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## Nigel Farage's Limited Mentions of Clacton in Commons Speeches

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Nigel Farage, the Reform UK leader and MP for Clacton, has been a prominent figure in British politics since his election in July 2024. However, parliamentary records reveal a striking pattern: in the past year, Farage has mentioned his Essex constituency only four times during his 46 Commons speeches, averaging less than one speech per week. This sparse reference to Clacton stands in contrast to his deputy, Richard Tice, who has spoken over four times as frequently and referenced his constituency, Boston and Skegness, at least 25 times.

Farage's limited engagement with Clacton in Parliament has raised eyebrows, particularly given his reported earnings of £970,000 from external ventures, the highest among MPs. These include his GB News presenting role, which nets him £330,000 annually, and multiple speaking engagements, predominantly in the United States. Since his election, Farage has undertaken nine overseas trips, eight to the US, where he has been seen aligning with right-wing figures and attending high-profile events, such as fundraisers for Donald Trump. Critics argue these activities have taken precedence over his duties as Clacton's representative.

Jolyon Maugham, executive director of the Good Law Project, has been vocal in his criticism, stating in a recent interview, "Over the last year, Farage has put his speaking tours of the U.S., his GB News show, and various side hustles ahead of being the MP for Clacton." Local sentiment echoes this frustration, with some Clacton residents claiming Farage's presence in the constituency is limited to seeking "photo opportunities" rather than substantive engagement.

Farage's defenders, however, argue that his role as Reform UK's leader necessitates a broader focus, including building a national movement to challenge the Labour government's policies. They point to his vocal opposition to Keir Starmer's administration, which he has described as "the most inexperienced people ever to have got into a British Cabinet" during a visit to a football match in Essex in July 2024. Yet, this national agenda does little to quell concerns among constituents who feel neglected by their MP's absence from local issues in parliamentary debates.

The contrast between Farage's global profile and his minimal focus on Clacton in the Commons has fuelled accusations of prioritising personal gain over public service. His reported absence from 80% of parliamentary votes and his decision to forgo in-person constituency surgeries, citing security concerns, though later backtracking on claims of advice from the Speaker's Office, have only deepened these criticisms. Meanwhile, Clacton, a constituency with significant economic challenges, including an economic inactivity rate of 46.8%, more than double the UK average, continues to await more visible representation from its MP.

As Reform UK positions itself as a growing force against Labour's governance, Farage's sparse parliamentary references to Clacton raise questions about his commitment to the seaside town that finally propelled him into Westminster. Whether his focus on national and

international stages will overshadow his local duties remains a point of contention as the next election looms.

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