

Funding the Future

Article URL

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I appreciated this tweet:

<https://twitter.com/AdamRamsay/status/168919351174311168?s=20>

An enlargement of the most relevant part of the article, which comes from the [Irish News](#) is:

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ON SATURDAY this newspaper correctly asked for “clarity” from Sir Keir Starmer on his criteria for calling a referendum on Irish reunification. It’s unlikely he will do so for a variety of reasons. First, the main criticism of the Labour leader, both from inside and outside his party, is that he is not clear about where he stands on anything, or indeed what he stands for.

There have been several articles in British newspapers and magazines with titles like, ‘Who is Keir Starmer’ or ‘What does Starmer stand for’?

Nevertheless, on the question of Irish reunification Starmer has been uncharacteristically clear. He told the BBC in 2021 that in the event of a referendum he would campaign on the unionist side.

This misjudged interference in Irish self-determination raised eyebrows on both sides of the Irish sea. Jeremy Corbyn reminded people of the remark again when he spoke at the Féile last week. He said, “I don’t know where he got that from. I’m sure he’s read the Good Friday Agreement.”

The GFA is quite specific. Starmer, like everyone else in Britain will have no vote on the question. As the Agreement states in carefully chosen words, “It is for the people of the island of Ireland alone, by agreement between the two parts respectively and without external impediment, to exercise their right of self-determination.”

Starmer’s was a crass intervention, a product of the English politics of the time.

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I wish I shared that final optimism. This comment reflected Starmer's imperialist nationalism, to which [I have already referred today](#). I think fear it is his politics of the moment, as his attitude to Scotland makes all too clear.