

**Press review February 10th
to 16th 2025**

The Cabinet

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Sir Keir Starmer KCB KC MP
Prime Minister



Angela Rayner MP
Deputy Prime Minister and
Secretary of State for Levelling
up, Housing and Communities



Rachel Reeves MP
Chancellor of the
Exchequer



David Lammy MP
Secretary of State for
Foreign, Commonwealth
and Development Affairs



Yvette Cooper MP
Secretary of State for the
Home Department



Wes Streeting MP
Secretary of State for
Health and Social Care



Bridget Phillipson MP
Secretary of State for
Education



Ed Milliband MP
Secretary of State
for Energy Security
and Net Zero



Pat McFadden MP
Chancellor of the
Duchy of Lancaster



Shabana Mahmood MP
Lord Chancellor and
Secretary of State for
Justice



Jonathan Reynolds MP
Secretary of State for Business
and Trade and President of the
Board of Trade



Liz Kendall MP
Secretary of State for
Work and Pensions



John Healey MP
Secretary of State for
Defence



Louise Haigh MP
Secretary of State
for Transport



Lisa Nandy MP
Secretary of State for
Culture, Media and Sport



Steve Reed OBE MP
Secretary of State for
Environment, Food and
Rural Affairs



Peter Kyle MP
Secretary of State for Science,
Innovation and Technology



Sir Alan Campbell MP
Parliamentary Secretary
to the Treasury
(Chief Whip)



Hilary Benn MP
Secretary of State for
Northern Ireland



Ian Murray MP
Secretary of State for
Scotland



Jo Stevens MP
Secretary of State for
Wales



Richard Hermer KC
Attorney General



Lucy Powell MP
Lord President of the
Council, and Leader of
the House of Commons



**Baroness Smith of
Basildon**
Lord Privy Seal, and Leader
of the House of Lords



Darren Jones MP
Chief Secretary
to the Treasury

For further insights, contact our specialist team of strategic political advisors:

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Home Office launches new immigration raids as it vaunts deportation numbers

Labour's boasts about tough immigration stance prompt disquiet in party as it attempts to counter Reform threat

Pippa Crerar, Diane Taylor
and Peter Walker

Mon 10 Feb 2025 01.01 CET

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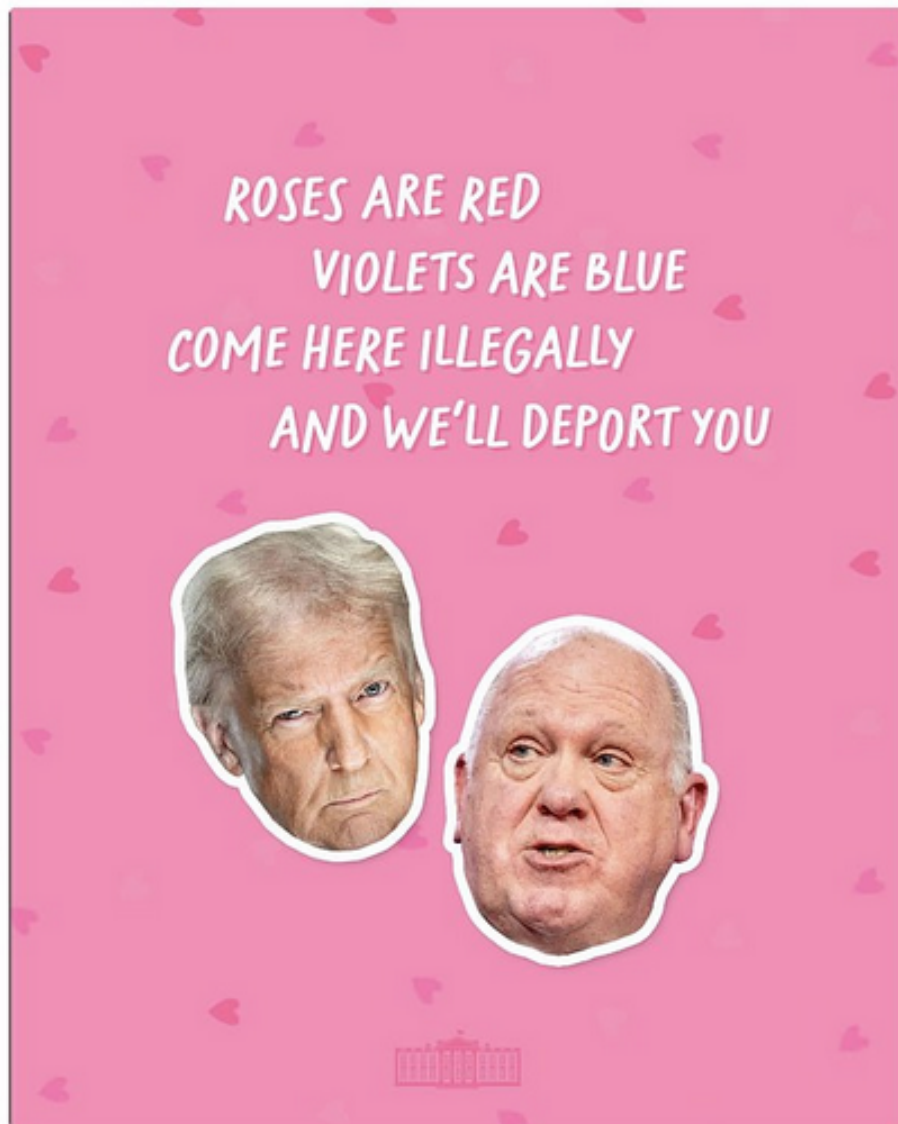


