# Farmers protest outside BBC in Southampton over inheritance tax changes



Around midday, approximately 40 farm vehicles were parked outside the BBC centre on Havelock Road in Southampton as part of a protest against recent changes to inheritance tax, organisers and participants reported. The demonstration lasted for around two hours.

The farmers involved objected specifically to the UK government's decision, effective from October 2024, to limit tax relief for farms to £1 million. Protest leaders argued that the media, including the BBC, had not provided sufficient coverage of this policy change, which they contend poses a threat to the viability of family-run farms.

One of the protesters, a farmer identifying himself as Mark from near Bishop’s Waltham, conveyed his concerns about the impact of the tax revision. Speaking to the BBC, he said, "You won’t be able to keep going. The inheritance charge will be so high." Mark expressed frustration that politicians have largely ignored the issue and criticised the media for inadequate reporting. Highlighting this, he remarked on the BBC radio programme The Archers, saying, "It’s taken them forever to mention the fact about the Inheritance Tax."

Mark further referenced a previous large demonstration when 1,500 tractors gathered in London to protest the same issue, noting, "In some parts of the press there was very little mention of that."

No official comment has been made by the BBC regarding the protest. The demonstration in Southampton reflects ongoing tensions within the agricultural community about tax policies affecting farm inheritances, raising questions about the future sustainability of family farming enterprises in the UK.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/key-measures-uk-labour-partys-first-budget-nearly-15-years-2024-10-30/> - This article details the UK government's decision to limit tax relief for farms to £1 million, effective from October 2024, as part of the Labour Party's first budget in nearly 15 years.
2. <https://www.newshub.co.uk/news/2024/10/30/changes-to-inheritance-tax-relief-threaten-family-farms-in-the-uk/> - This piece discusses the National Farmers' Union's concerns that the inheritance tax reforms could severely impact liquidity during succession planning, making it difficult for families to reinvest in their farming operations.
3. <https://www.avtrinity.com/news/assessing-the-impact-of-the-autumn-budget-2024-on-uk-farms> - This article provides an example illustrating how a family farm valued at £6 million, previously transferable tax-free upon the farmer’s death, will now incur a £1,000,000 tax liability due to the reduction in Agricultural Property Relief (APR) and Business Property Relief (BPR).
4. <https://www.ft.com/content/0f1fb161-22ea-4aca-b43e-3efdbaddf3af> - This report highlights that the inheritance tax exemption for pensions will be removed starting April 2027, potentially bringing 10,500 more estates into the tax scope by 2027-28, which could impact the viability of family farms upon transfer.
5. <https://www.pmm.co.uk/news/autumn-budget-2024-understanding-the-impact-of-iht-changes-on-family-businesses-and-farms/> - This article discusses how the reduction in BPR and APR will be acutely felt by business owners during transitions, especially in the circumstances of an unexpected death of the owner or a major shareholder, potentially destabilizing rural and farming communities.
6. <https://www.higheroakfarm.co.uk/blog1/2024/11/4/uk-budget-2024-how-inheritance-tax-changes-could-threaten-family-farms-and-rural-communities> - This blog post discusses how the National Farmers' Union (NFU) has labeled the inheritance tax adjustment a 'family farm tax,' emphasizing that it may have severe implications for family-owned farms, which are typically cash-poor but asset-rich due to the high value of farmland.
7. <https://news.google.com/rss/articles/CBMiWkFVX3lxTE5QcFNISnJyVGllWUhaNjVVQzFmeDl4TnVNU3hzZUk5TEVfLWlMZXZnMm5TTjlIY19pYlZtS2VEb3ZqYS1KZmRBTUR6ZGF3Yi11Q0JkV1ROR0xzd9IBX0FVX3lxTE1SVmg0bGdEUzZTamhPM3ZTa1lNbTVjRXZVOXdtWVFNc2ZXby1hdVJNQ0dnbnh0Zl9UdU10eEZlUzlSVktqSXhWNE01Y1NPdmVNSG9JU3daSGdLSFNtYUVz?oc=5&hl=en-US&gl=US&ceid=US:en> - Please view link - unable to able to access data