

Burnham: no taxes on wealth

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The Guardian [has reported](#) this morning that:

Andy Burnham has signalled that he will not increase wealth taxes immediately after becoming prime minister, easing concerns among the business community but limiting his economic room for manoeuvre.

He said on Wednesday he did not want to “create new divisions” with his tax policy, in comments that allies said were a sign that he did not intend to raise money by taxing wealth.

They added that he had said in an interview with Gary Lineker:

“I do believe we need a greater sense of fairness and people feeling that things are being done in the right way and a fair way.”

“But at the same time, you know, I don’t want to sort of be perceived as somebody who’s coming in with grudges and agendas and, you know, going to just immediately find or demonise one group or create a new way of dividing people.”

Add this to reports that he will be appointing Shabana Mahmood as Chancellor, and pressure from the OECD that he increase deeply regressive VAT instead of taxing wealth more and a picture of Burnham’s economic and tax philosophy is emerging. It looks remarkably like that if Rachel Reeves, albeit potentially even more so.

This is all deeply, depressingly neoliberal, but that is what I expected from Labour. Nothing is going to change. That party has chosen the pathway to political collapse and to play the role of incubator for fascism, and the hints are that this remains the case.