

## Transcript of BBC1, Leader Interviews, 22nd April 2015, 7.30pm

EVAN DAVIS: Hello and welcome to King's Cross in Central London. We are here at the Francis Crick Institute for the fourth of our Leader Interviews. Now, this is still a construction site, but it will soon be the largest biomedical laboratory in Europe. When it opens, scientists from all over the world will be here peering into test-tubes. Right now, though, we are using this cool location to meet British political leaders and to peer into their minds and to hear their visions for the country. Tonight, I'm with Nigel Farage leader of Ukip. Nigel Farage, you have criticised the establishment parties. Let me quote something at you. 'As the 7% that go to public schools dominate politics, the media, the arts, sport, every aspect of our life in this country, we have almost reached the situation where the only time these guys have met a working-class man or woman is if they are driving their car.'

NIGEL FARAGE: Yes.

ED: Tell us about your schooling.

NF: Yeah, I was very lucky. I went to a school called Dulwich College in South London, which has been there for nearly 400 years.

ED: *(interrupting)* It's a public school?

NF: Which was founded for 12 poor scholars and was all paid for by a benefactor and, interestingly, it was a tradition that they kept for many, many years and, after World War Two, up until the year that I went there, 50% of the boys in my year came from working-class backgrounds and were paid for by Local Education Authorities.

ED: *(interrupting)* You weren't one of those, though?

NF: As part of . . . as part of what was called the Assisted Places Scheme. I wasn't one of those, no, but the interesting thing was, that through school, and then through working in the metals industry, on the London Metal Exchange, you know, I always worked with and I have always mixed with a very large cross-section of society.

ED: Let's be clear about this. By about 1990, you had been to a public school, you were working in the City, and you had been a long-standing member of the Conservative Party? Now, some would say . . . *(Nigel Farage laughs)* it's a bit of a bare-faced cheek for you to say to the others, 'Oh, you're all establishment, public school types'.

NF: Well, ah, but what the others are saying is, 'I'm alright, Jack, let's pull up the ladder and not give people who didn't have the same opportunities as us the chance to get on. What I'm saying is that actually it's wrong that the 7% now dominate more and more and more and that something, something is actually missing, you know. Why is it we haven't got more people in politics or the media that have come through the state school system?

ED: *(speaking over)* I would think all the parties are concerned with this.

NF: And I think, and I think the answer is pretty obvious. I think one of the biggest social mistakes we have made over the course of the last 50 years was to abolish hundreds of grammar schools, many of which had, for centuries, given people from all backgrounds the chance to attain their best and the evidence for that is the recent Ofsted report that said that two-thirds of the brightest youngsters are not attaining their best at school.

ED: Look, I'm focussing on your criticism of the other parties for being, if you like 'establishment'.

NF: Yes . . . yes.

ED: Can we just talk about some of your, what you call 'people's army', OK? You are the commander, but the generals.

NF: Yeah.

ED: But the generals . . . William Dartmouth, your Foreign Affairs Spokesman, is he a kind of anti-establishment character? He's the 10th Earl of Dartmouth, he went to Eton?

NF: Yes, the Deputy Leader of Ukip is called Paul Nuttall, he comes from Bootle.

ED: Stuart Wheeler, he was Party Treasurer, anti-establishment.

NF: No, no, no, no, no. No, no. our Immigration Spokesman, Steven Woolfe, comes from Moss Side which, I think at one point in time, was the roughest estate in the whole of the country. And that's the point about Ukip.

ED: Neil Hamilton, anti-establishment, former Tory MP?

NF: We have got, we have got . . .

ED: Douglas Carswell, one of your MPs, educated at Charterhouse.

NF: We have got the most . . . fantastic . . .

ED: *(speaking over)* Mark Reckless from Marlborough?

NF: I mean, so, tell me another party, tell me another party . . .

ED: *(interrupting)* All the parties have people from public schools, I'm not suggesting going to a public school disqualifies you from politics . . .

NF: *(interrupting)* We'll I think you're missing . . .

ED: You're the one . . .

NF: You are missing . . .

ED: . . . pointing out the other parties . . .

NF: You are missing the point about Ukip completely. Yes, you can quote the posh people in Ukip - and we have got them, of course we have.

ED: *(interrupting)* Look, half the people you describe as key people on your website . . .

NF: *(speaking over)* But . . . but . . .

ED: . . . are privately educated or Oxbridge educated.

