

The price of change

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One of the consequences of posting links to my blogs and videos on Twitter, Mastodon, Bluesky, LinkedIn, Facebook and YouTube itself, is that I see lot of comments on what I have to say. It would be impossible to read, let alone respond to, most of these, given that that there may well be more than 1,000 or more, most days now. I do, however, view at least some of them and I was quite amused by a series of comments that I noted yesterday.

One commentator on YouTube suggested that my analysis of the government's accounts and the consequent changes in the national debt, as properly stated by those accounts, was far too complex for them to understand, and asked that I make things much simpler.

Now, I am not suggesting that I do everything to perfection, but I did seriously wonder how much simpler I could make such a complex issue that did, inevitably, require some data to interpret it. I came to the conclusion that I cannot please everyone.

Another person had viewed my video on the wealthy, and wealthy farmers in particular and thought I was at risk of being too opinionated, too often. This I found quite amusing. The whole point of what I have done on social media for more than eighteen years is to be opinionated. I don't do it to be awkward. I never say something for the sake of it. I do think quite carefully about what I am going to say. But what I will admit is that if I am not offering an opinion that I think is going to upset someone I will not post.

The reason for that should, I would hope, be obvious. I write about things because I want to change them. Given that some people are always going to be happy with the way things are, then I am bound to upset some people every time I write. What I do not understand in that case is how I can now be too opinionated. My guess is that the commentator in question has either not understood why I write, or is trying to tell me to shut up. I won't be.

And then I was told that my comments on assisted during were too cynical. The same

commentator thought that I should have more faith in government. So let me be clear, I have enormous belief in the ability of governments to deliver for people, but I have no faith in neoliberal governments because by definition they do not care. Is it possible to be too cynical about a government that sets out without the basic intention of fulfilling the task a government should undertake? I think not. I deny the charge made against me.

Why say this? Simply because I want to make clear I do care. I care enough to write about things, even when I might do something else. I care enough to want a better world. I believe one is possible, but that achieving that goal might not be either simple or straightforward, and some people (and most especially, I hope, neoliberals or worse) will be upset by what I say. That's the price of change. I can live with it.

And the answer to those who think I get short-tempered with those who disagree with me is implicit in the previous paragraph. I have little time for those who don't seem to care and I am not sure what is wrong with that.