



UNITED KINGDOM – October 2026

CONTENTS

UK GENERAL	1
ONCE AGAIN, BUSINESS RATES ARE A TAX UPON LANDLORDS	1
RAISING REVENUE: TAXING THE WEALTHY?.....	2
FIX 'BROKEN' BUSINESS RATES SYSTEM ONCE AND FOR ALL, CHANCELLOR TOLD IN LETTER FROM 200 BOSSES.....	2
ENGLAND	2
'MY TAX BILL WILL GO UP £7,000' — THE LONDON BOROUGH FACING RECORD RISES	2
LONDON LABOUR COUNCIL WARNS IT MAY RAISE COUNCIL TAX BY 150%.....	2
MAYORS TO GET 20% SLICE OF BUSINESS RATES GROWTH UNDER BURNHAM PLAN	3
UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES: THE ANTI-GROWTH 'MANSION TAX'.....	3
ENFORCE ONLINE SHOPPING TAX TO SUPPORT UK HIGH STREETS, HEALEY TOLD.....	3
AIRPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE FIRMS CALL FOR BUSINESS RATES REFORM TO UNLOCK INVESTMENT	3
CUTTING PROPERTY TAXES SPEAKS TO SOMETHING DEEPLY INGRAINED IN OUR PSYCHE - AND WILL BOOST THE ECONOMY TOO	3
HEALEY RULES OUT WAREHOUSE TAX RAID.....	4
MOCK TUDOR HOMES TARGETED BY HEALEY'S MANSION TAX POLICE	4
RETAIL BOSSES PREPARE FOR NO11 SUMMIT AS CHANCELLOR URGED NOT TO CLOBBER BUSINESSES WITH TAX HIKES	4
HMRC SILENT ON ACTION OVER ROGUE BUSINESS RATES AGENTS	4
HEALEY RULES OUT EXPANDING MANSION TAX TO £1.5M HOMES	5
RETAILERS PRESS HEALEY TO CUT HIGH STREET TAXES AT CRUNCH DOWNING ST MEETING.....	5
BUSINESS RATES RELIEF EXPANSION CAN UNLOCK HIRING AND INVESTMENT, SAYS FSB.....	5
HEALEY PLANS £1BN BUDGET CRACKDOWN ON ONLINE RETAILERS.....	5
BRITAIN'S MANSION TAX SHOWS THE DIFFICULTY OF TARGETING WEALTH	6
HEALEY EYES £1BN RAID ON LONDON OFFICES	6
COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE LOBBY WARNS HEALEY AGAINST £1BN LONDON OFFICE TAX.....	6
SCOTLAND	6
BUSINESS RATE REFORM TOPS LIST OF SCOTTISH BUDGET PRIORITIES	6

UK GENERAL

Once again, business rates are a tax upon landlords

This article puts forward the argument that tampering with business rates benefits or harms landlords, not tenants or operating businesses. The article considers that business rates are the government taking a slice of the landlord's income, not the operating businesses.

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.

The article can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.adamsmith.org/blog/once-again-business-rates-are-a-tax-upon-landlords>

Raising Revenue: Taxing the Wealthy?

This article highlights the difficult situation the chancellor finds himself in pre-budget and considers the pros and cons of a wealth tax. The article looks at the two measures speculated as targets – increasing CGT and lowering the threshold of the mansion tax – although these have both been ruled out by the chancellor and provides alternative options.

The article can be accessed via the following link:

<https://niesr.ac.uk/blog/raising-revenue-taxing-wealthy>

Fix 'broken' business rates system once and for all, chancellor told in letter from 200 bosses

This article publishes a letter sent to the chancellor from numerous business leaders urging him to stop using piecemeal fixes to the current business rates system and target total reform. The letter calls on the government to adopt a new 'hybrid' model involving a 2% levy on online sales and a 37% cut for bricks-and-mortar firms.

The article can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.thisismoney.co.uk/money/markets/article-16211819/Fix-broken-business-rates-Chancellor-told-letter-200-bosses.html>

ENGLAND

'My tax bill will go up £7,000' — the London borough facing record rises

This article reports on the effect on residents of a 94% increase in council tax in Wandsworth, together with the introduction of the mansion tax. The article looks at the government's fair funding policy which has severely cut the borough's budget.

The article can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.thetimes.com/money/tax/article/my-tax-bill-will-go-up-7000-the-london-borough-facing-record-rises-8x6zgwpxps?t=1791022359636>

London Labour council warns it may raise council tax by 150%

This article reports that the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham may have to impose a 150% council tax rise on residents to maintain current services following central government cuts under the new funding settlement.

The article can be accessed via the following link:

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<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2026/oct/03/london-labour-council-tax-hammersmith-fulham>

Mayors To Get 20% Slice of Business Rates Growth Under Burnham Plan

This article reports on a new scheme proposed by the current prime minister to stimulate growth by allowing mayors to retain 20% of business rates growth.

The article can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.briefs.co/news/mayors-to-get-20-slice-of-business-rates-growth-under-burnha/>

Unintended consequences: the anti-growth 'Mansion Tax'

This article examines the mansion tax, discussing the details of the levy, the limited amount of revenue it is likely to raise against the cost of its administration and its effect on property maintenance and improvement.

The article can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.adamsmith.org/blog/unintended-consequences-the-anti-growth-mansion-tax>

Enforce online shopping tax to support UK high streets, Healey told

This article examines proposals by the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR), including imposing a 2% tax on internet purchases to support physical high street businesses and a 1% tax on click and collect services. The article outlines the benefits of the measures.