NF: But you look at the number of genuinely working-class people in Ukip, in senior positions in Ukip, and it's way ahead of the other parties and I will try . . .

ED: *(speaking over)* Well, let's look at the policies.

NF: . . . to do things as a meritocracy.

ED: Let's look at the policies, because you've said you want to help ordinary people . . .

NF: Yeah.

ED: . . . but when we look at the tax cuts you are proposing, one of them is to abolish Inheritance Tax. That's something that benefits the richest 6% of families and estates.

NF: *(inaudible)*

ED: You want to cut the top rate of tax?

NF: No, we don't.

ED: And you want to raise the 40p band?

NF: Well, you ought to do your research a bit better because you are wrong about the top rate of tax. We are not proposing at this time . . .

ED: Long-term aspiration to get the 45p rate down to 40p.

NF: But it's not in this manifesto, because it's not a priority.

ED: It's mentioned in the manifesto.

NF: We have, since 2006, we have campaigned for no tax on the minimum wage. When we first said it, we were isolated. The Liberal Democrats picked up with that and now others are beginning to follow us, so we have been arguing for taking the low paid out of of tax for a very, very long time. What we are now arguing is that there is a squeezed middle, there are people out there, who are experienced nurses or police officers, who are paying 40p tax, a level that was designed to be for those earning a very great deal of money.

ED: Let's move on. One of the great the great mysteries of British politics - maybe it's not such a mystery - is that there is quite a high level of public support for some of the things that Ukip stands for. Control of immigration: there are plenty of people who don't like the EU in this country. You can probably quote the figures better than I can. And yet, in the polls, 85% of the population say they are not going to vote Ukip and even at your absolute peak, in the European elections, you still, sort of 70% of the population who don't choose to vote Ukip. So somehow you are scoring lower than the policies.

NF: Well, actually. . .

ED: Is this because there are a lot of people who think Ukip just has a faint whiff of meanness about it, or is a divisive party?

NF: No, I mean, look, you know, given, given the history of British politics, for Ukip to have got to where it's got to is pretty remarkable. I mean, there have been scores of attempts over the last 60 or 70 years to get new parties off the ground, most of which, you know, have absolutely bombed and this is not a top-down party, this was a grass-roots welling up. I meet people on the doorsteps every day who say, 'I completely agree with you but we are going to vote Labour because we always have done' or 'I will vote Tory because we always have done.' So we have a political system in Britain that chiefly, I think, because of the first past the post system, does keep a certain tribal loyalty to a colour. You know, we're reds, or we're blues, as opposed to issues. On your second point, there has been - and I think this is because we are taking on the establishment - and I think this happens not just in politics, it happens in science, it happens in business. If you take on the consensus, they make life very hard for you. There has been a very consistent attempt to try and paint Ukip out to be something that it isn't.

ED: I wonder - I mean, that could all be true. I wonder actually whether it is something to do with your tone. And the way you talk about the issues such as immigration, which is a big part of your programme.

NF: Yes.

I want us to look at a clip of you. Now, this is you speaking to Fox Television in the US, not to voters here, earlier this year. Let's just have a look at that clip and get a comment.

NF (*recording*) Wherever you look, wherever you look, you see this blind eye being turned and you see the growth of ghettos where the police and all the normal agents of the law have withdrawn and that is where Sharia Law has come in.

ED: Indeed. So, where are these ghettos, where are these ghettos?

NF: Well, if you go to any part of France and speak to any French politician, they will tell you, there a lot of no— . . .

ED: No, you were talking about the UK?

NF: Well, that particular interview I was talking about France actually, so. . .

ED: No, no, but this is about the UK? This is about the UK.

NF: No, I have not said that. What I have said about the UK, well, certainly the bit I have said, is

ED: You said there are 'no-go areas' in France, but this I think was about the UK? Definitely about the UK?

NF: Yeah, what I was saying about the UK - and again I think they are different interviews, but none the less - what I've said about the UK is that uncontrolled mass immigration has led to increasing division and ghettoisation in our towns and cities.

ED: Are there areas, are there areas where the police, where the police and normal agents of the law have withdrawn and where Sharia has come in?

NF: Not in - well, you could argue there are parts of the country where it's happened. In France it's a much bigger problem than it is here - and that's what I was talking about. But, but, you know there are - we had even the Archbishop . . .

