Key moments during Keir Starmer's premiership, July 2024–July 2026

IfG

5 July 2024
Keir Starmer becomes prime minister

23 July 2024
Labour withdraws the whip from seven MPs who supported an SNP amendment to scrap the two-child benefit cap

29 July 2024
Chancellor Rachel Reeves gives a statement on public spending inheritance, announcing a £22bn blackhole and plans to scrap winter fuel payments for some pensioners

5 August 2024
Starmer calls COBR in response to summer riots

2 October 2024
Starmer pays back more than £6,000 worth of gifts and hospitality received since becoming prime minister

6 October 2024
Sue Gray resigns as chief of staff and is replaced by Morgan McSweeney

30 October 2024
Rachel Reeves delivers her first budget as chancellor

28 November 2024
Louise Haigh resigns as transport secretary over historic investigation

2 December 2024
Sir Chris Wormald appointed cabinet secretary and head of the civil service

5 December 2024
PM launches Plan for Change with "tepid bath" speech

12 December 2024
Peter Mandelson appointed as ambassador to Washington

16 December 2024
English devolution white paper published

5 February 2025
DPM invites local government reorganisation proposals

5 February 2025
Six 'devolution priority programme' areas announced – with mayors due for election in 2026

13 March 2025
PM announces abolition of NHS England and sets out plans to reform the state

26 March 2025
Rachel Reeves delivers her spring statement

28 March 2025
Matthew Doyle resigns as the PM's chief of comms

1 April 2025
GMCA and WMCA receive new single settlement funding

1 May 2025
Reform win Runcorn by-election, after previous Labour MP convicted of assault

1 May 2025
Mayoral elections extend devolution to over 50% of English population

2 May 2025
PM agrees that Baroness Casey will chair an independent commission into adult social care

21 May 2025
Keir Starmer announces U-turn on plans to cut winter fuel payments, following mounting political pressure

22 May 2025
David Gauke publishes final report from the Independent Sentencing Review

11 June 2025
Rachel Reeves delivers her multi-year spending review

19 June 2025
Vicky Foxcroft resigns as government whip over disagreement with benefit cuts

1 July 2025
Government wins vote on watered-down welfare bill after concessions

3 July 2025
Government launches its 10-Year Health Plan

25 September 2025
Steph Driver, head of communications at No.10, resigns

25 September 2025
Government announces its new digital ID scheme

29 October 2025
The Renters' Rights Bill receives Royal Assent, becoming an Act

5 September 2025
Angela Rayner resigns as deputy prime minister

5–16 September 2025
Keir Starmer conducts wide-ranging ministerial reshuffle

11 September 2025
Peter Mandelson dismissed as ambassador to Washington after the first batch of Epstein files are released

1–15 September 2025
More senior advisers resign from Starmer's team, namely James Lyons, Paul Ovenden and Tom Kibasi

26 November 2025
Rachel Reeves delivers her autumn budget, and announces that the two-child benefit cap will be lifted

18 December 2025
The Employment Rights Bill receives Royal Assent, becoming an Act

18 December 2025
The government waters down its proposal for farm inheritance tax by raising the planned threshold

26 January 2026
Shabana Mahmood launches "biggest ever" policing reforms, including creation of National Police Service

8 February 2026
Morgan McSweeney resigns as chief of staff over the Mandelson appointment

16 February 2026
Government makes a U-turn on its decision to postpone local elections in 30 areas

19 February 2026
Antonia Romeo is appointed the new Cabinet Secretary after Chris Wormald stood down

26 February 2026
The Green Party wins the Gorton and Denton by-election

2 March 2026
Starmer tells MPs that he stands by his decision not to join the strikes on Iran launched by the US and Israel

16 April 2026
Olly Robbins is dismissed after it is revealed that Mandelson's failed vetting was overruled by the Foreign Office

7 May 2026
Labour suffers big losses in the local and devolved elections

12 May 2026
Four junior ministers resign from government saying they had lost confidence in the PM

14 May 2026
Wes Streeting resigns as health secretary having lost confidence in the PM

11 June 2026
John Healey and Al Carns resign from the MoD over the Defence Investment Plan

15 June 2026
Government announces a social media ban for under 16s

18 June 2026
Andy Burnham wins the Makerfield by-election

22 June 2026
Keir Starmer gives his resignation speech

2025: Jul, Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May, Jun, Jul, Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec

2026: Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May, Jun, Jul

Public finances | Civil service | Public services | Parliament and legislation | Devolution | Policy making | Foreign affairs | Ministers, appointments, resignations

Source: Institute for Government analysis.

CC BY-NC