

11. Nigel Farage threatens to overhaul Lords and judiciary in Reform conference speech

Becky Morton – BBC News – 4th September 2026

Nigel Farage has insisted a Reform UK government would deliver where other parties have failed, as he set out his priorities in his annual conference speech. He said Reform's pledges for its first 100 days in power would include stopping small boat crossings, cutting energy bills by £250 a year and ending the net zero "lunacy". To eliminate "obstacles" to his plans, Farage said he would declare a "national emergency" and threatened to overhaul the House of Lords and how judges are appointed if they stood in the way.

In a speech interrupted several times by protesters, the Reform leader was also forced to address allegations over donations which emerged in an undercover investigation. Reform had been hoping to use its annual conference to regain momentum after a difficult summer dominated by questions over the party's finances.

However, the main day of the conference was overshadowed after two senior party officials stepped down and Reform launched an investigation into claims about funding aired during a Channel 4 News report on Thursday. In the undercover filming, the two men suggested a way around electoral law to secure foreign donations for the party, one of which would have totalled £500,000. Farage insisted "the party has done nothing wrong" and "has taken no illegal money", claiming the allegations had been made "because they're scared of us".

In his speech, which was light on new policy announcements, Farage said the country needed a government "that actually delivers on its promises" and "we're the only people capable of doing it". He argued the Tories "had 14 years in power and failed absolutely miserably", while Labour's new Prime Minister Andy Burnham "says he needs 10 years", a reference to the PM's promise to set out a 10-year plan for the country later this year.

If Reform wins the next general election, Farage pledged to sack ministers who fail to deliver on their promises in their first 100 days in the job "and replace them with somebody else with the courage to do it". Setting out his plans to call a "national emergency" if Reform wins power, Farage said: "Parliament will sit, if necessary, for 24 hours a day, for six days a week until we pass the necessary legislation." He said he expected the House of Lords to "honour" Reform's policy pledges but if they refused to do so threatened to appoint hundreds of new peers so the party had a majority in the upper chamber.

Identifying the judiciary as another possible "obstacle", Farage promised to remove the ability of judges to rely on conventions like the European Convention of Human Rights (ECHR), which critics blame for hindering some deportations. "We don't want the courts striking down, do we, the will of the people," he said. "Parliament makes the law, judges interpret the law. We will do whatever it takes, and perhaps have to consider how judicial appointments work in the future." Meanwhile, he said civil servants who "try to obstruct us" would be removed from their posts and replaced by people from the world of business.

In his speech, Farage also hailed a "historic agreement" on small boat returns, signed earlier between Reform and France's hard-right National Rally party. The deal sets out how a Reform government would intercept boats in the English Channel and return them to France using the Navy, with France "ordinarily" accepting those on board.