

## Show us your workings

Published: January 13, 2026, 7:57 am

---

I [have posted this short video](#) this morning. In it, I argue that all our political parties are selling us short by claiming that they are supplying 'fully-costed' manifestos at this election, and so far, none of them have even come close to doing so. In that case "show us your workings" is a reasonable demand to make.



The [video can be viewed here](#).

The transcript is:

---

*All the political parties are claiming that they are presenting 'fully-costed' manifestos at the upcoming general election.*

*No, they're not. That's nonsense. I've looked at some of the manifestos that have already been offered, and they're offering some workings, but without any explanation as to how they come to some amazingly large numbers.*

*For example, the Liberal Democrats have a figure for £7. 2 billion that they're going to recover from tackling tax avoidance and tax evasion. Now I don't dispute that that is possible, particularly if, as they say, they're going to spend £1 billion extra on staffing at HM Revenue and Customs. But I still don't know how they got to the number because they don't show their workings.*

*I'm sure that everybody watching this video did at some time suffer a maths lesson where a teacher said to them "show your workings" because that's the way you'll get the marks, and that's true of our political parties.*

*Unless they show their workings, their costings are meaningless.*

*So, give us your workings.*