 Home secretary Yvette Cooper. Photograph: Jeff Moore/PA

The [Home Office](#) is launching a fresh wave of immigration raids for illegal working and boasting of record numbers of deportations as Labour attempts to counter the growing political threat from Reform UK.



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Rowena Mason

Wed 12 Feb 2025 01.01 CET

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Rogue landlords in England to face curbs on housing benefit income, says Labour

Deputy PM Angela Rayner announces plans as she presents £350m funding increase for affordable housing



📷 Policies announced by Rayner include a new licensing scheme and the ability to stop housing benefit going to rogue landlords. Photograph: Thomas Krych/Zuma Press Wire/Rex/Shutterstock

Rogue landlords in England will face curbs on how much housing benefit they can receive if their properties are substandard, [Angela Rayner](#) has said as she announced an extra £350m for affordable housing.

The deputy prime minister presented the funding increase, adding to £500m already announced at the budget, as part of the government's drive to [build 1.5m homes](#).

Donald Trump

Trump to announce 25% aluminium and steel tariffs as China's levies against US come into effect


US president accused of 'shifting goalposts' by premier of Ontario for adding further tariffs on top of existing metal duties, as China's fossil fuel levies come into force

Helen Davidson and agencies

Mon 10 Feb 2025 09:09 CET

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 Donald Trump speaks to reporters aboard Air Force One as he travels to New Orleans, Louisiana, on Sunday. Photograph: Ben Curtis/AP

2 Trump said he could withhold aid from Egypt and Jordan.



- **Why?** To pressure them to take Palestinians displaced from Gaza, which Trump wants the U.S. to own. He also said Palestinians would not be allowed to return under his plan.

Trump says he has spoken to Putin and agreed to negotiate Ukraine ceasefire

US secretary of defence Pete Hegseth says Ukraine would have to cede territory, alarming Kyiv and European allies

Andrew Roth in Washington, Dan Sabbagh in Brussels and Piotr Sauer

Wed 12 Feb 2025 23.35 CET

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Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin spoke over the phone. Composite: Abaca/Rex/Shutterstock, Sputnik via EPA

[Donald Trump](#) has said that he and [Vladimir Putin](#) have agreed to begin negotiations to broker a ceasefire in Ukraine, later adding that it was unlikely Kyiv would win back all its territory or join Nato if a deal is to be reached.

Trump said that he was “OK” with [Ukraine](#) not having Nato membership and that it was “unlikely” that Ukraine would take much land back in the negotiations.

Russia “took a lot of land, and they fought for that land and they lost a lot of soldiers”, he told reporters later in the Oval Office.

Trump said he was not closely concerned with which territories were handed over.

“I’m just here to try and get peace,” he said. “I don’t care so much about anything other than I want to stop having millions of people killed.”

JD Vance stuns Munich conference with blistering attack on Europe's leaders

US vice-president questions whether European values are worth defending as he rails against 'threat from within'

● [Explainer: how do JD Vance's Europe claims stand up?](#)

Patrick Wintour
Diplomatic editor in Munich

Fri 14 Feb 2025 19.36 CET

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■ 'I fear free speech is in retreat,' JD Vance rebukes Europe's leaders - video

The US vice-president, [JD Vance](#), has launched a brutal ideological assault on Europe, accusing its leaders of suppressing free speech, failing to halt illegal migration and running in fear from voters' true beliefs.

In a chastising speech on Friday that openly questioned whether current European values warranted defence by the US, he painted a picture of European politics infected by media censorship, cancelled elections and political correctness.

Fist-fights, anthem boos in stormy US, Canada ice hockey clash

Montreal (AFP) – Three fights in the first nine seconds and a chorus of deafening boos for the US national anthem marked a stormy ice hockey clash between the United States and Canada in Montreal on Saturday.



