

## £10 million of private donations to a political party ...

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A person made rich by Tory NHS outsourcing contracts yesterday [appeared to admit saying](#):

*It's like trying not to be racist but you see Diane Abbott on the TV, and you're just like I hate, you just want to hate all black women because she's there, and I don't hate all black women at all, but I think she should be shot.*

He then [claimed that](#):

*the criticism had nothing to do with her gender nor colour of skin.*

Ministers chose to believe that. No reasonable person could have done so.

They then suggested that he was contrite, although evidence of his persistent racist remarks has emerged. They claimed as a result he should be forgiven, matters should move on and they have no reason to return the £10 million he has donated out of profits he has made at the expense of the public purse.

I have three suggestions.

The first is that the case for more diversity training is overwhelmingly made.

The second is that the Tories should not return the funds but should use it to fund compulsory training on that issue for all their elected officials, candidates and staff as they are very clearly badly in need of it.

Third, we must end the system of political donations exceeding £5,000 per annum from anyone, and from companies altogether. Then we might reduce the influence of such opinion on politics.

None of that will happen though. Why? As I tweeted last night:



Richard Murphy   
@RichardJMurphy

I guess that if the Tories wanted to prove that they are institutionally racist - and it has to be presumed that they might well do so - then they might think today a success.

When the whole basis of your campaigning is anti-woke, which necessarily means that you are opposed to equality, you might want to appear institutionally racist. It would appear to go with the territory.

Maybe they really did not react to these comments with any of the actual disdain some of us did, hence their delay in actually managing to say anything.

And, meanwhile, the constitutional settlement continues to collapse before our eyes in real time. £10 million of private individual donations to a political party inevitably corrupt it. The alarm bells should be ringing, but are not.