

## It's been a long year

Published: January 13, 2026, 2:48 am

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I have spent nearly a year criticising Labour in office.

Before its arrival in office, I spent a lot of time criticising Labour's campaign to win the 2024 general election because it was very apparent, even then, that it had nothing to say about what it might do when in office.

I have been told off by Labour friends, by commentators, and those who just think I am betraying something that they claim is a left-wing political party, for doing these things.

Retrospect is a wonderful thing, and being proved right does not guarantee that the success of your predictions will continue into the future, but in this case, I think everything that I have said has been justified.

Labour did not, after all, win the 2024 general election. In time-honoured fashion, Labour won that election because the Tories had finally proved themselves to be utterly incompetent, disorganised, and politically bankrupt. The only remaining question in 2024 was why they would pick up any votes at all, and that remains the case today.

As a consequence, Morgan McSweeney cannot be seen as an election genius. Labour only had to turn up to win that election, and that is all they did.

What we now know, after a year that has led to today's vote on personal independence payments and other disability benefits, is that Labour really did arrive in office with absolutely no ideas as to what it was going to do, except balance the budget.

The simple fact is that any political party does, when entering government, have a choice. It can manage the country, or it can manage the government, but it can't set both as its objectives. By managing the country well, it will, as an epiphenomenon of doing so, manage the government's finances more than adequately. But unless it truly understands economics, no political party can manage the country, and since Labour has almost no depth of macroeconomic knowledge, or any political nous, it has taken the accountant's approach of managing the government instead of the economy, and the price is being seen by everyone.

One hundred fifty thousand people will be forced into poverty today as a consequence of what Labour is doing. If you want a summary of what Labour's first year in office has been about, that is it.

I will not apologise for having criticised a political party that is doing this.

Nor will I apologise for continuing to do so.

And I will not pretend, as too many still do, that a party that can do this is in any way left of centre, because Labour very clearly is not. There is nothing remotely left-wing about a party that chooses, as I explained it is doing in today's video, to continue to provide benefits to the wealthy, whilst denying them to those who are in need.

There might be four more long years of this government to suffer as yet. If that is the case, I will continue to criticise them unless they improve their act. What happens is up to them, but right now, they are failing us terribly, and that means that my duty is to point this out and to show that this is not necessary, which is precisely why I have drawn comparison today between their cuts, and the opportunity available to them to reduce the benefits on pension contributions, the impact which would only be felt by the very wealthiest.

Governing is about making choices. So far, Labour has only shown it is good at making very bad ones.