# Keir Starmer’s government faces criticism over policy reversals and broken promises



Sir Keir Starmer, leader of the Labour Party and current Prime Minister, is rapidly revealing himself to be a master of broken promises and political flip-flopping rather than a leader with a consistent, principled vision. His series of policy reversals — both during his time in opposition and after forming government — expose the emptiness at the heart of his administration and the clear dangers of Labour's drift leftwards under his stewardship.

Take taxation, for instance. Starmer’s Labour manifesto boldly asserted, “We will not increase national insurance; the basic, higher or additional rates of income tax, or VAT.” Yet, barely months into office, the government reversed course by hiking employers’ national insurance contributions in a misguided attempt to raise £24 billion. Independent economic authorities warned this would harm jobs, wages, and growth — exactly the wrong approach in a delicate economy. The Party’s attempt to wriggle out by claiming the manifesto referred only to employees’ rates is a thin excuse; the clear betrayal has left the public bewildered and the economy at risk.

On gender and women’s rights, Starmer’s about-turn is equally troubling. In 2022 he stood firm that “trans women are women” under UK law, reflecting a clear recognition of gender identity protections. Now, faced with a Supreme Court ruling emphasizing biological sex, he has narrowed his definition, dismissing trans women’s inclusion entirely. This flip not only confuses the public but alienates key constituencies while appearing politically expedient rather than principled.

Starmer’s wholesale abandonment of core Labour pledges — such as scrapping tuition fees, lifting the two-child benefit cap, reversing Universal Credit reforms, retaining free movement with the EU, and nationalising utilities — further underscores the chasm between rhetoric and reality. What was once bold progressive policy has been quietly discarded, undermining trust and demonstrating Labour’s unwillingness or inability to follow through on promises.

Farmers, long promised a “new relationship” and promised tax breaks, have been blindsided by inheritance tax extensions to family farms. That Environment Secretary Steve Reed learned of this measure just a day before its announcement reveals chaotic policymaking and disregard for vital rural interests. The ensuing protests testify to the government’s failure to uphold commitments or protect essential sectors.

Starmer has similarly reneged on promised compensation for Waspi women, shifting to a narrative of fiscal “fairness” that conveniently sidelines those whose livelihoods have been gravely impacted. This betrayal further exposes the government’s preference for cost-cutting over standing by vulnerable citizens.

The scaling back of environmental investment from a pledged £28 billion to a mere £4.7 billion annually is yet another indication that Starmer’s green promises are more smoke and mirrors than genuine action. The diminished “green prosperity plan” and cuts to initiatives like the National Wealth Fund and Great British Energy call into question Labour’s seriousness on climate change—a critical issue where consistency and long-term vision are essential.

Labour’s ambivalence on supply chain ethics—evidenced by its MPs’ wholesale abstention on measures banning forced labour-linked solar panels—combined with a lukewarm government amendment on eradicating modern slavery within Great British Energy’s suppliers, highlights a disturbing readiness to compromise principles for political convenience. Skeptics rightly question if this lax approach will hinder the UK’s net-zero targets.

Even education reform, an area ripe for genuine improvement, has seen Starmer backtracking. His original plans to reform academy schools have been watered down following criticism, reflecting a reluctance to disrupt entrenched interests or take decisive action.

These episodes amount to more than mere political adjustments; they are symptomatic of a leadership bereft of direction and incapable of delivering on its promises. The new Prime Minister’s tenure exposes a Labour Party adrift, betraying its base and failing the nation at a time when decisive, clear-headed governance is sorely needed.

Against this backdrop, it falls to emerging political forces—those advocating for fiscal responsibility, a tough stance on law and order, and policies that prioritise British jobs and sovereignty—to offer voters a credible alternative. The profound disconnect between Starmer’s words and deeds only strengthens the case for a new centre-right vision that respects commitments, promotes economic growth, and safeguards traditional values amidst today’s challenges.

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

## References

* <https://www.politico.eu/article/britain-budget-tax-increase-growth-rachel-reeves-keir-starmer-uk-labour-party-treasury/> - This article corroborates the claim that the current Labour government has increased taxes significantly, particularly through hikes in employers' national insurance contributions, which contrasts with their pre-election promises.
* <https://news.sky.com/story/starmer-says-he-cant-rule-out-further-tax-rises-before-next-election-13267796> - This piece supports the notion that while Starmer does not plan further tax increases, he cannot rule them out under unforeseen circumstances, highlighting a potential for policy reversals.
* <https://news.sky.com/story/starmer-refuses-to-say-if-further-tax-rises-will-be-imposed-at-spring-statement-13317895> - This article shows that Starmer is cautious about committing to future tax policies, indicating uncertainty and potential for further changes, which aligns with concerns about broken promises.
* <https://labour.org.uk/change/labours-fiscal-plan/> - Labour's fiscal plan emphasizes achieving a balanced current budget, but recent actions suggest inconsistency with this goal, particularly in relation to taxation and spending commitments.
* <https://www.noahwire.com> - The source article (though not a specific URL for corroboration) outlines the broader context of political promises and reversals under Starmer's leadership.
* <https://news.sky.com/story/sir-keir-starmer-says-those-with-assets-not-working-people-paving-way-for-possible-tax-rises-13240521> - This article highlights Starmer's ambiguous stance on taxing asset holders, which might indicate a shift in the definition of 'working people' and further potential policy changes.
* <https://www.thetimes.com/uk/politics/article/keir-starmer-u-turns-trans-women-waspi-iht-0dvxww3fl> - Please view link - unable to able to access data