

# Benefit fraud - Â£1,200 million per annum. Barclays' ...

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[Benefit fraud costs the UK](#) £1.2 billion a year.

Yesterday we learned that Barclays tried to [claim £500 million of tax back it was not owed](#). Some of this was, apparently, a refund claim for tax never paid.

Now I have never condoned benefit cheating, and won't. But let's reflect for a moment. Which is the bigger issue here? Benefit cheating of £1,200 million or highly paid bankers setting out in organised fashion to seek to claim £500 billion they are not due and [which they'd given their undertaking not to do](#)?

I know my answer.