

Funding the Future

Article URL

Published: January 12, 2026, 6:21 pm

As [The Guardian](#) notes this morning:

Yvette Cooper, the home secretary, is the only minister yet to agree a spending settlement with the chancellor, Rachel Reeves. In the Times Chris Smyth says police budgets are expected to rise by more than inflation, but other parts of the Home Office budget may face cuts.

I think there is rather more to this than meets the initial eye.

My question is, might Cooper be on manoeuvres, looking for an excuse to quit because she wants to oppose Starmer from the backbenches, giving her the chance to mount a leadership challenge?

Ed Balls is taking very aggressive stances with Labour ministers in interviews on breakfast television at present. Could this all be part of a co-ordinated opposition?

For the record, Cooper is not the answer to any known question. If she replaced Starmer it would be one extreme centrist replacing another.