

How come red tape is holding the hospitality industry ...

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The home page of the government's red tap challenge is concentrating on the hospitality industry right now. [It says](#):

Award-winning hospitality expert Alan Parker CBE is championing the Red Tape Challenge as it focuses on the hospitality, food and drink industries. "It's a great chance for those at the sharp end to declare war on the red tape that is holding them back," he says.

Yesterday [the BBC reported](#):

Tax inspectors are to investigate restaurants in London and other parts of the UK to hunt down tax dodgers in the food trade.

HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) is setting up a series of special units to track down tax evaders.

The restaurant team will start in the capital before moving onto food outlets in Scotland and the North West.

Restaurant owners have long been of interest to tax inspectors and are regarded as a high-risk for tax evasion.

The paradox is too good not to note.

And the question must be asked, should the real concern be that the hospitality industry is far too good at ignoring the regulations the state rightly imposes on it in the interests of the public at large?