

LIVE Tory PM hopefuls need backing of 100 MPs by Monday to enter race

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How Liz Truss's resignation unfolded

BBC



1:11

Liz Truss: What just happened

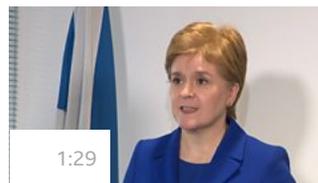
BBC



1:25

Liz Truss's short and bumpy ride in 90 seconds

BBC



1:29

General election is now a democratic imperative, says Sturgeon

BBC



1:40

Davey: We don't need Conservative PM

BBC

Summary

Prime Minister Liz Truss resigns as UK prime minister and leaves Conservative Party. Speaking outside Downing Street, she said she could not deliver the mandate on which she was elected.

It kickstarts a contest to find the next Tory leader and PM - hopefuls need to get the backing of 100 MPs by Monday afternoon
If there are two candidates, the Tory membership will get to vote again, and a winner will be picked by Friday
The newly-appointed Chancellor Jeremy Hunt rules himself out. But Rishi Sunak and Penny Mordaunt are seen as contenders
Sources close to former PM Boris Johnson do not confirm or deny speculation he will stand again
Truss's resignation after 45 days in office makes her the shortest-serving PM in UK history
Her now-abandoned September mini-budget started the turmoil; a chaotic night in the Commons on Wednesday sealed her fate

Live Reporting

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Edited by Andrew
Humphrey

21:07

Reaction around the world to Truss resignation

Here is some of the reaction from senior figures around the UK and the world to Liz Truss's resignation after just six weeks in the job:

Among the first to comment, **French President Emmanuel Macron** said: "France, as a friend of the British people, wants stability."

In the current context of "war, of tensions over energy and the wider crisis" it is important for the UK to regain political stability, he said, adding: "That's all I want."

"On a personal level I'm always sad to see a colleague go and what I mean is I would like stability to return as soon as possible."

US President Joe Biden said the US and the UK will continue their "close cooperation". Describing the two nations as "strong allies and enduring friends" he said: "That fact will never change."

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte said: "I had a good contact with her... so I'm annoyed for her personally. He said they agreed on a "whole range of views".

He added: "I'm looking forward to work with who will be my next colleague. It will be the fifth one I believe."

There was little sympathy for Truss from **Russia**. Its foreign ministry spokeswoman welcomed her departure, saying Britain had "never known such a disgrace of a prime minister".

And **former Russian president Dmitry Medvedev** tweeted "bye, bye @trussliz, congrats to lettuce", in a reference to the Daily Star newspaper's live feed of a lettuce next to a photo of the PM, asking which would last longer.

Ireland's Prime Minister Micheal Martin said he sympathised with Truss "on a personal level" but emphasised the need for stability.

"We would like to see the UK system within its capacity to be in a position to have a successor selected as quickly as possible."

Mark Drakeford, First Minister of Wales, said it was a "complete and utter failure of government, with everyone in this country now having to pay the price".

He said the divisions within the Tory Party mean Truss' successor will face the same set of challenges. "A general election is now the only way to end this paralysis."

Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said a general election is a "democratic imperative".

"There are no words to describe this utter shambles and... said, adding the situation was "beyond hyperbole and parody"

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20:53

Johnson must return in the national interest, MP says

Reuters

A very significant majority of voters in Tory MP Marco Longhi's Dudley North constituency would be very pleased if Boris Johnson came back, he says.

The constituency - a so-called red wall seat because it was traditionally supported the Labour party - voted Conservative in 2019.

Longhi says he wants Johnson to return "in the national interest".

Asked if the man who was forced out of Downing Street in July, and still the subject of an inquiry by a parliamentary standards committee, is a fit and proper person to hold the role again - Longhi replies Johnson "has a mandate from the general public" to be PM.

He says out of the list of names currently in the frame to take over from Liz Truss, there is no unity candidate, except Johnson.

"The one thing that Boris can bring to the table is the fact... he [was] able to win seats up and down the country," he says.

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Sunak only contender with experience of financial crisis says backer Cartlidge

A Tory MP and prominent backer of Rishi Sunak claims the former chancellor is the only credible contender to replace Liz Truss - because he has a proven track record of dealing with financial crises.

James Cartlidge, who was Sunak's parliamentary private secretary during the Covid-19 pandemic, says his old boss helped people "in all walks of life" with his furlough scheme.

"He's the right man for the moment," Cartlidge tells BBC News, adding people know he can deal with "extraordinary" economic situations when necessary.

Challenged on whether Sunak's out of touch with voters - and why therefore MPs should vote for him - Cartlidge says it's "quite obvious" there's an "issue with instability" and the party needs someone who can cope with that effectively.

Sunak "can bring that stability and we can look to better times ahead," Cartlidge says.

The former chancellor is yet to announce whether he'll run for the leadership again, but various reports suggest allies of his are confident that he will.

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20:21

Watch: What just happened?

Why has Liz Truss resigned as prime minister?

