

Will he run?

Published: January 14, 2026, 1:35 pm

There is much talk of Johnson arriving back in the UK this morning to begin his campaign to be prime minister again by next Friday.

He might do that. Of course, I do not know what he will do. I do not pretend otherwise. But let's not pretend he will necessarily go for the premiership again.

He was expected to do so in 2016. The signs were all there. But he realised the time was not right, aided by Gove, admittedly. He walked away from a contest he was expected to win.

I think he might do so again. He will love this wave of publicity. He will ride all the income generating opportunities that it creates. They are his motivation.

And precisely because coming back and then suffering a short, chaotic premiership will harm those chances to make money he is already beginning to enjoy, he will walk away, playing the statesman and saying the time is not right. Someone will play the Gove role, again.

At least, I hope so. I have to hope so.