# Nigel Farage criticised for skipping Commons amid crucial EU fishing deal debate



Nigel Farage has come under fire for his recent decision to skip a week in the House of Commons while enjoying a holiday abroad, reportedly in France. This absence amid pivotal political discussions has not gone unnoticed, especially as Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer seized the opportunity to point out Farage's failure to engage on critical issues relating to a newly signed agreement with the European Union that threatens to undermine British sovereignty and reignite fears about Brexit.

Farage has been vocal in his disdain for Prime Minister Rishi Sunak’s latest EU deal, particularly concerning the unwelcome extension of access to UK fishing waters for European fleets, a move widely viewed as a capitulation to external interests at the expense of British fishermen. Starmer, in an apparent swipe at Farage, indicated that the absence of dialogue from him on such pressing matters displayed a lack of serious engagement that voters deserve. Sunak claimed that a confrontational posture does not equate to effective diplomacy—a sentiment that lacks consideration of real opposition to London’s current trajectory.

In defense of his absence, Farage remarked, "There seems to be great consternation in the press that they have not seen me for 48 hours. Well, they will have to wait some time," framing his getaway as a much-needed respite after three long years. However, this excuse prompted sharp criticism from the Conservatives, branding him a “part-time” leader who is ill-equipped to tackle the pressing issues Starmer is bringing to the forefront.

Farage has also faced scrutiny over the credibility of Reform UK's membership numbers, even threatening legal action against Conservative leader Kemi Badenoch for alleging that he had inflated these figures. This controversy sheds light on a significant problem within UK politics—the murky waters of party memberships that facilitate such disputes. Reform UK reportedly boasts almost 142,500 members, surpassing the Conservative tally, raising essential questions about transparency and accountability at a time when trust in political institutions is paramount.

Moreover, the critiques of Farage’s commitment extend beyond membership figures. His absence from a critical House of Commons session, wherein Home Secretary Yvette Cooper unveiled plans to combat child sexual exploitation, calls into question his dedication to serious social issues that should be aligned with his political messaging. His prior absence during a significant D-Day commemoration, where he criticized Prime Minister Sunak for leaving early, further underscores a troubling pattern of disengagement that could alienate potential supporters who expect concrete action.

Farage’s penchant for controversy, as he navigates the shifting political landscape following the recent general election, highlights the challenges that loom large for him and his party. As he prepares to return to the political arena post-holiday, it remains to be seen whether he can re-establish himself as a credible force against the Labour government and address the genuine concerns of the electorate that demand robust opposition, not holiday escapades.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14732535/Nigel-Farage-admits-hes-skipping-Commons-week-hes-HOLIDAY-time-Reform-UK-leader-faced-questions-absence-PM-reveals-Brexit-reset.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.ft.com/content/14b46091-2b9f-48f1-a2d9-1f3c41742644> - Nigel Farage has threatened legal action against Kemi Badenoch, the Conservative leader, demanding an apology after she accused him of falsifying Reform UK's membership numbers. Farage called Badenoch's statement 'outrageous' and plans to pursue action within days. The controversy began when Badenoch alleged that Reform's membership counter was rigged to increase automatically, in response to Farage's claim that Reform UK's membership surpassed that of the Conservative Party. Reform's chair, Zia Yusuf, provided the Financial Times with evidence to support the accuracy of their membership numbers, which currently stand at almost 142,500, compared to the Tories' 131,680. Farage criticized the Tories' membership figures as inaccurate and called for external audits of political party memberships. The dispute highlights the lack of requirements for UK political parties to publish or verify their membership numbers.
3. <https://www.the-independent.com/news/uk/politics/nigel-farage-remembrance-sunday-poppy-donald-trump-a7416396.html> - Labour has branded Nigel Farage a 'poppy-less popinjay' after the Ukip politician skipped Remembrance Sunday services in Britain to meet Donald Trump in America. Carwyn Jones, the Labour first minister of Wales, criticized Farage's absence from services despite his party's use of Battle of Britain imagery in campaigns against the EU. Farage was pictured without a poppy during his meeting with Trump on Remembrance weekend. Ukip defended Farage's decision, arguing that wearing a poppy in the U.S. on that day would have been inappropriate. Farage's spokesperson stated that he takes Remembrance Day seriously and regularly studies the conflict's history, and that wearing a poppy in the U.S. would have been an example of 'virtue signalling'.
4. <https://www.thelondoneconomic.com/politics/farage-nowhere-to-be-seen-in-commons-for-child-sexual-exploitation-announcement-387990/> - Nigel Farage was noticeably absent from the House of Commons during Home Secretary Yvette Cooper's announcement on Child Sexual Exploitation. Despite being vocal on the issue, Farage chose to attend a debate on a fresh general election instead. Cooper outlined Labour's plans to implement recommendations from the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, including establishing a victim and survivors panel, making grooming an aggravating factor in child sexual offences, and creating a core dataset for child abuse and protection. Farage's absence raised questions about his commitment to addressing child sexual exploitation.
5. <https://www.gbnews.com/politics/nigel-farage-d-day-prime-minister-leaves-early> - Reform UK leader Nigel Farage criticized Prime Minister Rishi Sunak for leaving a D-Day event early. Sunak attended a British event at Ver sur Mer but departed before the international commemoration on Omaha Beach. Farage expressed disappointment, stating that Sunak's early departure showed a lack of understanding of the significance of D-Day and questioned his patriotism. Sunak later apologized, acknowledging that leaving early was a mistake and emphasizing his deep respect for veterans and the importance of the 80th anniversary of D-Day.
6. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-32772545> - UKIP deputy chairman Suzanne Evans suggested that Nigel Farage should take a two-week holiday before returning to lead the party. Evans praised Farage as a 'fantastic leader and a great political communicator' but emphasized the need for him to solicit feedback and not view the party as a 'one man band'. The suggestion came amid internal wrangling within UKIP, following Farage's decision to stay on as leader after failing to get elected in Thanet South. Farage ruled out resigning, stating he had 'phenomenal' support and challenging critics to decide whether they wanted to stay in the party.
7. <https://www.nysun.com/article/nigel-farage-on-his-first-day-at-westminster-reminds-the-commons-that-his-eye-is-out-for-brexit> - On his first day at Westminster, Nigel Farage reminded the House of Commons of his focus on Brexit. The new session of Parliament began with Prime Minister Rishi Sunak addressing Parliament for the first time as Leader of the Opposition, with Sir Keir Starmer swapping seats. Farage's reminder of Brexit highlighted the ongoing significance of the issue in UK politics, even as the new Parliament session commenced with a sense of euphoria among new Labour faces.