

The stupidity to come

Published: January 15, 2026, 12:53 pm

I have little doubt that Boris Johnson will be our next Prime Minister. That he will be disastrous is guaranteed. That other Tory candidates would be too does not matter: he will be dire.

How do I know? He has been writing in the Telegraph, setting out his big ideas. I quote from [Politics Home](#) as the Telegraph has paywalls. He has said:

We should be cutting corporation tax and other business taxes.

We should be raising thresholds of income tax — so that we help the huge numbers that have been captured in the higher rate by fiscal drag. We can go for much greater economic growth — and still be the cleanest, greenest society on earth.

I do not think I need to add more. So let me address these issues.

Business does not want another cut in corporation tax: it would prefer better services (and yes I know they are not necessarily linked, but business and Johnson think they are).

And anyone who knows anything about the tax system knows that cutting corporation tax further will just increase the opportunities for tax abuse in the UK tax system. As well as increasing inequality, of course.

Whilst cutting taxes for those on £50,000 - £80,000 is, of course, the highest priority for spending there is in the UK, but only if you are standing for leader of the Tory party. Costing £9.6bn, it would apparently be paid for by the Brexit dividend. I have to say that of all the groups in society to pick on to help Johnson shows his true spirit of self-interest first by choosing those already in the top 10% of earners, even if they don't appreciate it. As an indicator of inability to appraise priorities few come better than this.

Barring his suggestion that we can have much greater growth and be the cleanest, greenest society on earth, that is. And that's because that's tautologically impossible when measures of growth are basically dependent upon planetary destruction.

I keep thinking things are bad. Then they get worse.