ED: It wasn't about France, it was about the UK. You said 'wherever you look, wherever you look.' . . .

NF: I doubt that. I doubt . . . I think you are wrong. But anyway, the point is this. Even up to the last Archbishop of Canterbury, we've had people saying that Sharia Law should be acceptable in our cities. Now, you know, our history . . .

ED: (*interrupting*) I think he was somewhat misunderstood in that and I think he meant that. . .

NF: (*interrupting*) Well, perhaps, perhaps sometimes on these issues we all get misunderstood.

ED: We have Jewish courts sometimes in this country, we have Jewish courts in this country, are you against those?

NF: No, what I'm talking about is what is, you know, primary law, what is the law of the land?

ED: Right . . .

NF: And are we . . .

ED: So, you, you resile from the phrase, 'Wherever you look, you see a blind eye being turned, you see the growth of ghettos and Sharia Law coming in.' You didn't say it?

NF: Well, the blind eye, the blind eye has been turned . . .

ED: Okay . . .

NF: and we have seen the consequences of that in some of our big northern cities.

ED: Let's look (*words unclear due to speaking over*)

NF: And with, frankly, and with frankly some of the most appalling sexual scandals that I think we've seen in our history and that directly because. . .

ED: (*interrupting*) You raised these issues. . .

NF: . . . directly because the blind eye was turned.

ED: You call yourself straight-talking. Now, last year, you took out a full page ad in the Daily Telegraph.

NF: Yes.

ED: You claimed that 7% of all crime across the EU member states was caused by 240 Romanian gangs. That wasn't correct, was it?

NF: I believe it was.

ED: No, it was 7% of all gangs, er, of criminal gangs were 240 Romanian gangs, not 7% of all *crime*. Now, if you are going to be straight-talking . . .

NF: Well . . . well . . .

ED: . . . if you are going to hit . . . (*words unclear*) you're straight-talking . . .

NF: (*speaking over*) I think what that advert . . .

ED: . . . where you're going to hit these so-called taboo issues that no-one else talks about then you need to be a bit careful in what you're saying.

NF: (*speaking over*) I think what that advert said also was, there had been 28,000 arrests of one particular nationality.

ED: It said 'quite a bit.'

NF: Of one particular nationality within the Metropolitan Police area over the space of the last five years.

ED: Right, and I know some people quibbled with those figures as well. I didn't go into those, because it's harder to get data on those, so it's harder to be sure. But we can be sure that you misunderstood the data about Romanian gangs. Does it worry you that if you sound off on foreign criminals, foreigners with HIV, you talk about our borders open to hundreds of millions of people.

NF: Which they are.

ED: All of these things may be true. There are people with HIV, there are foreign criminals, all of these may be true, but if you make such a big point - if you ramp up the rhetoric on these issues, many British people will say, 'This party is just not where I want it to be with modern British values of tolerance, worldliness and being a good global citizen.'

NF: To wake people up, to wake people up to the truth of what's going on, you sometimes have to say things in a way to get noticed. Of that there is no question. However, however, political parties evolve and change. And if you look at the way Ukip is fighting this General Election, everything through our manifesto, to all the speeches I have given all over the country, what I'm saying is this: We no longer need to make the negative arguments about the effect that immigration has had on primary school places, on healthcare provision, on wage compression. The argument we are now making is that we are the one party that firstly

offers a solution, which is to take back control of our borders and, secondly, has a positive and an ethical vision for how immigration should be managed by having an Australian-style points system. And I think, so. . .

ED: But do you know, I'm actually not quibbling with the policy . . .

NF: Yeah.

ED: I'm not even, I'm not, not really trying to talk to you about the policy, I'm trying to talk about the tone. Let's move on. You've talked about . . .

NF: (*interrupting*) Well, I'm . . .

ED: . . . a fifth column . . .

NF: . . . answering . . .

ED: . . . who hate us . . .

NF: by saying this to you, by saying that in order to get the public aware of some of these issues, perhaps at times that tone had to be used. But you are not hearing . . .

ED: (*attempts to interrupt*)

NF: hang on, but you are not hearing, and you're interviewing me now, as we approach a General Election - you are not hearing that tone from me in this election.

ED: You have talked about a fifth column . . .

NF: Yes.

ED: this *year*. This is within a few months . . .

NF: Yes.

ED: You've talked about a fifth column. 'The Muslim religion, people who come and don't want to be part of our culture. There is no previous experience in our history of a migrant . .

