IPTI Xtracts

Property Tax and Assessment News from Around the World

UNITED KINGDOM – October 2026

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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.

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.

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:

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.

https://www.thetimes.com/money/tax/article/my-tax-bill-will-go-up-7000-the-london-borough-facing-record-rises-8x6zgwxps?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:

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.

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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 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:

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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:

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/

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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

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

Tax online sales more heavily to save high streets, Burnham urged

This article reports that the president of the British Chamber of Commerce has urged the prime minister to overhaul of business rates and greater powers for local leaders. The article looks at the decline in the High Street and the possibility of tax revenue from online sales enabling the rejuvenation of the High Street.

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The article can be accessed via the following link:

https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2026/oct/22/save-high-street-tax-online-sales-burnham-urged

Budget 2026: What might the Chancellor do on business rates?

This article provides an opinion from a firm of rating practitioners who consider that the budget is more likely to make the business rates system worse than providing meaningful reform. The article reports on the changes likely to be made by the chancellor and puts forward a five-point plan calling for fundamental reform.

The article can be accessed via the following link:

https://www.costar.com/article/1011373241/budget-2026-what-might-the-chancellor-do-on-business-rates

Labour MPs urge Chancellor to replace council tax with property value levy at the Budget in move that would hammer the South East

This article reports that MPs with constituencies in the north of England are urging the chancellor to replace council tax and stamp duty with a Proportional Property Tax which would see greater increases in tax in the Southeast. The article considers the impacts such a change would have.

The article can be accessed via the following link:

https://www.dailymail.com/news/article-16230969/Labour-MPs-Chancellor-council-tax-property-value-Budget.html

Unpaid council tax hits record £7.4bn and bills rise again

This article reports that council tax arrears have risen to £7.4 billion. The article looks at help in relation to property tax and utility bills for poorer households that is expected in the budget.

The article can be accessed via the following link:

https://www.pressreader.com/uk/the-sunday-telegraph/20261025/281509348179149

Free-entry museums to benefit from new business rates policy after landmark tribunal ruling

This article reports that the Valuation Office has changed its approach to the valuation of free-to-enter museums. The article explains that, following the decision in the National History Museum tribunal, the (VO) will no longer use a notional receipts approach to the valuation of this class of property and will now consider the actual receipts.

The article can be accessed via the following link:

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https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/2026/10/free-entry-museums-to-benefit-from-new-business-rates-policy-after-landmark-tribunal-ruling/

Autumn Budget 2026: What could business rates reform mean for your business?

This article publishes the opinion of a rating practitioner who concludes that the current system has become unwieldy and needs wholesale reform to provide a system that is fair, simple and fit for purpose. The article considers key business rates issues that may appear in the chancellor's budget.

The article can be accessed via the following link:

Autumn Budget 2026: What could business rates reform mean for your business? | Greater Birmingham Chambers of Commerce

Andy Burnham promised the cavalry was coming but pubs and restaurants say this Budget won't be enough

This article discusses the financial problems facing hospitality businesses and makes the point that the 20% business rates cut and extension of small business rates relief in the recent budget are not the wider tax reform that hospitality businesses have been campaigning for.

The article can be accessed via the following link:

https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/whats-on/food-drink-news/andy-burnham-promised-cavalry-coming-34830122.amp

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

Are business rates still fit for purpose?

This article looks at the perception of business rates as unfair, disproportionate and complicated in the light of the shifting nature of business towards global and online trading, and the call for reform. The article suggests that if the goal is to rejuvenate high streets, then why do we have rates at all for qualifying businesses or buildings located within them.

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The article can be accessed via the following link:

https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/viewpoint/26661500.leigh-sparks-business-rates-still-fit-purpose/

WALES

Forever unfair? Will Council Tax ever be reformed?

This article shares the response of a Welsh think tank on the Welsh Government's decision to postpone Council Tax revaluation.

The article can be accessed via the following link:

https://www.bevanfoundation.org/views/council-tax-reform/

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