# Nigel Farage unexpectedly defends Angela Rayner over property controversy



Nigel Farage has unexpectedly come to the defence of Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner amid mounting criticism over her ownership of multiple properties, including a luxury flat in Brighton and a London government flat whose council tax is covered by taxpayers. This controversy has ignited accusations of hypocrisy from opposition parties such as Reform UK, especially since Labour, under Rayner's leadership, is advocating for higher taxes on second homes as part of its response to the ongoing housing crisis.

Speaking at a press conference, Farage criticised Conservative Shadow Housing Spokesman James Cleverly for his targeting of Rayner’s London residence, noting that Cleverly had not objected when former Cabinet minister Michael Gove lived there. Farage dismissed the criticism as mere party politics and expressed support for Rayner’s property portfolio, suggesting that if she acquired her properties legally and successfully, she deserved recognition. He also criticised what he called the media’s "hair shirt approach" to politicians, accusing the press of wanting politicians to adopt austere lifestyles that include going vegan and abstaining from alcohol, which he said was unrealistic.

Rayner’s property holdings have become a focus of political debate. Alongside her luxury Brighton flat and a home in her Greater Manchester constituency, she has the use of a grace-and-favour flat in Admiralty House, London, where the council tax — potentially set to double under Labour’s proposed tax regime — is paid by the government. Critics, including Reform UK leader Richard Tice, have labelled her actions "the Everest of hypocrisy," accusing her of building a "property mountain" while lamenting housing shortages and pushing for wealth taxes. Conservative Party Chairman Kevin Hollinrake has also questioned the propriety of taxpayer funding of her council tax, a point contested by supporters who argue she pays the appropriate taxes.

A spokesperson close to Rayner emphasised her long-standing representation of constituents and noted that her government role necessitates frequent presence in London, justifying her use of the London flat. The deputy at the Department for Housing, Matthew Pennycook, who recently spoke out against wealthy individuals hoarding multiple properties and the distortions caused by short-term lets, contrasts with Rayner’s own property holdings, adding to perceptions of inconsistency.

Farage’s intervention comes amid broader political clashes, including Rayner’s repeated critiques of Farage himself, accusing him during Prime Minister’s Questions of advocating for unfunded tax cuts favouring the very richest. However, Farage remains critical of some Labour policies, such as the proposed Renters’ Rights Bill aimed at banning no-fault evictions, which he warns could reduce rental housing availability and compel landlords like himself to sell properties.

Despite her controversial property portfolio, Farage has previously praised Rayner as a "real" and formidable political figure, though he remains unconcerned about her prospects of becoming Labour leader, contrasting with her popularity among grassroots Labour supporters. His defence of Rayner on the property issue provides an unexpected counterpoint to the predominantly critical political discourse, revealing the complex intersections of personal finance, political principle, and party rivalry in the current UK political landscape.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/politics/2100215/nigel-farage-defends-rayner-home), [[2]](https://www.upday.com/uk/politics/farage-defends-rayner-over-pound800k-property-row/mmmg1vn), [[3]](https://www.gbnews.com/politics/angela-rayner-slammed-staggering-hypocrisy-public-foots-bill-second-home)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/politics/2100215/nigel-farage-defends-rayner-home), [[2]](https://www.upday.com/uk/politics/farage-defends-rayner-over-pound800k-property-row/mmmg1vn), [[7]](https://www.newsminimalist.com/articles/farage-defends-rayners-property-dealings-519fb9b3)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/politics/2100215/nigel-farage-defends-rayner-home), [[3]](https://www.gbnews.com/politics/angela-rayner-slammed-staggering-hypocrisy-public-foots-bill-second-home), [[4]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/nigel-farage-praises-angela-rayner-reform-threat-b1229883.html)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/politics/2100215/nigel-farage-defends-rayner-home), [[3]](https://www.gbnews.com/politics/angela-rayner-slammed-staggering-hypocrisy-public-foots-bill-second-home)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/politics/2100215/nigel-farage-defends-rayner-home), [[5]](https://www.gbnews.com/politics/nigel-farage-angela-rayner-pmqs-swipe-reform-uk), [[6]](https://www.gbnews.com/politics/nigel-farage-labour-property-rental-reform-angela-rayner)
* Paragraph 6 – [[4]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/nigel-farage-praises-angela-rayner-reform-threat-b1229883.html), [[5]](https://www.gbnews.com/politics/nigel-farage-angela-rayner-pmqs-swipe-reform-uk), [[6]](https://www.gbnews.com/politics/nigel-farage-labour-property-rental-reform-angela-rayner)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/politics/2100215/nigel-farage-defends-rayner-home> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.upday.com/uk/politics/farage-defends-rayner-over-pound800k-property-row/mmmg1vn> - Nigel Farage defended Angela Rayner amid criticism over her property portfolio, dismissing attacks as 'party politics'. He criticised Conservative Shadow Housing Spokesman James Cleverly for targeting Rayner's London residence, noting similar criticism was absent when Michael Gove lived there. Farage praised Rayner's property acquisitions as legitimate business success and rejected the 'hair shirt approach' to politics, stating that the press often desires politicians to adopt extreme austerity measures, which he opposed.
3. <https://www.gbnews.com/politics/angela-rayner-slammed-staggering-hypocrisy-public-foots-bill-second-home> - Angela Rayner faced accusations of 'staggering hypocrisy' over taxpayers covering the council tax for her London flat in Admiralty House. The flat, valued at £800,000, is considered her second home, with the bill paid by the government. Critics, including Conservative Party Chairman Kevin Hollinrake, questioned the propriety of Rayner's property dealings, especially as she advocates for higher taxes on second homes. Supporters argued she is paying the correct amount of tax.
4. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/nigel-farage-praises-angela-rayner-reform-threat-b1229883.html> - Nigel Farage praised Angela Rayner amid suggestions she poses a significant threat to Reform UK's prospects. He described her as 'real' compared to other left-wing politicians, expressing confidence that she would not become Labour leader. Farage's remarks came despite Rayner being the party's grassroots' favourite to replace Sir Keir Starmer. He dismissed concerns about her potential leadership bid, stating he was not 'worried' about her becoming Labour leader.
5. <https://www.gbnews.com/politics/nigel-farage-angela-rayner-pmqs-swipe-reform-uk> - Angela Rayner targeted Nigel Farage during Prime Minister's Questions, accusing him of supporting 'billions more in unfunded tax cuts for the very richest'. This marked the second consecutive week she criticised Farage in this forum. The Deputy Prime Minister's remarks were in response to a question from Labour MP Kanishka Narayan, who highlighted Farage's focus on issues affecting overseas billionaires, prompting Rayner's criticism of his priorities.
6. <https://www.gbnews.com/politics/nigel-farage-labour-property-rental-reform-angela-rayner> - Nigel Farage expressed concerns that Labour's proposed Renters' Rights Bill could force him to sell his rental property, describing the move as a 'huge mistake' and 'self-defeating'. He argued that the bill, which aims to ban no-fault evictions, could lead to a reduction in available rental properties. Farage's comments reflect broader concerns among landlords about the potential impact of the legislation on the rental market.
7. <https://www.newsminimalist.com/articles/farage-defends-rayners-property-dealings-519fb9b3> - Nigel Farage defended Angela Rayner's property dealings, dismissing criticism as 'party politics'. He questioned why Rayner's London residence was under scrutiny, noting that similar criticism was absent when Michael Gove lived there. Farage praised Rayner's property acquisitions as legitimate business success and rejected the 'hair shirt approach' to politics, stating that the press often desires politicians to adopt extreme austerity measures, which he opposed.