NF: (*speaking over*) Woah, woah, woah.

ED: (*word unclear, 'group'?*) coming to Britain that wants to change who we are.

NF: I haven't talked about the Muslim religion like that . . .

ED: (*interrupting*) I'm quoting you, I'm quoting you from January.

NF: I've talked about a mercifully small percentage of the Muslim population. So, if you are going to quote me, let's get it right, okay? A mercifully small percentage of the Muslim religion. . .

ED: Who was the fifth column?

NF: Well, the fifth column are those within that wish to fight us. Now look, I . . .

ED: Are those who sympathise . . .

NF: I do not . . .

ED: . . . who sympathise with Charlie Hebdo, for example, would they be a fifth column?

NF: Those that are prepared to act upon it would be a fifth column.

ED: Right, (*words unclear due to speaking over*)

NF: (*speaking over*) Something like 700, maybe 1,000 British people have gone to fight in Syria. So we know this exists. We have seen examples of this in France. We have seen examples of this in Britain, we've seen examples of this in Denmark. Should we be concerned about it? Yes, of course we should. Of course we should.

ED: You've talked about Muslims, you have talked about. . .

NF: (*interrupting*) I'm sorry. . .

ED: . . . Christians. No you talked about, you mentioned (*words unclear due to speaking over*)

NF: No, no, no, no, I'm not having this.

ED: Well, okay, let's . . .

NF: I'm not having this.

ED: . . . put that aside.

NF: No, I'm not going to put that aside. I have said . . .

ED: Okay, you talked about *some* Muslims.

NF: I talked about a mercifully small percentage . . .

ED: . . . you talked about some Muslims, who come here and are part of the Muslim religion.

NF: (*speaking over*) so let's be clear, so let's be clear.

ED: Some of the people who come here and who are of the Muslim religion. You've talked about Judeo-Christian heritage . . .

NF: Yes.

ED: You talk of being uncomfortable on a train where everyone else is speaking a different language, you've talked in recent days of giving homes to Christian refugees, and only Christian refugees from the troubled zones of the Middle East and North Africa.

NF: Hm-hmm.

ED: Aren't people entitled to think as a party, and you as the leader, are happier with some migrants than other migrants based on ethnic or national backgrounds and nothing to do with the skills or the languages that they bring?

NF: Do you think it would be a good idea if you were – you know, if you were running your own immigration policy, which of course Britain doesn't, because we're EU members, do you think it would be a good idea to get a lot of people to come who didn't speak English? Do you think that would aid and abet integration in society? Well, the answer of course to that clearly is no. Do I think. . .

ED: (*interrupting*) Do you favour some immigrants? Let's suppose one from Mogadishu, with the same skills, with the same ability to speak English but not as a first language from one from Melbourne . . .

NF: I do have a slight . . .

ED: Do you have a preference?

NF: I have to confess I do have a slight preference. I do think naturally that people from India and Australia are in some ways more likely to speak English, understand common law and have a connection with this country than some people that come perhaps from countries that haven't fully recovered from being behind the Iron Curtain. But that's irrelevant. When you have an Australian-style points system, what you do is you take out of that all subjectivity and you look at things on a purely objective basis.

ED: So you don't get points for being Australian . . .

NF: Do, do, do people . . .

ED: . . . or points for being Judeo-Christian?

NF: (*speaking over*) No, no, no, no . . . no, you get points because you've got languages and skills.

ED: Why wouldn't you? You've said you'd prefer Judeo-Christian or the Commonwealth groups?

NF: Well, look, this country has long associations and links with Australia, with India, with countries like that, all right, and we have been friends together in crisis many, many times. What we've done is we have turned our backs on them. We have turned our backs on them in terms of trade by making life very difficult for them and we've really . . . we've really become a country whose political elite, much of who is media elite, are totally incapable of thinking about the world outside the European club.

ED: You say that, in fact, your manifesto says, 'the liberal Metropolitan elite' . . .

NF: Hm-hmm.

ED: . . . often tells us patriotism is wrong?

NF: Hm-hmm.

ED: Who is this liberal Metropolitan elite who says patriotism is wrong?

