

# Why the Bank of England's independence is just a...

Published: January 13, 2026, 12:37 am

---

*I [first posted this blog](#) on 24 August 2015. I offer it again because it is particularly relevant today given all the nonsense that will [be offered](#) to mark the twentieth anniversary of the Bank of England's supposed independence:*

I argued on the Today programme on Radio 4 this morning that the Bank of England's independence from the Treasury is just a charade. It was always designed to appease the stupidity of the bond vigilantes. This is why. It is [Section 19 of the Bank of England Act 1998](#):

*To put it another way: they have independence so long as they do what the Treasury wants or independence can be suspended at any time.*

*And that is precisely why the Bank of England has always done what the Treasury wants, as I said. They really don't have much choice in the matter.*

*It's time we talked economic reality and not the silly games people have played in pursuit of neoliberalism.*