It's been a hectic few months in politics and after just over six weeks in the job Liz Truss has resigned as prime minister, which makes her by far the shortest-serving PMr in British history.

What went wrong for her and why? And what happens next? Leila Nathoo looks back at the 45 days which saw the rise and fall of a prime minister.

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20:14

Truss couldn't hold the party together - minister



Tim Donovan
BBC London Political Editor

BBC

Some more Tory reaction, this time from Minister for Local Government Paul Scully who has expressed his relief at Liz Truss's departure.

Scully accepts the Conservatives are in a "fragile" position adding that "it was clear she couldn't hold the party together".

Commenting on whether Boris Johnson could make a comeback as leader, Scully said he would be surprised if he ends up doing so.

"I think there is a better life for him outside of politics," he adds.

"We need to move on from the past and get on with the future. It is a matter for him. People are looking for change and strong leadership."



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19:58

Put aside egos and prejudices, urges former Tory minister

Tim Loughton, a former minister, has been telling BBC Radio 4 he wants the four “big beasts” in the party to form an alliance and agree who should be prime minister.

He says that if former Chancellor Rishi Sunak, Commons leader Penny Mordaunt, Chancellor Jeremy Hunt and Defence Secretary Ben Wallace could agree between them who will stand, there would be no need for a leadership contest and "we can get back to some degree of normality".

Asked if that would be acceptable to right-wing members of the Tory Party, Loughton says people "need to park all those egos" and put aside prejudices about certain candidates.

He says the party and country face a really urgent situation.

"We need to have a united and talented cabinet of grown-ups who come together and get us back on course," he adds.

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19:47

Who should replace Liz Truss?

The next question from the Question Time audience is who should replace Liz Truss as prime minister.

Rachel Johnson distances herself from answering the question as she says she isn't one of the Tory MPs voting.

Tory MP Graham Stuart says he "honestly doesn't know" who to back.

However, Baroness Cavendish - David Cameron's former director of policy - feels the obvious candidate is Rishi Sunak.

CBI director general Tony Danker says he cannot give a name but tells the programme he has two areas of criteria for who ever the candidate is.

He says the next leader has to agree with Chancellor  they have to understand the economy.

19:43

Tories have one last chance, claims CBI chief

BBC Question Time

After observing that the majority of the Question Time audience can agree on one thing - that they want a general election - the CBI's **Tony Danker** claims the Conservative Party "probably has a last chance moment in the next few days".

He continues: "To show a level of stability, grip, national interest first..."

He's interrupted by the BBC's Fiona Bruce, who tells him that in the next few days, what we'll have is a race to become the next prime minister. There'll be "frantic activity", she says, gesturing with her hands.

Danker responds by saying that if the next candidates to be PM are unable to breakaway from the "kinds of arguments they've been having for the last three months... then that's a pretty bad sign and maybe we should have that election sooner".

19:34

What has the reaction been around the UK?

Across the UK, our correspondents have been gathering reaction from the devolved governments to Liz Truss's resignation.

Scotland

BBC Scotland editor James Cook says the SNP is calling for an early general election.

Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon told him it was a "democratic necessity" the country goes to the polls and described Truss as a footnote in political history.

She added it would be a "ludicrous" and "ridiculous" idea if Boris Johnson returned as prime minister - a view shared by Scottish Conservative leader Douglas Ross, the BBC Scotland editor says.

Northern Ireland

BBC Ireland correspondent Chris Page says today's events have increased instability, but the parties at Stormont still think a fresh Northern Ireland Assembly election will be called next week. It is expected to be held in December.

It comes after Northern Ireland Secretary Chris Heaton-Harris said he had a legal obligation to call a new assembly election if no devolved government was formed by 28 October.

Wales

BBC Wales correspondent Tomos Morgan says Welsh First Minister Mark Drakeford also called for a general election and thinks it's ridiculous the Conservatives could credibly have a leader that could take them through to 2024.

But our correspondent notes a new Johnson government would be popular with Welsh Tory members as he managed to equal their best general election result in Wales in 2019.

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19:21

Question Time audience member brands Tories 'delirious'

Some interaction from the Question Time audience in Cheltenham.

One man says he "feels sorry" for Liz Truss, arguing "she should never have been put in charge of the highest office of state".

Another audience member brands the Tory Party "delirious", adding that emotion in the room "speaks volumes".

Fiona Bruce says these points lead the programme onto its first audience member question which is whether it is time for a general election?

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19:19

I don't know if Boris will run, his sister says



Also appearing on Question Time is Rachel Johnson, Boris Johnson's sister.

She says she doesn't know whether her brother will run for prime minister again.

She says the Tory Party is depleted and jokes that they should just keep the lectern out in Downing Street so that they don't have to "lug it in and out of the revolving door".

Pressed by Fiona Bruce on Boris Johnson's ambitions, she says: "I know nothing."



19:17

'Things are on their knees' - Jess Phillips

The Conservative Party are "not fit to govern", Labour MP Jess Phillips says.