NF: Well, I think you only have to look at the Tweet that, and I won't name her, because it would be really quite nasty, but a certain Labour MP (*laughter in voice*) put out a Tweet of a chap with a white van and with a cross of St George outside his house as if to say, 'look at these ghastly people.' And there is too much of that. There's too much snobbery. And actually, that's what it's about: it is London-based snobbery about the way ordinary folk feel. And you know, out there in the country, a lot of people are unashamedly patriotic.

ED: (*fragments of words, or words unclear*)

NF: And that's considered to be awful in London.

ED: (*speaking over*) I wonder whether . . . I don't know, I just wonder whether there are different patriotic visions and there are certain people you would call liberal Metropolitan elite who have a different vision of Britain. Did you see the Paddington Bear movie last year?

NF: No.

ED: A terrific movie with a kind of . . . a rather sort of moving, in a sense, proclamation of the virtues of multiculturalism which I know you hate because he's a bear and he's different and he feels very at home and he's made to feel welcome here.

NF: I think, I think . . .

ED: Would that, would that sort of be a 'Metropolitan elite' movie . . .

NF: I think er . . .

ED: that is kind of a tragedy (*corrects himself*) a travesty of British patriotism and British values?

NF: Well, I think the fact you throw the word in 'hate' like that, as a sort of off-the-cuff comment . . .

ED: But you have (*words unclear, 'lots of insults'?*)

NF: as if, as if . . . as if of course Mr Farage 'hates' things, what's your evidence for that?

ED: Well you said in your manifesto . . . You said multiculturalism is divisive.

NF: What is your evidence that I *hate* it?

ED: But you say (*words unclear due to speaking over*)

NF: No, no, no. You've just. . .

ED: It's a politically-correct experiment . . .

NF: You have just . . .

ED: A political correction (*sic*) experiment you've called it.

NF: You've used a very strong word and I'm picking up on that. I don't hate anything.

ED: You don't hate multiculturalism?

NF: I don't *hate* multiculturalism.

ED: But you don't like it, can I say, can we go that far?

NF: We, we have made some real mistakes with state-sponsored multiculturalism and division within society and that's something, that's something which, what I was saying a few years ago, was considered to be dreadful. Now people like Trevor Phillips say it.

ED: Look, was it patriotic to support Mo Farah when he won his gold medals?

NF: I thought he was fantastic. I thought the interview, the interview after he'd won that second gold medal and it was a Saturday night, and we're (*laughter in voice*) all there cheering at home, you know, watching it, and there was a, you know, a reporter interviewing him and said, 'Well, you know, wouldn't you really have rather, you know, won this medal . . .'

ED: Well, that wasn't (*words unclear due to speaking over*)

NF: And, and, and Mo Farah's answer was, 'listen, mate,' you know, 'I've made this my home, I am British and I'm proud' . . .

ED: (*interrupting*) One of your candidates, one of your Local Government candidates. . . .

NF: (*interrupting*) And that I think, that I think, that I think, that I think really did epitomise what this country can and should be.

ED: (*speaking over*) Right, one of your Local Government candidates, put on his Facebook page . . .

NF: *(speaking over)* I've no doubt, I've no doubt,

ED: 'can someone explain Mo Farah, African from Somalia . . .'

NF: Yeah right . . .

ED: . . . trains in America, won a gold medal for Great Britain'. Now is he more patriotic

NF: Now . . . now when, erm . . .

ED: than the Liberal Metropolitan elite who you attack for *(words unclear due to speaking over)* in your manifesto?

NF: *(speaking over)* *(words unclear)* let me now attack the liberal Metropolitan elite, in the shape of you talking to me, alright? When you interviewed David Cameron, when you interviewed Miliband and Clegg, you know, did you go through a list of their, not just their council candidates. . .

ED: *(interrupting)* No, I'm asking about your *(word or words unclear)* patriotism.

NF: *(speaking over)* No, no, let me finish.

ED: . . . notion of patriotism . . .

NF: But it's very interesting . . .

ED: . . . that you use, accusing other people of being unpatriotic.

NF: It's interesting that you do what everyone in the liberal Metropolitan elite does, you pick up a comment from somebody in Ukip made on Facebook, probably late at night. What you never do is challenge the other leaders about why their elected councillors . . .

ED: You know, those other parties don't go round . . .

NF: and officials are serving prison sentences . . .

ED: *(interrupting)* No one says . . .

NF: . . . are serving prison sentences . . .

ED: *(speaking over)* No one says you're unpatriotic

NF: . . . for paedophilia, are serving prison sentences for racial assault and yet just one person in Ukip says this and you attempt to portray that as being the party.

