

What did not happen in the Budget

Published: January 13, 2026, 10:49 am

These things did not happen in the Budget:

- * Green investment or anything to tackle the effect of climate change
- * A new economic settlement for the devolved administrations and regions of England
- * Anything to save local authorities from bankruptcy
- * Anything to save universities from insolvency
- * Anything serious on social care
- * Anything meaningful to end the delay in the delivery of justice in the UK
- * Anything to redirect savings to social purpose
- * Anything to end the massive subsidy of wealth in the UK via the tax system, and most especially via pension tax relief
- * Anything to make sure higher-paid employees pay their fair national insurance contributions
- * Measures to increase the rate of tax on investment income to compensate for the lack of national insurance on them
- * Anything to fund Companies House to run a real company regulation system in this country to really beat fraud and tax abuse
- * Moves to take HM Revenue & Customs back into local communities
- * Moves to reduce inheritance tax on smaller estates whilst seriously increasing it on larger ones so that this tax might really be progressive
- * The equalisation of capital gains tax rates with income tax
- * Real spending increases sufficient to make public services work - when even the NHS increase was only an effective inflation rate increase
- * Anything significant on child poverty

I am sure there is more. But you get my drift by now.

This was a massive opportunity missed.