



## UNITED KINGDOM – August 2026

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### UK GENERAL

#### **Why Stamp Duty on primary homes should be scrapped**

This article provides an opinion on how Britain's housing mobility problem could be solved by scrapping stamp duty. The article explains the reasons for this.

The article can be accessed via the following link:

<https://fairershare.org.uk/why-stamp-duty-on-primary-homes-should-be-scrapped/>

### International Property Tax Institute

IPTI Xtracts- The items included in IPTI Xtracts have been extracted from published information. IPTI accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of the information or any opinions expressed in the articles.

### **Axe stamp duty? How Andy Burnham could change property tax**

This article looks at the current debate regarding reform of stamp duty and council tax and looks at how property is taxed now, why there are calls for reform, what the options are and what the objections are, a comparison with the systems adopted by other countries and whether the prime minister is likely to go ahead with reform.

The article can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.theguardian.com/money/2026/aug/11/stamp-duty-andy-burnham-uk-property-council-tax-house-prices>

### **Britain's property taxes send all the wrong signals - The Proportional Property Tax can fix that**

This article looks at the current property tax system for homeowners and finds that it actively discourages people from moving. The article reinforces opinion that the answer to this is a proportional property tax and looks at how it would reform the housing market.

The article can be accessed via the following link:

<https://fairershare.org.uk/britains-property-taxes-send-all-the-wrong-signals-the-proportional-property-tax-can-fix-that/>

### **Burnham vows to reform business rates to halt high street decline**

This article reports that one of the PM's earliest priorities is to breathe life back into Britain's High Streets by reforming business rates. The article discusses how online shopping has changed the face of the High Street and whether business rates reform is the answer.

The article can be accessed via the following link:

<https://londonlovesbusiness.com/burnham-vows-to-reform-business-rates-to-halt-high-street-decline/>

### **Council Tax reform: why we should go further than Centre for Cities**

This article provides the opinion of the chairman of Fairer Share, a lobbying group for council tax reform, who discusses the contribution to the argument of Centre for Cities, who believe that that Council Tax should become much more proportional while remaining locally controlled. Both groups share the opinion that banding should be abandoned, whereas unlike Fairer Share, Centre for Cities does not comment on Stamp Duty abolition.

The article can be accessed via the following link:

<https://fairershare.org.uk/council-tax-reform-why-we-should-go-further-than-centre-for-cities/>

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## **UK government appoints independent review of hotel business rates**

This article announces an independent review into business rate valuations for hotels. It is understood that the review will feed into government policy in 2028.

The article can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.costar.com/article/1423678877/uk-government-appoints-independent-review-of-hotel-business-rates>

## **ENGLAND**

### **Business Rates update: What the latest relief measures mean for businesses and the wider economy**

This article looks at the proposed relief for pubs and some music venues and asks how the relief will be applied and funded, and whether targeted interventions offer a long-term solution to wider problems within the Business Rates system.

The article can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.savills.co.uk/blog/article/394054/commercial-property/business-rates-update--what-the-latest-relief-measures-mean-for-businesses-and-the-wider-economy.aspx>

### **Business rates 'tinkering' is not enough say campaigners as they demand full-scale overhaul of hated levy**

This article explains that business ratepayers feel that a wholesale reform of business rates is required, not just 'piecemeal reliefs'. This article reveals that ratepayers and lobbying groups are urging the Labour government to deliver on its election pledge for a major shake-up to level the playing field between their premises and online operators.

The article can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.thisismoney.co.uk/money/markets/article-16077671/Business-rates-tinkering-not-say-campaigners-demand-scale-overhaul-hated-levy.html>

### **This tax rise makes the most sense, but you might hate it**

This article concludes that the only revenue raising option open to the prime minister is to increase taxes on immovable property by revaluing residential property for council tax and increasing the bands, and getting rid of stamp duty in favour of a proportional property tax.

The article can be accessed via the following link:

<https://inews.co.uk/opinion/tax-rise-most-sense-might-hate-4728590>

### **The tide is turning on property tax reform**

This article looks at the range of bodies making the case to the government for serious reform of the property tax system, with most favouring a replacement of council tax and

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stamp duty by a proportional property tax. The article looks at the problems with the two existing taxes.

The article can be accessed via the following link:

<https://fairershare.org.uk/the-tide-is-turning-on-property-tax-reform/>

### **How mansion tax inspectors could get into your home and fine you £500**

This article considers whether homeowners can prevent internal inspections of their homes for the proposed “mansion tax”, affecting properties worth over £2m. The article looks at existing legislation on the matter and hears from the Valuation Office about their inspection policy.

The article can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.thetimes.com/money/tax/article/how-mansion-tax-inspectors-could-get-into-your-home-and-fine-you-500-qwk6pommf?t=1787819816577>

### **Taxing times: Policies, politics, and principles**

This article examines why tax reform proposals have not been adopted by looking at the problems facing the current government of funding, fairness and the future.

The article can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.ippr.org/articles/taxing-times>

### **Burnham’s business rates tsar called for £9bn high-street tax cut**

This article provides details about Jerry Schurder who has been appointed to head the governments review of the business rates system for pubs and hotels. The article looks at his role in arguing for business rates reform over several decades.

The article can be accessed via the following link:

<https://finance.yahoo.com/economy/policy/articles/burnham-business-rates-tsar-called-080000990.html?guccounter=1>

### **Andy Burnham faces growing calls from Left to hit London with new homes tax up to £7.5bn**

This article looks at a publication for Left-leaning think tank Compass which includes 70 policies which the prime minister could adopt as part of his radical blueprint to change Britain. The article looks at a proposal to abolish council tax and stamp duty in favour of a proportional property tax which would increase tax in London and the south-east.

The article can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/andy-burnham-london-property-tax-b1294671.html>

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### **‘Mansion tax police’ to target homes with nice views and driveways**

This article discusses Labour’s proposed mansion tax and looks at the computer-aided valuation model that will be used for the valuations and the property attributes which will be included.

The article can be accessed via the following link:

<https://uk.news.yahoo.com/mansion-tax-police-target-homes-190000599.html>

## **SCOTLAND**

### **Proposed 300% property tax slammed by leading agent**

This article provides an opinion in opposition to Edinburgh Council’s proposal to impose a 300% council tax surcharge on second homeowners and empty housing units in the city. The article indicates why it is thought that the surcharge will not have the outcome that it is intended to provide.

The article can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.estateagenttoday.co.uk/breaking-news/2026/08/proposed-300-property-tax-surcharge-slammed-by-leading-agent/>

### **Scotland ‘at risk’ of falling behind UK on tax and business**

This article provides opinion from the Scottish Chamber of Commerce that Scottish businesses are focused on survival and protecting day-to-day operations rather than investing, recruiting and expanding. The article explains that a review of business rates is urgently required and compares the taxation systems with those in England.

The article can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.europesays.com/uk/1178563/>

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