

Public discourse

**I lived through the shift in Britain
from cold politicians
to please-like-me merchants
with a studied knack for the demotic.
Tell me, has it disarmed the public
or increased their mistrust?**

**Have attitudes to business softened
or hardened since corporate PR became
so vast in scale and simpering in style?**

**In both realms,
the best that can be ventured is that
things would have been worse without
the charm (how telling a word) offensive.**

**Janan Ganesh,
Financial Times, February 26, 2021**