces as he attempts to maintain stability and credibility within the party.

Observers note that Starmer's ability to navigate the crisis will likely determine his political longevity and influence in the coming months.