# Nigel Farage vows to scrap net zero targets and cut diversity programmes in bid to reshape UK politics



Reform UK leader Nigel Farage has ignited political discourse in the UK with pledges aimed at what he describes as a “genuine political revolution.” Speaking at a recent event in London, Farage outlined a selection of policies that he claims reflect his party’s dedication to “family, community, and country.” His proposals signal a direct challenge to the incumbent Labour Party, particularly the leadership of Sir Keir Starmer, positioning Reform UK as a growing force in British politics.

One of Farage's central points of contention revolves around recent governmental actions, specifically targeting Starmer's agreements with the EU and the controversial deal concerning the Chagos Islands. Farage lambasted these developments, declaring them as contrary to national interests and undermining the principles of Brexit. He described the Chagos Islands deal—where sovereignty would be transferred to Mauritius in exchange for leasing the Diego Garcia military base—as “the worst deal I’ve ever seen in my life.” Furthermore, he accused the government of compromising on critical issues, including border security and migration controls, thus betraying the electorate's trust in the wake of Brexit.

In addition to these critiques, Farage has outlined a series of potential reforms, including the abolition of the two-child benefit cap. This policy, already under consideration by Labour cabinet ministers, is projected to cost approximately £3.5 billion annually. Farage argues that lifting this cap would alleviate financial burdens for lower-income families and assist in addressing child poverty, a sentiment echoed by some within the Labour Party. However, the implications on public expenditure may lead to significant tensions within Labour as it strives to maintain fiscal responsibility amid calls for increased benefits.

Complementing this, Farage has pledged to reinstate winter fuel payments for pensioners, a move that aligns with a broader push within the political landscape for enhanced support of the elderly. He has also proposed a raise in the income tax threshold to £20,000, suggesting that this would not only support working-class families but also stimulate economic growth, despite acknowledging the financial strain it would impose on public finances.

Farage's policy aspirations extend to abolishing the net zero targets, which he claims cost the UK Exchequer £40 billion annually. His rhetoric resonates with portions of the electorate concerned about both rising energy costs and economic sustainability. Furthermore, he has promised to eliminate diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives in the public sector, citing the financial burden these programmes impose on taxpayers. While such proposals appeal to a demographic frustrated with perceived overreach in social policy, they highlight a growing schism between populist politics and more traditional, progressive platforms.

The recent political climate presents both challenges and opportunities for Reform UK, with growing public sentiment pushing for alternative solutions to pressing social issues. The party's rise has been underscored by its successful local governance strategy, gaining control of multiple councils, where it has initiated cuts to climate-related expenditures and embraced a more traditional public spending approach. However, its ambitious agenda raises questions about practical execution and the potential repercussions for those who rely on government aid.

In closing, Farage’s agenda reflects a significant recalibration in UK politics as Reform UK seeks to capture the discontent among voters disillusioned by the traditional parties. With its promises of sweeping reform and an appeal to economic pragmatism, the party positions itself as a potential kingmaker, particularly in light of an electorate increasingly weary of the status quo.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/which-reform-uk-policies-did-nigel-farage-confirm-in-his-speech-GCFCYAMCLZJEVDFMU5R5PMWQIA/), [[2]](https://www.ft.com/content/34674714-c083-44f9-ad3c-a75c038c911b)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/which-reform-uk-policies-did-nigel-farage-confirm-in-his-speech-GCFCYAMCLZJEVDFMU5R5PMWQIA/), [[3]](https://www.ft.com/content/95107243-d85b-4696-a206-59d194d02715), [[6]](https://www.ft.com/content/ef262672-eeca-4af4-9d73-15faea4012c6)
* Paragraph 3 – [[2]](https://www.ft.com/content/34674714-c083-44f9-ad3c-a75c038c911b), [[4]](https://www.ft.com/content/c174eef2-4da3-48dd-9c39-cb31ff0428ed), [[5]](https://www.ft.com/content/5b951d4f-1cd5-4b7a-bd2d-ef4b820de9bf)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/which-reform-uk-policies-did-nigel-farage-confirm-in-his-speech-GCFCYAMCLZJEVDFMU5R5PMWQIA/), [[4]](https://www.ft.com/content/c174eef2-4da3-48dd-9c39-cb31ff0428ed), [[7]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/0/reform-uk-manifesto-richard-tice-key-policies-glance/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[5]](https://www.ft.com/content/5b951d4f-1cd5-4b7a-bd2d-ef4b820de9bf), [[6]](https://www.ft.com/content/ef262672-eeca-4af4-9d73-15faea4012c6), [[7]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/0/reform-uk-manifesto-richard-tice-key-policies-glance/)