Team USA's Matthew Tkachuk, left, fights Brandon Hagel, right, of Team Canada at the start of an intense 4 Nations Face-Off game in Montreal © Minas Panagiotakis / GETTY IMAGES NORTH AMERICA/AFP

Macron convenes European leaders for Ukraine summit amid tension with US

Paris meeting aims to retake initiative on talks about Ukraine's future as US and Russian delegates prepare to meet

**Patrick Wintour in Munich
and Jon Henley in Paris**

Sun 16 Feb 2025 15.01 CET

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 Volodymyr Zelenskyy has been adamant that Ukraine 'will never accept deals made behind our backs without our involvement'. Photograph: Nicolas Tucatz/Reuters

Emmanuel Macron will host a Paris summit of European defence powers on Monday to try to retake the initiative and demand the US ends its lockout of Europe from talks on Ukraine's future.

2 Robert F. Kennedy Jr. was confirmed as Trump's health secretary.



President Donald Trump congratulates Robert F. Kennedy Jr. moments after he was sworn in as Health and Human Services secretary. (Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post)

- **What to know:** The anti-vaccine activist will oversee a nearly \$2 trillion health portfolio. The Senate confirmed Kennedy yesterday — see how your lawmaker voted here.

Trump administration

Musk's 'Doge' guts nearly \$1bn in US education department's research office

Cuts in effect wipe out Institute of Education Sciences, one of the country's largest funders of education research

Erum Salam

Tue 11 Feb 2025 23.11 CET

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📷 IES gathers and disseminates data and research subjects including the state of US student achievement, school crime and safety, and high school science course completion. Photograph: Stella/Getty Images/fStop

Trump executive order vows substantial cuts to federal workforce

The order, which empowers DOGE, is the most explicit statement yet by the president to the federal workforce.

Updated February 11, 2025



President Donald Trump signed an executive order Tuesday that requires federal agencies to work with the U.S. DOGE Service to cut their existing workforce and limit future hiring — the most explicit statement yet by the president that he supports “large-scale” cuts to the federal workforce.

The executive order gives billionaire Elon Musk’s DOGE, tasked with finding government inefficiencies, even more power than it has amassed in the first three weeks of the new administration. The order installs a “DOGE Team Lead” at each agency and gives that person oversight over hiring decisions. DOGE stands for Department of Government Efficiency.

The directive instructs agency heads, after the hiring freeze expires, to recruit no more than one employee for every four who depart from the federal government, with exemptions for personnel and functions “related to public safety, immigration enforcement, or law enforcement.” And it orders agency heads to “promptly undertake preparations to initiate large-scale reductions in force, consistent with applicable law.”

