# Exclusive club talks reveal possible Reform UK-Conservative pact amid poll surge



The future of Right-wing politics in Britain is unfolding within the refined, cigar-scented private members’ clubs of Mayfair, where power-brokers from the Conservative Party and Nigel Farage’s Reform UK are engaging in strategic negotiations. Amidst an opinion poll surge that has placed Reform UK far ahead of Labour and left the Conservatives trailing alarmingly behind the Liberal Democrats, senior figures from both sides are meeting at exclusive venues such as 5 Hertford Street and Oswald’s to discuss potential alliances and defections.

The Conservatives, hailed as one of the most electorally successful political parties globally with over two centuries of dominance, now face an existential threat. If current polling results translate into the next election, Reform UK, led by the charismatic and media-savvy Nigel Farage, could secure 271 seats compared to Labour’s 178, while the Conservatives would be reduced to a mere 48. This situation has triggered intense soul-searching among Tory grandees and donors who are pondering whether to remain loyal, seek pacts with Reform UK, or defect altogether.

These considerations have played out against the backdrop of opulent fundraising events and gatherings where key figures from both parties converge. At Oswald’s, a venue favoured by prominent personalities including royalty and former prime ministers, top Conservatives such as David Cameron and George Osborne have dined alongside Reform UK leaders like Farage and his treasurer Nick Candy. Nearby, Jacob Rees-Mogg has appeared to play the role of intermediary, advocating for a pact between the parties. Similarly, at 5 Hertford Street, billionaire Michael Spencer and ex-Tory chairman Francis Maude have mingled with Farage’s inner circle, which includes Brexit campaign financiers and strategists, underscoring a shift in political alliances and donor loyalties.

Among the Conservatives, Robert Jenrick stands out as a potential bridge, reportedly more open to negotiating with Reform UK and believed to have support to eventually succeed current Tory leader Kemi Badenoch. Informal discussions about uniting the Right, including the proposal that Jenrick could serve as chancellor in a Farage-led government, have been mooted in traditional clubs like The In & Out, although these claims are officially denied by all parties involved.

The idea of a non-aggression pact seems increasingly inevitable. Some moderate Conservatives envisage an arrangement whereby Reform UK would avoid contesting certain Tory-held seats, particularly in southern England, in exchange for Conservative non-competition in northern constituencies where Reform UK is ascendant. This tactical division of electoral battlegrounds is seen as a way to protect Conservative seats from Labour gains while allowing Reform to consolidate its power base among disaffected voters.

Kemi Badenoch herself appears to advocate for caution, favouring a slow and steady rebuilding of the party with advice from experienced figures like Lord Maude to await a more opportune moment for any electoral arrangements. Most insiders agree the current moment is not ripe for cooperation due to Reform UK’s polling high and Labour’s premature electoral weakness. Despite criticism, Badenoch is considered secure in her leadership at least until the next spring, with few willing to challenge her amid turbulent political prospects.

Farage’s return to frontline politics has been marked by a blend of resilience, media adeptness, and populist appeal, enabling him to capitalise on widespread political dissatisfaction. His 2024 Clacton victory and Reform’s recent local election successes have solidified its stature as a viable political force. Leveraging platforms such as GB News and TikTok, Farage has sustained visibility even as his personal favourability ratings remain modest. Observers note his ability to fuse right-wing nationalism with pragmatic political manoeuvring has struck a chord among voters disenchanted with both Labour and the Conservatives.

Beyond political manoeuvres, Farage has outlined policy initiatives aiming to reshape the UK’s economic landscape. He has pledged to incorporate top business leaders into senior government roles, particularly within the Treasury, echoing Gordon Brown’s ‘government of all the talents’ concept. This pro-business stance seeks to attract investors and corporate sponsors amid dissatisfaction with Labour’s economic management and Conservative decline. However, while some business figures have shown interest in Reform UK’s plans for regulatory cuts and state downsizing, caution remains over the party’s broader fiscal approach and controversial policies.

