

The impact of President Biden

When Donald Trump first was elected to office the interviewers on the BBC, Channel 4 and the other leading channels were keen to interview UK government politicians to try to get them to denounce Mr Trump and all his possible future works. I do not recall them pressing hard to see if the UK would learn from the Trump tax cuts, to put more money into the wallets and purses of working people in the way Mr Trump planned. Nor do I recall them criticising European walls and fences to keep migrants out whilst roundly criticising Trump's plans to extend the US/Mexican wall. I did not hear interviewers asking UK Ministers if they might copy more of the Made in America programme Trump set out with a Made in UK version.

When Joe Biden was elected the direction of attack shifted to the opposite approach. The early interviews were all to make UK Ministers feel uncomfortable that they might not be close enough to the new President. Now we have seen his proposals UK politicians are often invited to express approval of the huge stimulus programmes President Biden proposes, and asked whether they will match them. There is obvious joy at his wish to green US policy, and favourable mentions of his company tax rises. There is no interest in what higher world corporate taxes recommended by Mr Biden might mean for the Republic of Ireland. There is little criticism of the new President and his plans.

Those parts of the media that are financed by taxes or adverts and have a Charter that requires them to be impartial should seek to be impartial between Republican and Democrat as well as between the different parties in the UK. The journalists should also dig beneath the spin. Biden's national resilience policies look very like Trump's Made in America policies. Biden's much lauded tax rises say they will not impose any tax rise on anyone under \$400,000 a year, thereby validating the Trump tax cuts for most people. Biden's announced withdrawal from Afghanistan is the Trump plan delayed by few months.