FEB. 24, 2025

TIME

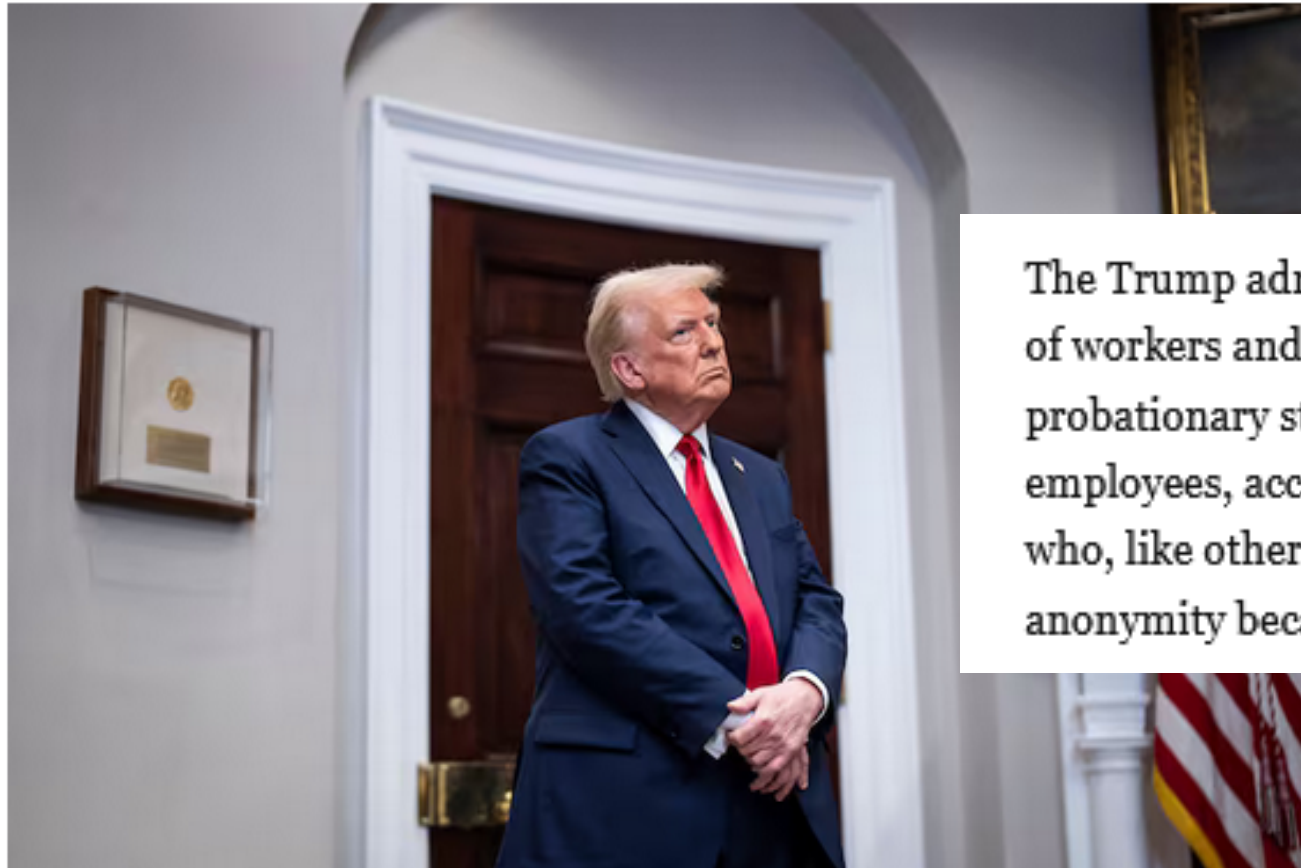


Trump administration directs agency heads to fire most probationary staff

Terminations should happen within two days, according to four people familiar with internal conversations.

February 13, 2025

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President Donald Trump at the White House on Jan 21. (Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post)

The Trump administration on Thursday moved swiftly to fire thousands of workers and directed agency heads to terminate most trial and probationary staff — a move that could affect as many as 200,000 employees, according to four people familiar with internal conversations who, like others interviewed for this report, spoke on the condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to speak publicly.

By [Hannah Natanson](#) and [Emily Davies](#)

Protesters target Tesla showrooms in US over Elon Musk's government cost-cutting

Demonstrations across the US against tycoon's ties to Trump highlight potential risks to firm's reputation and sales

Jasper Jolly

Sun 16 Feb 2025 13:37 CET

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A protest outside a Tesla dealership in Seattle against Musk's role in the newly created 'department of government efficiency' (aka Doge). Photograph: David Ryder/Reuters

Protesters gathered outside Tesla dealerships across the US on Saturday in response to Elon Musk's efforts to shred government spending under the president, [Donald Trump](#).

Groups of demonstrators up to 100-strong gathered outside the electric carmaker's showrooms in cities including New York, Seattle, Kansas City and across California. Organisers said the protests took place in dozens of locations.



Donald J. Trump ✓

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2/15/25, 12:53 PM

The document was backed by 60 other signatories on Tuesday, including France, [China](#), India, Japan, Australia and Canada.

A UK government spokesperson said the statement had not gone far enough in addressing global governance of AI and the technology's impact on national security.

"We agreed with much of the leaders' declaration and continue to work closely with our international partners. This is reflected in our signing of agreements on sustainability and cybersecurity today at the Paris AI Action summit," the spokesperson said. "However, we felt the declaration didn't provide enough practical clarity on global governance, nor sufficiently address harder questions around national security and the challenge AI poses to it."

Confirmation of the snub came soon after the US vice-president, [JD Vance](#), took to the stage at the Grand Palais to criticise Europe's "excessive regulation" of technology and warn against cooperating with China.

Asked if Britain had declined to sign because it wanted to follow the US lead, Keir Starmer's spokesperson said they were "not aware of the US reasons or position" on the declaration. A government source rejected the suggestion that Britain was trying to curry favour with the US.

Elon Musk

Elon Musk-led group makes surprise bid of nearly \$100bn for OpenAI

Sam Altman, OpenAI's CEO and co-founder, responded that he would not accept and offered to buy X instead

Dara Kerr

Mon 10 Feb 2025 23.27 CET

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 Sam Altman and Elon Musk. Musk was a co-founder of OpenAI but left the company in 2019 and started his own AI company called xAI. Composite: Carlos Barría/Reuters; Rex/Shutterstock

Elon Musk escalated his feud with OpenAI and its CEO, **Sam Altman**, on Monday. The billionaire is leading a consortium of investors that announced it had submitted a bid of \$97.4bn for “all assets” of the artificial intelligence company to OpenAI’s board of directors.