

Beating Farage

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The FT [reported this morning](#) that:

Nigel Farage has been implicated in an undercover sting that alleges that his Reform UK party knowingly sought illegal funding from overseas.

They added:

Channel 4 News broadcast a 30-minute film on Thursday night, with extensive footage of Farage, his right-hand man Dan Jukes, and Reform's head of policy James Orr in conversations with a man purporting to arrange illicit political donations.

I am sure the story will be covered elsewhere in the media, and it is not my job, therefore, to recount the gory details.

Instead, I want to note something else. This story is, of course, part of a trend. Time and again, suggestions are emerging about Farage's finances, and those of his party. These are, at the very least, confusing, and what we know without doubt is that he has used funding from sources outside the UK linked to activities that many might think undesirable, whilst nothing illegal is involved. This raises serious questions.

Farage would like to present himself as a man of the people, standing up against the establishment, fighting the brave fight on behalf of those who would otherwise not have their voice heard. And yet, what is apparent is that he is anything but this.

Not only does he make money personally from selling products like gold, but his lifestyle, funding, and lack of willingness to discuss his arrangements in a way that is now normally expected of politicians all suggest an aversion to accountability that implies his façade might hide a deeper truth, which many who have supported him might be uncomfortable with.

What is the chink in his armour? It is that he might be seen to be the exact opposite of what he claims to be.

Far from being intensely pro-British, he is very inclined to seek funding for his activities from outside this country.

Far from being a man of the people, his capacity to spend puts him in a league that very few can really imagine.

And, far from challenging the status quo and the power elite, as he would like to represent, he is in fact so heavily dependent upon some of the more questionable parts of the architecture of international finance that his own survival seems to be entirely embedded in the systems that so many have questioned, from offshore tax planning to the use of tax havens, and so much more.

Farage undoubtedly remains a threat, but it is not true to say that Farage is his own worst enemy. I do not think he will beat himself. I do, however, think he can be beaten.

If it were possible to persuade people that Farage is not on their side, but is in fact part of the hierarchy of power that is keeping them in their place, and which denies them the chance that they need, his allure would fade very quickly. I am not saying that will be easy. But I am saying that will be possible.

Farage has a weak underbelly, which is that he might, after all, be a fake. In other words, he is not what he claims to be. If that were true, he would not be the answer to the problems that so many people in this country rightly think exist.

And let me be clear, by saying we need to beat Farage, I am not saying that we should tolerate the injustice which around 30% of this country now clearly feel about the way in which they have been treated by the UK's political, economic and financial elite, which has left them feeling alienated from society.

What I am saying is that we have the chance to show that Farage is not the answer to their concerns, which he is revealing of his own volition. What these people need to do then is to look elsewhere, which is to a genuine left-of-centre alternative that might provide the answers they desire. It is only by really tackling inequality that the problems that people in this country face will be solved.

Farage has no interest in doing that. That is why, ultimately, he will never succeed, but bringing that realisation forward is something we should all desire.