Starmer under fire over Mandelson vetting

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer is facing growing calls to resign after it emerged that Peter Mandelson was appointed as U.S. ambassador despite failing a vetting process

STARMER-MANDELSON SAGA





Dec 2024: Sir Keir Starmer *(right)* says he is "delighted" to appoint Lord Mandelson *(far right)* as U.S. ambassador

Appointment follows due diligence check by ***Cabinet Office***, including review of media reports on Mandelson's past friendship with late convicted sex offender ***Jeffrey Epstein*** *(right)*



Jan 2025: Mandelson fails initial security vetting, according to ***Guardian*** investigation published in Apr 2026. Decision reportedly overruled by ***Foreign Office*** without Downing Street's knowledge

Feb 1, 2026: Mandelson resigns from Labour party after files released by U.S. justice department reveal further correspondence between him and Epstein



Feb 8: Starmer's chief adviser ***Morgan McSweeney*** *(left)* resigns from government over Mandelson's appointment



Feb 2025: Mandelson begins role as U.S. ambassador *(above)*

Feb 23: Mandelson arrested on suspicion of misconduct in public office. He is later released but police say he remains under investigation

Mar 11: New files show Starmer was warned of "reputational risks" of appointment but there is no mention that Mandelson did not pass vetting process



Jul: ***Wall Street Journal*** reveals documents from Epstein estate, including alleged 2003 birthday message from Mandelson calling sex offender his "best pal"

Sep: Starmer sacks Mandelson after documents show Labour peer sent supportive emails to Epstein while he was facing charges in 2008

Apr 16: Starmer says he did not know Mandelson failed vetting process until two days previously, on Apr 14. Foreign Office head ***Olly Robbins*** *(above)* sacked

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