## News review October 14 – November 3

### Remember him?



- The British far-right activist Tommy Robinson. Founder of the English Defence League.
- He spread misinformation during the anti-immigration riots this summer, after the Southport stabbing.
- In October 2024, he was sentenced to 18 months in jail for contempt of court: he repeated false allegations against a Syrian refugee, in breach of a 2021 court order.



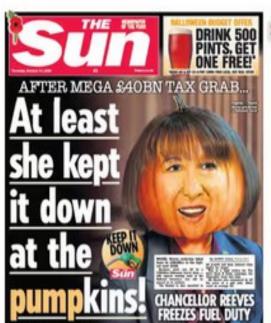


Kemi Badenoch, the new leader of the Conservative party (and thus leader of the opposition) since November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024





TRUMP ACCUSED UK LABOUR PARTY OF MEDDLING IN US ELECTION

















# On October 30th, 2024, Rachel Reeves, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, announced the Labour government's Autumn budget

- Video: https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/video/2024/d
- Article: https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2024/oct/30/
- Reeves says this budget will raise taxes by £40bn.
- "Return of tax and spend"

#### TAX

- Planes and private jets
  - → Air passenger duty will increase by up to £2 for each economy short-haul flight. Private jets will attract an extra 50% air passenger duty, up to £450 per passenger for a flight.
- Private school fees
  - → VAT will be brought in on private school fees from January 2025.
- Capital gains tax
  - → Capital gains tax will be increased. The lower rate will be raised from 10% to 18%, and the higher rate from 20% to 24%.
- National insurance
  - → Reeves will raise employers' national insurance contributions by 1.2 percentage points to 15% from April 2025.

#### SPEND

- Public spending
  - → There will be a 1.5% increase in real spending on government departments.
- Schools and education
  - → Reeves said the Department for Education would receive £6.7bn of capital investment, a 19% real-terms increase.
- NHS
  - → Reeves announced a £22.6bn increase in the day-to-day health budget, and £3.1bn increase in the capital budget.
- Energy
  - → Reeves announced £3.4bn for the warm homes plan to upgrade buildings, lowering energy bills.