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/which-reform-uk-policies-did-nigel-farage-confirm-in-his-speech-GCFCYAMCLZJEVDFMU5R5PMWQIA/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.ft.com/content/34674714-c083-44f9-ad3c-a75c038c911b> - In a recent speech, Reform UK leader Nigel Farage vowed to eliminate the two-child benefit cap and introduce tax incentives for married couples to appeal to working-class voters. He criticised the Conservative government for losing touch with the public and highlighted Reform UK's electoral successes, including gaining multiple council seats and a parliamentary seat. Farage advocated for policies such as nationalising British Steel, supporting unions, and increasing social welfare benefits. He also pledged to reinstate winter fuel payments for all pensioners and proposed raising the income tax-free threshold to £20,000, which could cost £40bn annually. To fund these initiatives, he suggested cutting spending on quangos by 5%, eliminating £45bn in net zero and £7bn in DEI-related spending, and shutting down housing for asylum seekers to save £4bn annually. His platform directly challenges Labour and Conservative policies, prompting Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer to reconsider positions on welfare and pension payments.
3. <https://www.ft.com/content/95107243-d85b-4696-a206-59d194d02715> - The UK government is facing increasing pressure to scrap the two-child benefit cap amid rising borrowing costs and political tension. The cap, which restricts benefits for families with more than two children, is opposed internally by Labour cabinet ministers Liz Kendall and Bridget Phillipson due to its impact on child poverty. Externally, Nigel Farage is positioning himself to pledge its removal, aiming to appear more moderate and influential. While lifting the cap could significantly reduce child poverty and aligns with Labour MPs' values, it comes at an estimated cost of £3.5 billion annually by the decade’s end. This financial strain conflicts with Labour’s broader tax and spending promises, risking a chaotic shift in strategy. Farage's stance could capitalise on government retreat, enhancing his political image, though his party's unrefined fiscal plans remain a liability. Meanwhile, the UK government is adjusting to increasing borrowing costs by turning to short-term debt, and modest NHS spending increments are anticipated. In a related move, Farage also plans to propose tax incentives for married couples to encourage larger families. These developments reflect the complex interplay of policy, politics, and public sentiment gearing up for the 2029 elections.
4. <https://www.ft.com/content/c174eef2-4da3-48dd-9c39-cb31ff0428ed> - Reform UK, led by Nigel Farage and deputy Richard Tice, is courting the oil and gas industry with promises of slashed taxes and deregulation if it comes to power. In exchange, the party aims to secure taxpayer equity stakes in North Sea drilling ventures, marking a shift towards state involvement in energy projects. Tice has met with several energy executives, advocating for a reversal of net-zero policies and an immediate expansion of hydrocarbon investments. The party, previously focused on Brexit, is now emphasising opposition to net-zero targets and immigration controls. While some industry leaders express intrigue over the pro-business stance and potential tax benefits, others remain sceptical due to Reform UK's lack of political infrastructure and concerns about its aggressive anti-net-zero rhetoric. Tice proposed two approaches for gaining public stakes: mandating shares in return for licences or providing public investment in higher-risk projects. The party's left-leaning economic pivot targets disaffected, economically challenged communities. Despite the party's growing poll presence, many executives perceive Reform UK as underdeveloped and overly reliant on Farage.
5. <https://www.ft.com/content/5b951d4f-1cd5-4b7a-bd2d-ef4b820de9bf> - Nigel Farage, leader of Reform UK, plans to announce the lifting of the two-child benefit cap and full reinstatement of winter fuel payments, measures expected to cost up to £5 billion. This move is aimed at appealing to working-class voters and influencing Labour Party policy, particularly as Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer and Chancellor Rachel Reeves face internal pressure over welfare spending. Starmer recently reversed a decision affecting winter fuel payments to pensioners, but has not detailed implementation plans. While he is also open to ending the two-child benefit cap, the fiscal implications are significant, with £3.5 billion required by decade's end. Reeves insists such decisions be made during major fiscal events, with the next not scheduled until autumn. Deputy PM Angela Rayner, advocating for tax increases of up to £4 billion on the wealthy to fund societal needs, denies leadership ambitions despite internal tensions. Meanwhile, Conservative leader Kemi Badenoch supports winter fuel payments’ principle but questions universal application. Reform UK’s surge in polls underscores the political challenge to the Labour government amid rising borrowing costs and fiscal constraints.
6. <https://www.ft.com/content/ef262672-eeca-4af4-9d73-15faea4012c6> - In May 2025, Reform UK, a populist political party led by Nigel Farage, assumed control of 10 local authorities across England, marking its first foray into local governance. Darren Grimes, a former GB News presenter, was appointed deputy leader of Durham County Council, emphasising cost-efficiency and pledging 'citizens' audits' to scrutinise public spending. Reform councillors now manage approximately £10 billion in local service budgets and face significant financial challenges, including £750 million in projected shortfalls over five years and high social care costs consuming 73% of budgets. Initial actions taken by Reform councils include abolishing climate committees and removing Ukrainian and Pride flags, aligning with their national agenda. However, internal variation exists, as seen with Hull and East Yorkshire’s mayor supporting green energy investments, contradicting party’s central stance. Despite dismissing the importance of experience, Reform faces challenges, including sudden council resignations and inheriting systemic issues like deficits and special education crises in several counties. As the Labour government pursues broader local government reforms, Reform councils could become a source of opposition. Experts suggest the party may benefit from allowing local leadership flexibility, given the complexity and varying needs at the local level.
7. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/0/reform-uk-manifesto-richard-tice-key-policies-glance/> - Reform UK’s vow to repair 'skint' Britain in its 'contract with the people' led the party to four seats in an election breakthrough for Nigel Farage. Mr Farage, the party leader, promised to boost economic growth by increasing the income tax threshold to £20,000 and introducing an immigration tax forcing employers to pay an increased National Insurance rate for every foreign employee. The party also said it would end illegal immigration and vastly reduce legal migration by leaving the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and introducing a 'one in, one out' migration quota. Mr Farage’s surprise decision to take over the Reform leadership from Richard Tice part-way through the campaign cost the Conservatives dearly, as the insurgent party took 14.25 per cent of the vote on July 4. The party has come a long way since scoring its first MP in March and remained steadfast against stepping aside for the Tories – unlike the Brexit Party in 2019. The party's manifesto includes policies on NHS and social care, tax and spending, economy, environment, energy and net zero, education and childcare, defence, pensions and welfare, policing and crime, migration, Brexit, families, transport, and constitution and culture.