The article can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.aol.co.uk/articles/enforce-online-shopping-tax-support-230100000.html>

Airport and infrastructure firms call for business rates reform to unlock investment

This article hears from a group of major transport and infrastructure firms who are calling for urgent business rates reform at the Budget to allow for investment and growth, following the position of the UK at the bottom of the G7 investment table for the 4th quarter in a row.

The article can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.thebusinessdesk.com/eastmidlands/news/2115817-airport-and-infrastructure-firms-call-for-business-rates-reform-to-unlock-investment>

Cutting property taxes speaks to something deeply ingrained in our psyche - and will boost the economy too

This article provides the opinion of a Director of the Institute of Economic Affairs, who questions the right of government inspectors to visit properties for the purpose of valuation for the mansion tax. The article gives a view of the Conservative's pledge to exempt family

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homes, together with £1million in assets, from inheritance tax, to scrap the mansion tax and to abolish stamp duty.

The article can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.dailymail.com/debate/article-16191477/Cutting-property-taxes-boost-economy-DANIEL-HANNAN.html>

Healey rules out warehouse tax raid

This article reports that the chancellor has ruled out an additional warehouse tax on the grounds that it would affect high street shops and family businesses. The article hears comment from representatives of many large retail companies.

The article can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.aol.com/articles/healey-rules-warehouse-tax-raid-103546000.html>

Mock Tudor homes targeted by Healey's mansion tax police

This article refers to a newspaper report which advises that government inspectors will target properties with certain types of architecture for inspection when considering whether properties fall into the mansion tax brackets. The article lists other property and neighbourhood factors that it understands will be considered.

The article can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.aol.com/articles/mock-tudor-homes-targeted-healey-150000000.html>

Retail bosses prepare for No11 summit as chancellor urged not to clobber businesses with tax hikes

This article announces that the chancellor is to host a meeting with representatives from large retail businesses to discuss the possible budget tax increases and promote their own points of view. The article focusses on the business rates surcharge placed on commercial properties with rateable values of over £500,000.

The article can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.msn.com/en-in/money/economy/retail-bosses-prepare-for-no11-summit-as-chancellor-urged-not-to-clobber-businesses-with-tax-hikes/ar-AA2dZ3Ub>

HMRC silent on action over rogue business rates agents

This article reports that HMRC has rejected a Freedom of Information request relating to reveal how many complaints it has received about rogue business rates agents or what action it has taken. The article questions whether enough is being done to protect small businesses from unscrupulous rating agents.

The article can be accessed via the following link:

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<https://www.betterretailing.com/hmrc-silent-on-tackling-of-business-rates-scams/>

Healey rules out expanding mansion tax to £1.5m homes

This article reports that the chancellor has ruled out lowering the threshold for the mansion tax to £1.5m. The article reveals that the measure would have doubled the number of homes qualifying for the tax in London, hitting not just luxurious homes.

The article can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.cityam.com/healey-rules-out-expanding-mansion-tax-to-1-5m-homes/>

Retailers press Healey to cut high street taxes at crunch Downing St meeting

This article gives details of the meeting, reported above, between the chancellor, large retailers and industry bodies including UK Hospitality (UKH), the British Retail Consortium (BRC) and the British Beauty Council. The article states that amongst the topics discussed were the importance of the vibrancy of the High Street and proposals presented by those attending that would boost investment and secure breathing space for businesses.

The article can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.msn.com/en-gb/money/economy/retailers-press-healey-to-cut-high-street-taxes-at-crunch-downing-st-meeting/ar-AA2e8jUM>

Business rates relief expansion can unlock hiring and investment, says FSB

This article reports on new data published by the Federation of Small Business which indicates that extending small business rates relief would help more small firms invest, recruit and grow. The article provides the data and other proposals that the FSB is urging the chancellor to adopt.

The article can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.talkingretail.com/featured/business-rate-relief-expansion-can-unlock-hiring-and-investment-says-fsb-13-10-2026/>

Healey plans £1bn budget crackdown on online retailers

This article reports that the chancellor will use the budget to introduce plans to crackdown on online retailers by making online marketplaces responsible for collecting VAT at the point of sale from all sellers who have a yearly turnover of more than £90,000. The article looks at measures of tax avoidance currently operating in the UK.

The article can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.msn.com/en-gb/money/economy/healey-plots-1bn-budget-crackdown-on-online-retailers/ar-AA2ecacs>

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Britain's mansion tax shows the difficulty of targeting wealth

This article reports on warnings to the government by lawyers and councils that the mansion tax is ill thought out, is unlikely to contribute any net revenue in its early years and will produce a wave of appeals which will overwhelm officials.

The article can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/property/britains-mansion-tax-shows-difficulty-targeting-wealth>

Healey eyes £1bn raid on London offices

This article reports that the chancellor is rumoured to be considering proposals to increase property taxes for expensive office blocks and skyscrapers. The article comments that more than half of all properties that would face the potential business rates increase are in London and the South-East.

The article can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2026/10/15/healey-eyes-1bn-raid-on-london-offices/>

Commercial real estate lobby warns Healey against £1bn London office tax

This article reports that a UK real estate and development lobby has cautioned the chancellor against taxing London offices as reported in the previous article. The article hears from representatives of business groups warning of the consequences of such an action.

The article can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.building.co.uk/news/commercial-real-estate-lobby-warns-healey-against-1bn-london-office-tax/5144676.article>

SCOTLAND

Business rate reform tops list of Scottish Budget priorities

This article reports on research questioning a sample of businesses across all sectors of Scotland's economy about priorities ahead of the Scottish Budget. The article looks at the results which put the reform of business rates as the top priority and discusses other priorities for Scottish businesses.

The article can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.thebusinessdesk.com/scotland/news/7918-business-rate-reform-tops-list-of-scottish-budget-priorities>

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