

Funding the Future

Why the heck can't we have a grown up debate on the mer.

Published: January 21, 2026, 10:22 pm

I posted this thread this afternoon:

-  **Richard Murphy** @RichardJMurphy
When people save with a bank no one panics because the bank is now in debt to the saver. We just think that's normal. Nor does anyone say the bank must pay all that money back as soon as possible. That would be crazy. So is there a panic when people save with the government?
3:50 PM · Jan 24, 2023
-  **Richard Murphy** @RichardJMurphy · 34s
Replying to @RichardJMurphy
And let's be clear about this - what people call the national debt is nothing more or less than sums people save with the government, whether through National Savings and Investments or government gilts. Even bank notes are government savings accounts with zero interest on them.
1 reply
-  **Richard Murphy** @RichardJMurphy · 34s
So why on earth do we panic when people want to save with the government and say this somehow threatens the stability of the national finances - when the whole reason people want to save with the government is that they know they're the safest people to save with?
1 reply
-  **Richard Murphy** @RichardJMurphy · 33s
And how do people know the government is the safest place to save? That's because deep down everyone knows that only the government can ultimately create money - so that the gov't is the only organisation that can 100% guarantee to pay a saver's money back. No one else can.
1 reply
-  **Richard Murphy** @RichardJMurphy · 32s
We also know most people know that no one else is as safe as the government - which is why most people won't hold more than the £85,000 limit with any bank because that 's what the government guarantees to repay in the event the bank fails.
-  **Richard Murphy** @RichardJMurphy · 31s
And all of these savings with the government are exactly what make up the national debt, about which the media gets so upset. But why? What the heck is so worrying about people wanting to save with the government because it's the safest place for their money?
-  **Richard Murphy** @RichardJMurphy · 31s
In fact, shouldn't we be encouraging more people to save with the government and entrust their money to its care? Wouldn't that be the best use for that spare cash? And why can't we have a grown-up debate on this instead of having the stupid commentators get noisy?