

What is Starmer trying to hide?

Published: January 13, 2026, 6:47 am

Keir Starmer came up with his latest failing yesterday. As I understand it, when asked what his favourite television series was, he could not say.

He was previously asked about his favourite novel and poem, and could not suggest one in either case.

I gather that he was a little more forthcoming about music, although he did suggest that his favourite Taylor Swift track was 'Change'. That was glaringly obviously chosen for political reasons rather than because of any personal preference that he might have.

I accept all the problems with specifying favourites. I can recall several discussions with friends over the years about just what music we might take with us to the proverbial Desert Island, together with the nature of our luxury and single book. I do not think that I ever came up with a definitive list, although I have a strong impression that Mozart's clarinet concerto, Bruce Springsteen's 'Born to Run' and Dire Straits' 'Telegraph Road' made pretty consistent appearances.

When it comes to books, a large anthology of diverse sourced poetry would suit me just fine. It would definitely provide me with more to think about than any one novel might do.

As to a luxury, I think a typewriter plus a very large pile of paper might meet my needs.

When it comes to a television series, I would be hard pressed. Few really stand out for me and the same is true of films. I can think of lots that I like, but I rarely view a film twice, and in that case I might struggle, except when recalling that I have watched 'The Dig' several times and greatly enjoy the subversive element within it.

As for a particular poem, I would probably choose the 'Lake Isle of Innisfree' or 'He wishes for the Cloths of Heaven' as my favourite poem. How can you not like a poem that asks someone to tread softly on your dreams?

None of the above is definitive. So what? My point is that they provide some indication as to my preferences, sources of pleasure, and maybe some of my politics. That is why this question was asked. But Starmer could not answer.

What was that about, and why did he think that appropriate? His behaviour, for a man who wishes to lead the country, was really quite strange. What is he trying to hide?