

## Starmer's commitment to nuclear power is all about elec...

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The front page of the Mail today apparently looks like this:



I am not too concerned about OJ Simpson, and I will let the Grand National pass me by, as I always do. Starmer's commitment to nuclear submarines does, however, worry me.

We know a number of things about our nuclear submarine fleet.

First, it is astonishingly expensive.

Second, it is not under our control: it can only be used with US permission.

Third, whenever we try to launch a missile, it seems to fail.

Fourth, this fleet was designed for an era long gone, as are the replacements.

Fifth it denies resources to those parts of our armed forces that we really do need to invest in.

Sixth, the whole point of having this fleet is to pretend that we are still a world superpower. The problem is that no one, anywhere, now thinks that. We have chosen to become a middling stall state off the north-west of Europe. Brexit guaranteed that.

So what is Starmer doing? The fact that he has splashed this in the Mail tells us everything that we need to know. This is all about posturing to the Tory voter who can't bring themselves to vote for Sunak, whatever their reason. There is no strategic, military or diplomatic reason to keep our nuclear submarines. Like Concord, they are technology we should let slip into the past. But Starmer won't do that because he wants to play on what he thinks will be the big international stage.

I despair.

And meanwhile, he will do nothing about poverty.

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*Post script: I should add that Starmer obviously assumes he can keep control of Scotland when promoting this policy when it deeply resents being used for this purpose.*