ED: No one says, no one says you're unpatriotic . . .

NF: And it's not.

ED: No one says you're unpatriotic, you go to the US and talk about Sharia ghettos in Europe, no-one says you are unpatriotic for that. You're the party that says other people are going round making patriotism seem like a sin.

NF: Yes.

ED: I suspect some people simply think you're living or yearning for a country that has moved on. I'm going to give you one last example, OK, this is another one, this is not about race, because I think this is about a different age in a way. It's about breast-feeding, OK. Now, you called it, you called it common-sense

that women in a public place who want to breast-feed a baby should maybe go into the corner to do that so other people don't feel awkward about it.

NF: *(laughter in voice)* I mean, I mean . . . you're trying . . .

ED: Now, tell me why the woman should go into the corner. . .

NF: *(interrupting)* You are trying terribly hard here . . .

ED: I'm not, I'm trying to get across . . .

NF: You're trying terribly hard. Let me tell you what I said. I was asked a question about this, there had been a big row with Claridges. I said look, personally I'm not bothered about this at all but I know that . . .

ED: Other people are.

NF: . . . some other people are, and so the question that was asked of me, 'so do you think women should be sent into the toilet to breast-feed?' and I said no, I don't think that, perhaps ask to sit in the corner and classic of the way this operates, this is 'Farage is against breast-feeding mothers.' I couldn't care less.

ED: Right. But would you argue that it would be as suitable for people who feel awkward when the woman wants to breast-feed their baby for them to go and stand in the corner and the woman to stay where she is?

NF: In this particular case, it was people who paid a lot of money to go to Claridges for tea and some of them didn't like it, but I couldn't care less.

ED: OK. Let's move on very briefly on your manifesto. Before we talk about, ask a question or two on this manifesto, your last manifesto, it had your name in it actually, you signed the *(words unclear due to speaking over)* introduction.

NF: The 11-page forward . . .

ED: You called it 'straight-talking' you defended it on TV and then you then said last year, 'I didn't read it, it was drivel, it was nonsense.'

NF: I was asked to look, I mean, I wasn't the leader of UKIP, I was asked to look at an 11, sorry, 12-page document which I read. I thought, well this all looks rather sensible and I was quite happy to append my name to it. I subsequently learnt that 486 pages of it, not quite War and Peace but almost getting there, had been put up on our website and called the manifesto and clearly that was a massive mistake and it was a nonsense.

ED: And it was a nonsense. But it was straight-talking, that was, on each page of the manifesto I think last time. Was it straight talking then?

NF: Well, the 12 pages was, all right, but the 486 wasn't. And it was incoherent and it was actually, it was actually the kind of mistake that happens with a small political party with almost no budget at all. You know . . .

ED: *(interrupting)* Let's talk about. . .

NF: It takes time, it takes time . . .

ED: *(speaking over)* Let's talk about this manifesto. Let's talk about this manifesto. You have made a lot of spending commitments in the manifesto. They've all, well a number of them have been costed. You have got a lot of savings that you make in the manifesto . . .

NF: Yes.

ED: . . . they've been costed. Overall, I think you save 5 billion, but you say you want to clear the current deficit by 2017 which is going to take another 30 billion or so. Where is that going to come from?

NF: Well, firstly, you know, we have looked at the Government's future projections for what they are going to do and said we will . . . hopefully this time they'll keep to them – and we'll stick to them. But there's, so, so, but there's another factor to this. That is one of the arguments that has been lost completely with an economic policy which is, I know, very much your area. The argument almost is, you know a pound here, a pound there, that if we cut taxes by a pound here, there has to be a compensating increase somewhere else in revenues. Actually, there is a dynamic force with tax cuts . . .

ED: Right . . .

NF: . . . that if tax cuts are, if tax cuts are significant, what we would propose. . .

ED: But you're not proposing significant enough ones to earn revenues rather than lose revenues are you?

NF: Well, hang on, hang on, 18 . . .

ED: . . . Is that the basis of your economics, that you're going to cut taxes and hope more money comes in?

NF: By cutting taxes by £18 billion, I think there is a very strong argument that says that will lead to dynamic growth within the economy. And we certainly saw examples of this. You know, going back in time, we have seen examples of this.

ED: It's a very clear statement of your hope that you'll be able to get the deficit down.

NF: *(speaking over)* You know, we're not saying, we're not saying . . .