One such policy, a proposed ‘Robin Hood-style’ tax scheme, would allow new or returning non-domiciled individuals to pay a hefty one-off fee of £250,000 in exchange for lifetime exemption from UK taxes on offshore income and inheritance tax relief for 20 years. The funds raised would be redistributed to the lowest-earning full-time workers, potentially benefiting millions. Farage frames this as restoring a social contract between the wealthy and the working class while countering the exodus of affluent taxpayers under Labour’s more stringent rules. Critics, including tax experts and Chancellor Rachel Reeves, condemn the plan as costly and regressive, suggesting it would result in substantial revenue losses for the Treasury and could force tax hikes on ordinary workers or cuts to public services.

Amid these unfolding political and policy dynamics, Reform UK has attracted considerable attention, including reportedly significant potential donations from global figures such as Elon Musk. A donation of up to $100 million from Musk would be unprecedented in British political history, raising concerns about foreign influence and prompting calls for tighter regulations on political funding.

Meanwhile, the Labour leadership, under Prime Minister Keir Starmer, has been vocal in opposing Farage’s economic proposals, warning they could precipitate a fiscal crisis akin to the market turmoil experienced under Liz Truss’s brief premiership. Starmer has dismissed Farage’s portrayal of Reform UK as a party for working people, asserting his own working-class credentials and Labour’s commitment to economic stability despite current challenges. Analysts suggest Starmer’s best strategy against Reform UK’s rise is to confront their economic policies rather than focus solely on immigration issues.

