

The Tory plan to end national insurance for the self em...

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The Tories have announced that they want to end self-employed national insurance contributions.

Two questions follow. The first is, why? This makes no sense. Why shouldn't the self-employed pay NI? What is the reason for this bizarre attempt to increase horizontal tax inequality in favour of a group who already do not, according to HM Revenue & Customs, pay 18% of the taxes they owe? Is this all about encouraging tax abuse?

Second, how will the self-employed have their old age pension contributions recorded - or is the Tory plan to deny them a pension? That is a point that has to be clarified.

As it stands, this plan is bizarre at best and utterly ill-thought-through at worst. Either way, it's a sign of desperation.