

From centre right to hard left

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This was drawn to my attention today by commentator John Boxall. It was in [The New Statesman](#) in 2023:

In 1962 I was a Conservative. I believed privilege could only be justified by service, high taxes on very high incomes were necessary to prevent an entrepreneurial economy becoming a rentier economy, and Keynesian growth would finance public service improvements and a welfare state that steadily reduced inequality. I was suspicious of ideologically driven, large-scale change. These were the mainstream policies of the Macmillan government at the time. In 60 years I have moved from centre right to hard left without changing my opinions.

Dr Stephen Watkins, Oldham, Lancashire

That is so right.

I was once upon a time on the right of Labour. After all, I very firmly believed in a mixed economy as the bedrock for social justice.

Now I am way to the left of almost every elected Labour MP. I have not changed. Labour and politics in general has.

But does that make me far left? Of course not. I remain on the left of centre, undoubtedly, but a decided moderate, and happy to be so.