Speaking on BBC Question Time, the shadow domestic violence minister describes the current political instability as a "revolving door of chaos" and says services across the country "are on their knees".

She says: "People's mortgages have gone up, people's lives have been dramatically affected.

"They're [Conservatives] not fit to govern, they don't h

"Whoever wins next Monday should go immediately to the country [for a general election] because the country is desperate for change."



19:09

I had no idea Truss was going to resign - minister

BBC Question Time

Speaking on Question Time, government minister Graham Stuart says the Tory Party is doing some soul searching.

He apologises to the Cheltenham audience and to the country for the "instability" caused.

"On the inside track it hasn't been comfortable," he says. "We are facing many challenges."

Stuart says he assumed Liz Truss was resigning when it was announced she was making a statement.

He said he sat in silence with colleagues in the House of Commons tea room and watched her statement on TV.

"I had no idea before then, and I'm a government minister and a member of the cabinet, but that's the nature of these things," he said.

"I feel disappointed, shocked, I backed Liz Truss."



19:06

Britain's reputation has taken a hammering



Jessica Parker
Reporting from Brussels

Getty Images

The news of Liz Truss's resignation broke just as leaders started walking up the red carpet to speak to reporters here at the European Council summit.

Luxembourg's Prime Minister Xavier Bettel started listing the UK leaders he's known since 2016.

"The consequence of the Brexit brings instability in the UK now," he told reporters.

This is a common belief here amongst those who remain dedicated to the EU cause and who could never quite understand Britain's decision to depart.

Now, six years on, Europe is facing an energy crisis, economic worries and a war on European soil.

So strong cooperation with UK - a major economy and defence power - is genuinely valued and desired.

Many here often tell me that traditionally they've seen the UK as a relatively stable country, not one of those known for economic and political volatility.

In that regard Britain's reputation has certainly taken a hammering.

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18:50

Up shortly: Minister, CBI chief and Boris Johnson's sister on Question Time panel

Question Time gets under way on **BBC One and the iPlayer shortly**. This week Fiona Bruce and the team are in Cheltenham and will be digesting the tumultuous weeks of Liz Truss's short term as prime minister.

On the panel tonight are:

- Tory MP and Climate Minister **Graham Stuart**
- Labour MP for Birmingham Yardley **Jess Phillips**
- Director General of the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) **Tony Danker**
- Boris Johnson's sister and broadcaster **Rachel Johnson**
- David Cameron's former director of policy **Baroness Cavendish**

Tune in at 8pm.

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18:26

Watch: How Liz Truss's resignation unfolded

Liz Truss resignation: How the day unfolded

The day began with politicians and journalists alike asking whether there was still a chance that Liz Truss could salvage her premiership.

Hours later came 1922 Committee chairman Sir Graham Brady's visit to Downing Street. Then a podium was wheeled out in front of No 10 and Truss emerged to address the waiting media.

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18:18

Truss bequeaths chaos on her party and the country



2022 has been the year of three prime ministers - at least.

After an astonishing decade in British politics, another unprecedented moment.

The era of Liz Truss was far too short to deserve that word - a calamitously brief premiership whose near entire programme for government was brutally rejected by the markets and her party almost instantaneously.

She bequeaths chaos - on her party and the country, and a desire to find her replacement by a week tomorrow.

A replacement cooked up among Conservative MPs and then, if two wannabes still remain, chosen by the party membership at lightning pace.

The winner will confront all of the same colossal problems Truss has faced - turmoil at home and abroad, a fractious party 12 years into office, and unless it is Boris Johnson, no mandate from the electorate.

Unless it is Boris Johnson - now there's a thought.

He and those around him are carefully not saying anything yet and in so doing letting the very idea of his possible return be discussed.

Some MPs still love him and plenty of party members do, but others would be outraged if he came back.

Then there is Rishi Sunak, Penny Mordaunt and others.

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Jenny Kumah
South West England correspondent

MPs in the South West were among the first to call for Liz Truss to resign.

Today in Exeter, there were a range of views on the outgoing prime minister's resignation. Some expressed relief, others disappointment and some hope that a general election would be called.

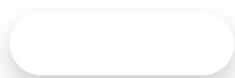
Rinny Frye runs a local business. She tells me she had high hopes for Truss as a female prime minister but now feels disappointed.

Rinny votes Labour and would like a general election. "We need more support for independent businesses," she says. "We have a family and I need more help with living costs".

BBC

Kevin Pritchard tells me "it's not a surprise" that Truss resigned. "I think when the Conservative members voted, they chose the wrong person to be prime minister. She was too far right wing," he says.

Kevin says he has voted Conservative in the past - but's undecided who he'll vote for in the next general election.





17:52

Watch: Liz Truss's short and bumpy ride in 85 seconds

Liz Truss is now the shortest-serving prime minister in UK history.

She'll stay in the role until her successor is chosen, but here's a look back at the 45 tumultuous days from her appointment to her resignation speech.

Liz Truss's short and bumpy ride in 90 seconds



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