

Is Keir Starmer still fit to be Prime Minister?

Published: February 12, 2026, 7:29 am

After two debacles that have demonstrated a massive lack of judgment in appointments made by Keir Starmer since becoming Prime Minister, both of which have created serious ramifications, he is about to create a third.

Starmer has now sacked Chris Wormauld, the Cabinet Secretary, whom he appointed after about a year in office - a surprisingly short term in office.

It is widely reported that he intends to replace him with Dame Antonio Romeo, who was considered when Wormauld was appointed, without repeating the vetting process, because it is claimed that none is required, as she was vetted a year or so ago.

Channel 4 News noted this in a [quite extraordinary interview](#) last night with Lord McDonald last night:



Channel 4 News 
@Channel4News

...

Britain's top civil servant Cabinet Secretary Chris Wormauld is set to depart Downing Street - and it has been widely briefed that Sir Kier Starmer intends to replace him with Antonia Romeo.

But Dame Antonia has been at times a controversial figure - she was investigated by the Foreign Office while serving as Consul General in New York in 2017 over allegations of bullying, harassment, discrimination and misusing expenses.

Now Lord McDonald, who was the Permanent Secretary in charge of the Foreign Office at the time, says he's tried to offer his testimony as part of the vetting process but hasn't yet heard back.



Rarely have I seen a civil servant angrier. He made no attempt to hide it either. He obviously thinks that this appointment would represent a massive error of judgment.

No. 10 is already making excuses:

 **The Modern Aurelius**
@modernaurelius

...

I mean this is not a great look.

A spokesperson for the Cabinet Office said the allegations were 'made some time ago, were thoroughly investigated and were dismissed on the basis there was no case to answer'.

The newspaper also said junior staff working under Romeo had felt pressured to submit questionable expenses on her behalf, including private school fees for her children in New York and a last-minute flight to attend the Bafta awards.

And the newspaper noted that she had attended and hosted parties in New York whose attendees included media mogul Rupert Murdoch, model Alexa Chung, designers such as Calvin Klein and Michael Kors, and since-disgraced director Harvey Weinstein.

But Penman said criticism of Romeo networking with celebrities and attending glitzy functions was misplaced.

9:50 PM · Feb 11, 2026 · 1,245 Views

'Some time ago' is doing a mighty lot of work in that claim, and as current evidence shows, it is no excuse at all if serious issues exist with the potential to cause reputational damage to the post she is to be appointed to and to the person appointing her.

Is Starmer really stupid enough to do this? If he is, we have to assume that all his excuses are no more than that, and that there is a fundamental flaw in his character that is now apparent, which really does require that he be replaced as Prime Minister as soon as possible.