As the nation watches this realignment within the Right, the coming months will be pivotal in determining whether a new political landscape emerges, possibly anchored by a coalition or pact between Reform UK and resurgent Conservative elements. Whether Kemi Badenoch can orchestrate a revival or be supplanted by figures favouring closer ties with Farage remains uncertain. What is clear is that the corridors of power in London’s most exclusive clubs have become the epicentre of what could be Britain’s political transformation.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1–2 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14857011/How-future-Right-shaped-exquisite-lunches-Londons-exclusive-clubs.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)
* Paragraph 3–6 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14857011/How-future-Right-shaped-exquisite-lunches-Londons-exclusive-clubs.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)
* Paragraph 7–8 – [[4]](https://www.ft.com/content/50eb9b29-a662-45b3-a75d-0c642e4d96b4), [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14857011/How-future-Right-shaped-exquisite-lunches-Londons-exclusive-clubs.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)
* Paragraph 9–11 – [[2]](https://www.ft.com/content/1af61dd4-b240-41d7-a627-21d255c3f888), [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14857011/How-future-Right-shaped-exquisite-lunches-Londons-exclusive-clubs.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)
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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14857011/How-future-Right-shaped-exquisite-lunches-Londons-exclusive-clubs.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.ft.com/content/1af61dd4-b240-41d7-a627-21d255c3f888> - Nigel Farage, leader of Reform UK, has pledged to integrate top business leaders into senior government roles, particularly within the Treasury, should his party win the next general election. Drawing comparisons to Gordon Brown’s 'government of all the talents,' Farage intends to recruit experienced figures from outside traditional politics, which has sparked debate over democratic legitimacy. This move follows increased engagement between Reform UK and key UK business executives amid growing dissatisfaction with Labour's economic management and declining Conservative support. Senior business figures recently attended private events with Farage and his deputy Zia Yusuf, discussing pro-business policies like regulatory reduction and state downsizing. Reform UK has gained momentum following recent local election successes and favourable polling, positioning it as a viable political force. While there is notable corporate interest, many leaders remain cautious about the party’s controversial policies and fiscal uncertainties. Reform plans to attract corporate sponsorship for its upcoming party conference, with major business lobby groups planning to attend. The party is also actively differentiating itself from Labour and Conservatives by emphasising real-world business experience among its leadership.
3. <https://www.ft.com/content/50c6ce47-f427-4665-90b4-7a1d27c5e626> - Nigel Farage, leader of Reform UK, has proposed a new tax policy allowing new or returning non-domiciled individuals (non-doms) to pay a one-off fee of £250,000 for lifetime exemption from UK taxes on offshore income and 20 years of inheritance tax relief. The funds raised would be distributed to the lowest-earning 10% of full-time workers, potentially giving £600 to 2.5 million workers if 6,000 non-doms participate. Farage argues this 'Robin Hood-style' scheme would restore the social contract between the wealthy and low-income earners and help reverse an exodus of affluent individuals following Labour's tax policy tightening. However, critics including tax expert Dan Neidle and Chancellor Rachel Reeves have condemned the plan. Neidle estimates the policy could cost the UK Treasury £34 billion over five years, asserting it effectively provides ongoing tax cuts for the super-rich. Reeves labelled the idea 'worse than a gimmick,' warning that it might necessitate tax hikes on working people or cuts to public services. Labour argues the policy offers more generous terms than previous Conservative rules and would ultimately lead to reduced tax revenue from non-doms.
4. <https://www.ft.com/content/50eb9b29-a662-45b3-a75d-0c642e4d96b4> - Nigel Farage, once seemingly retired from frontline politics, has made a dramatic return, winning the Clacton seat in 2024 and leading Reform UK to significant gains in recent local elections. Known for his resilience and charisma, Farage has repeatedly reemerged in British politics despite earlier retirements and controversies. He has survived internal party conflicts, a near-fatal plane crash, and criticism for his ties to Donald Trump. Farage skillfully leverages media, especially through GB News and social platforms like TikTok, to maintain visibility and influence. Unlike many pro-Trump international figures, Farage has managed to thrive, partly due to weaker opponents and Britain’s ongoing political dissatisfaction, including discontent over Brexit and immigration. Though his overall favourability remains low, projected national results from local elections suggest Reform could top the polls, challenging the dominance of established parties. If successful in the next general election, Farage could become the oldest incoming prime minister since Churchill and with minimal time in Parliament. His political journey underscores an extraordinary ability to blend populist appeal with media savvy, making him a potent force in contemporary British politics.
5. <https://apnews.com/article/6eb3ea7806b31275a52d71919d6fc35f> - Elon Musk is reportedly considering donating up to $100 million to Nigel Farage's Reform U.K. party, sparking a political stir in the UK. This potential donation, the largest in British political history, has triggered calls to tighten political donation rules. Reform U.K., a right-wing party founded in 2021, seeks to capitalise on social media's power, inspired by Trump, to appeal to disaffected voters. Farage's party previously secured 14% of the vote but aims for significant growth. Critics warn Musk's involvement could influence UK politics, highlighting loopholes that enable foreign intervention via corporate donations. The UK's Electoral Commission urges legal reforms to safeguard political financing integrity.
6. <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-pm-starmer-warns-farages-fantasy-fiscal-plans-would-crash-economy-2025-05-29/> - British Prime Minister Keir Starmer has criticised Reform UK leader Nigel Farage's economic proposals, warning they could crash the economy if implemented. Starmer described Farage's tax and spending plans as a 'fantasy,' likening them to the failed economic strategy of former Prime Minister Liz Truss in 2022, whose unfunded tax cuts led to market turmoil. As Labour struggles with declining public support due to recent tax hikes and spending cuts, Reform UK has gained traction, leading recent opinion polls. Farage, promoting a blend of right-wing and left-leaning policies, claims Reform represents 'working people,' a statement Starmer rebuffed, citing his own working-class roots. The Institute for Fiscal Studies estimated a Reform proposal to raise the income tax personal allowance could cost £50–80 billion. Despite criticism, Starmer retains a large parliamentary majority and is resisting populist pressures, though he is reconsidering some welfare policies. Political analysts advise Starmer to challenge Farage on economic grounds rather than immigration. A recent YouGov poll shows Reform ahead of Labour (29% to 21%), though more people still favour Starmer as prime minister over Farage.