

Is the Tory right broken?

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The video in this tweet is interesting.

<https://twitter.com/marinapurkiss/status/1630323093242535944?s=61&t=YAOVQFaY8sFm-U7nPPLOKg>

Steve Baker is saying the populism that he espoused took his mental health to the brink.

He acknowledges that it was the wrong thing to do.

He says it is time to move on.

Let me be clear, that does not mean that I think that Steve Baker is now wanting to head in a direction I want to go in. He remains on the right of the Tories. But the fact that he acknowledges mistakes and says that the populism that underpinned them was wrong is welcome.

I am sorry he had to suffer mental ill health to realise that this was the case. Living a lie always has a cost.

But if this signals a decline in the power of the Tory right of which he has been a major leader then it is welcome. But the reaction of those who remain in the former factions that he led will tell us whether this is just a one-person Damascene moment or something more significant. I will wait and see on that one. I suspect 20 or more Tory MPs will oppose the agreement has reached on Northern Ireland. But that it is likely to not be 50 is significant.