



Rt Hon Andy Burnham MP
The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

23rd July 2026

Dear Prime Minister

We are writing to congratulate you on your appointment as Prime Minister. Your election as Leader of our party has given us a great deal of encouragement and we are ready to support you in your efforts to achieve a better and fairer society.

Passing power back to people and communities, showing respect for all citizens whatever their social origins and treating everyone fairly and compassionately are republican traits and we are delighted that they appear to be central to your political philosophy. (As republicans, we would also like you to abolish the monarchy but we understand that cannot be part of your present plans!)

Winning back the trust of the electorate, however, will require more than fine words – it will need actions which show that the government is serious in its intent to shift power towards communities and people and to change society. I am therefore writing to recommend to you the following measures which will not cost anything (the fourth one may save a lot of money) but will demonstrate the sincerity of your commitments:

1. **Change the Parliamentary Oath** to require MPs to swear their allegiance to their constituents and country rather than to a hereditary monarch: such a change would be a cost-free way of demonstrating Labour's view of where ultimate power and responsibility must lie;
2. **Remove the monarchy's exemption from the provisions of Freedom of Information legislation** in order that citizens can know what the monarchy has done, for what it has lobbied and what it has cost;
3. **Annul the protocol which allows the monarch or Prince of Wales to pre-empt Parliament's consideration of bills** which might affect the interests of the monarchy, thereby ensuring that the work of democratically-elected politicians cannot be undermined by those who claim hereditary rights and privileges;
4. **Reform the way in which the monarchy is funded**, replacing the sovereign grant and income from the Duchies of Lancaster and Cornwall with a single grant which takes account of the projected needs of the monarchy as well as other competing demands for public funding – measures which should provide assurances that the monarchy is funded appropriately and responsibly but not extravagantly.

There may, of course, be some who advise you that tampering with the monarchy is politically unwise. Please remember, however, that polls show us that only around half of all electors want a monarchy, and that there are many more people who want an elected head of state than there are (at present) who want a Labour government.

With our best wishes for the success of your government,

Yours sincerely

Joel Mehta
Chair
Labour for a Republic