

Funding the Future

Truth to power

Published: January 12, 2026, 11:30 pm

I posted this on Twitter as an honest response to Starmer's speech in Downing Street, which I felt remarkably uninspired:

 **Richard Murphy**  
@RichardJMurphy

Possibly the most turgid new Prime Minister's speech ever. I have heard new curates deliver better sermons - and a sermon is exactly what it sounded like.

12:50 PM · Jul 5, 2024 · 51.5K Views



Note the number of responses. This is a flavour of them:

 **belinda steer** @BelindaCSteer · 53m 
I loved it. Sat in Costa with tears in my eyes. Feel hopeful for the first time in over a decade



 **Brian Moss** @Deppwifebeater · 12m 
I liked it



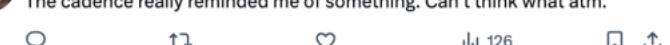
 **Sun-Headed Deity of Tamgaly** @OscarNMFranklin · 1h 
Oh please. It was measured, sincere, and meaningful.



 **NR** @nuno1085 · 1h 
You are really upset !



 **All of them snollygosters...** @OnlyEnnui · 2h 
The cadence really reminded me of something. Can't think what atm.



 **Surf Lady Dude** @SurfLadyDude1 · 1h 
And he will do the exact opposite of serving the public.



 **Vicky M**     @RoqcVicky · 2h 
You must have been watching a different speech to me. I thought it was excellent



I have chosen to ignore some of the more abusive ones - but it's fair to say the Labour troll bot machine was definitely out in force.

So, too, are those who want nothing from a politician and who think Starmer will deliver that. I think they will be bitterly disappointed.

What I can be sure of are three things, all of which I can control.

The first is that I will speak truth to power.

The second is that if this means I criticise Labour, I will.

And, third, I will do so even if that upsets people.

In this case, the likes and retweets considerably exceed the number of comments: that's a positive measure on Twitter.

But if people think that I will change my tone just because we have a new government that is intent on delivering the same old failed mantras in new, dull, and boring ways, they are seriously mistaken.