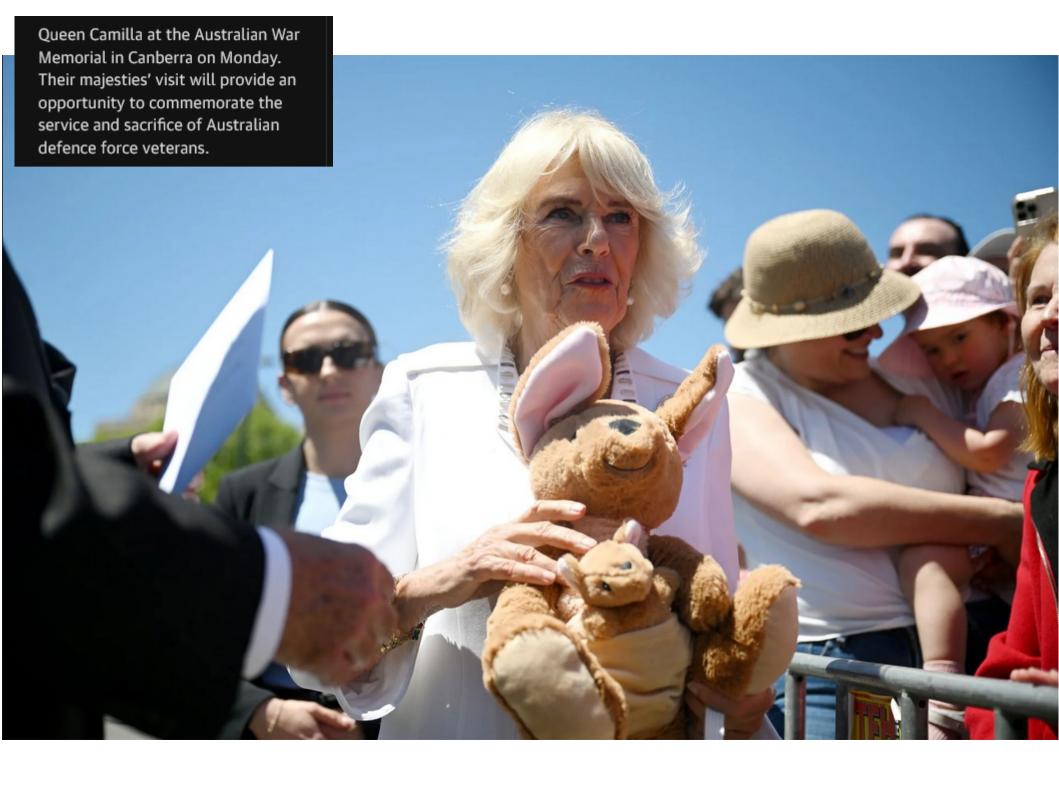




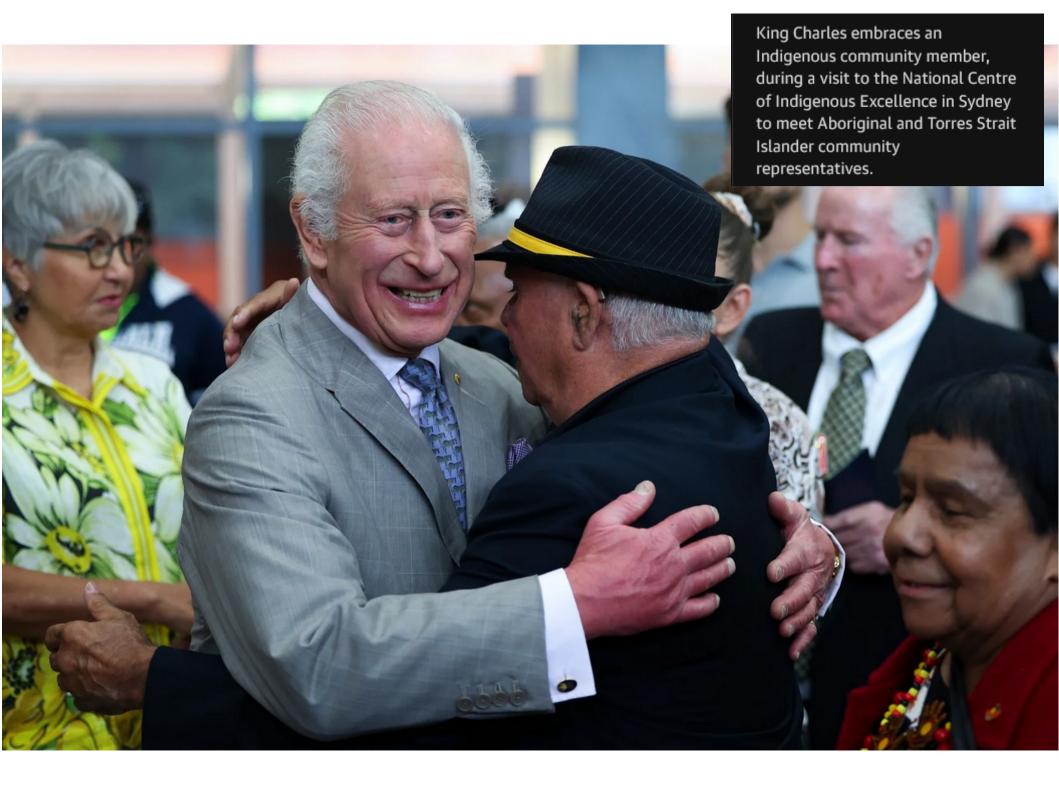




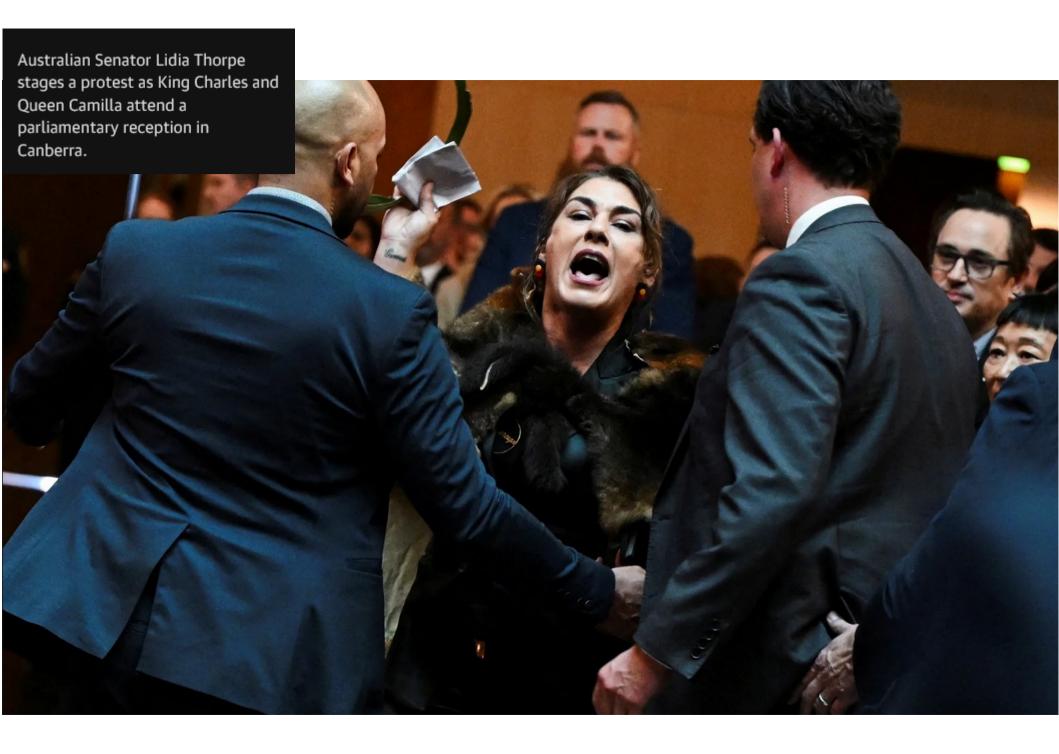












# The 2024 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, in Samoa





### The "grate cheese robbery"

- 22 metric tons of rare Cheddar worth at least 300,000 pounds disappeared in a con.
- A scammer posed as the agent of a French distributor renowned for organising major artisanal cheese events. After fooling Neal's Yard Dairy, a dairy company, into handing over the cheese, the thief made off with 950 cheddar wheels weighing 24 tonnes.



Where is the cheese now?

The UK government announced that single-use vapes would be banned in England and Wales beginning on June 1, 2025.



### Rough sleeping in London hits record high amid predictions of worse to come

Homelessness charities call for long-term plan and say 18% increase to 4,780 people 'should incense us all'





Get out of jail free 1,700 PRISONERS RELEASED EARLY — AMID WARNINGS SOME ARE 'CERTAIN' TO REOFFEND PAGE 16 PAGE 6

#### Early prisoner releases

- The government is releasing 1,100 more prisoners early, as part of its emergency plan to ease overcrowding in jails in England and Wales.
- Offenders serving more than five years are being released on licence after spending 40% of their time behind bars.
- The scheme excludes those convicted of serious violence, sex crimes and terrorism.
- Controversial. Starmer said he "shares the public's anger" at scenes of criminals celebrating their early release outside prisons.