

# 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.

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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





 1

 16





**Brian Moss** @Deppwifebeater · 12m

I liked it







 3





**Sun-Headed Deity of Tamgaly** @OscarNMFranklin · 1h

Oh please. It was measured, sincere, and meaningful.







 37





**NR** @nuno1085 · 1h

You are really upset !







 26





**All of them snollygosters...** @OnlyEnnui · 2h

The cadence really reminded me of something. Can't think what atm.







 126





**Surf Lady Dude** @SurfLadyDude1 · 1h

And he will do the exact opposite of serving the public.







 28





**Vicky M** 🇧🇷🇪🇺🇺🇦 @RoqcVicky · 2h

You must have been watching a different speech to me. I thought it was excellent





 12

 212





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.