# Nigel Farage addresses contentious issues on BBC's Panorama Interviews



Nigel Farage appeared on BBC’s Panorama Interviews on Friday, addressing several contentious issues. Farage, the leader of Reform UK, dismissed claims that his divisive stance garners voter support, labeling the notion as “cobblers.” He reiterated criticism of Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, suggesting Sunak does not grasp British culture and accusing western governments of provoking Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

Farage defended Reform UK’s vetting of candidates after instances of offensive comments and controversial pasts led to resignations. He emphasized the lack of a structured party before his involvement but acknowledged recruitment missteps.

His comments on Ukraine drew sharp rebukes from figures like Home Secretary James Cleverly and Labour’s John Healy, who accused Farage of echoing Russian President Vladimir Putin's justifications for the war. Farage claimed NATO and EU expansions prompted Russia's aggressive stance, though he maintained Putin was ultimately at fault.

Separately, a conflict emerged in Plymouth Moor View, where Conservative MP Johnny Mercer accused Labour rival Fred Thomas of inflating his military background. Thomas, a former Royal Marine, cited his Certificate of Valediction to refute the claims. Labour’s John Healey called Mercer’s remarks “deeply disrespectful,” underscoring the candidate’s service record.