

Who is a foreign national? The question Reform needs to...

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The [FT has this headline](#) this morning:

Reform UK has vowed to cut £50bn from the welfare bill by slashing benefits for foreign nationals and people with disabilities if it wins the next general election.

So, just what is a foreign national in their minds?

Thye questiuiion matters. For me, it is even rather personal. I receive a state benefit. It is the state old-age pension. I qualify for the full pension, having paid UK National Insurance for well more than the required number of years.

I am also a foreign national. I have both UK and Irish passports, but I have lived in the UK all my life, and nothing I can do will remove my entitlement to an Irish passport: that is embedded in Irish law, and Reform cannot change that.

I am far from alone in being in this situation. I know many who are, and many more who have the passports of other states, or entitlement to them. [According to the last census](#) , more than 1.2 million do this. I suspect the number has risen significantly since then in the aftermath of Brexit.

So will Reform deny us all benefits and state pensions? It is a necessary question. I am not sure there is a known answer. I am assuming the worst in that case. These people are possessed of toxic xenophobia.