

# Google delivers a rare moment of Labour unity

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Google seems to have provided Labour with a theme on which it can speak with one voice. Having [already noted](#) what Margaret Hodge has to say on the issue this morning in the Observer I then saw that John McDonnell had written on [the issue in the Sunday Times](#) (paywall), saying:

*Any increase in the contribution of large companies whose tax affairs have been questioned is, of course, to be welcomed, but let us make no mistake: this comes as a result of much hard work and campaigning.*

*Tax experts, grassroots campaigners and MPs including Jeremy Corbyn and me have spent years raising awareness of these problems.*

*If George Osborne implicitly admits we were right at last, that is something to celebrate at least.*

*But until we know what has been agreed here and for the future – and until all big companies are paying their share like the rest of us – there is clearly a lot of work still to be done.*

Again, it is hard to disagree. This is also factually accurate: this is the issue about which I first met John McDonnell and Jeremy Corbyn. At the time we were criticising New Labour for its approach: the settlement is now on another government's watch and neither should be getting credit for their actions. Margaret and John do not, I suspect, agree on that much. At least they do on this.

But John would be wise to take on Margaret's demands for country-by-country reporting and better transparency from HMRC on large business tax affairs. That turns this into a positive agenda. Adding [HMRC reform](#) into the mix would make it a very strong platform. And that's what's needed.