ED: *(interrupting)* You're going to cut taxes . . . *(words unclear due to speaking over)*

NF: *(speaking over)* We're not saying we're relying on it entirely. But I think there is a reasonably good reason, a good basis, of historical fact to think that might work.

ED: Look, just a couple of things, you costed this manifesto, and you've had it independently audited. There are a lot of proposals that are not costed in there. Smaller class sizes that's not included in the costings, how much is that going to cost?

NF: Well, I think it's all costed actually, and that's why . . .

ED: *(interrupting)* Smaller class sizes isn't, we've looked at the tables.

NF: Well you'd better go and have that argument with the think tank that looked at it all, alright.

ED: A border agency, and extra 2500 staff.

NF: Of course . . . but of course, If you have controlled immigration, you will have small class sizes, particularly at primary.

ED: *(interrupting)* You don't know what the costs are. Getting schools to provide childcare? You don't . . .

NF: Well . . .

ED: It's not costed.

NF: Well, we've said parents would get involved with that. That actually, actually ctually what we try to do, is to try, you know, we talk a lot about early years childcare in this country, two, three, four-year-olds and we talk about, you know, 15 hours a week or should it be more, that the government helps with. What doesn't get talked about is the fact that from five years old, you know, children are going to school, whether from 9am-3.30pm or whatever, actually, we're talking there about providing a framework, where there could be wrap around childcare from eight in the morning to six in the evening and . . .

ED: *(interrupting)* Right, and that's going to cost nothing?

NF: Using people . . .

ED: That's going to cost nothing . . .

NF: And using people who are volunteers, you know, obviously with, obviously with the right checks and everything else.

ED: We're just about out of time. After the Rochester and Strood by-election . . .

NF: Yeah.

ED: You talked about winning dozens of MPs.

NF: I never said that, I'm very careful . . .

ED: You didn't say you would, you didn't *say* you would, you said, 'Can we do this in a few dozen seats or whatever the number may, we can' – so you referred to dozens of MPs. My question is, what are you hoping for?

NF: We are targeting . . . we are targeting several dozen seats exactly as I said we would.

ED: *(interrupting)* How many do you think you could win? What would be a good night, what'll be a bad night for you?

NF: There are there are really three. . .

ED: Three.

NF: . . . criteria.

ED: Ah, not seats. Right.

NF: *(laughter in voice)* There are three criteria, that Ukip will be measured on - have we got a decent number of people over the line in first place? Have we got more than a handful, maybe into double figures.

ED: More than a handful *(words unclear due to speaking over)*

NF: Whatever, that's the first criteria, the second criteria is what is our share of the national vote and the third criteria, longer term for the party is how many seats have we come second in and what does that mean long-term for politics? We have, as a party, through 2013 and 2014 jumped some pretty incredible hurdles. This one, as I look at it, is like Beacher's Brook, you know, it's a big hurdle. If we get over this and land safely on the other side, then I think Ukip's potential is massive.

ED: You have said you will resign as leader of Ukip if you don't win Thanet South. Do you regret saying that, because the polls have by no means make it that likely you could win?

NF: Not at all, no.

ED: You may be in your last couple of weeks now of your leadership of the party.

NF: Well, you know, David Cameron could be in the last two weeks of his leadership, Miliband could be in the last two weeks, Clegg could. Look, I mean, we could all be gone!

ED: But your party will no longer be accused of being a one-man-band.

NF: (*words unclear*) come through. No, look, I . . . I . . . I believe that I've given everything to try to make Ukip a political success, but I have to get over this particular Becher's Brook, I believe, I'm confident and I believe that I will

ED: You, I mean you must have found it very gruelling. You are a big part of what the party's public face is. You've had at least one night where you haven't been sleeping and I know that . . . I just wonder whether you are going to look forward to when all this is over and whether you are operating at 100% at the moment?

NF: I think, to be honest with you, in the earlier part of the campaign I wasn't and I wasn't feeling quite as sharp and as fit as I should have been and I think that's because frankly, in my enthusiasm for Ukip to succeed in this election, I got my diary planning wrong and I was doing way, way too much. I've re-adjusted that and, I have to say, the last two or three days, I'm feeling pretty bouncy, back to being a bit more like Tigger, I'm enjoying it and looking forward to the next fortnight.

ED: Nigel Farage, thank you very much indeed.

NF: Thank you.