

HMRC should be run by people who are committed to the s..

Published: January 15, 2026, 5:32 am

---

Last week I discussed nPower's tax. Of course its affairs are all legal, [but I made the suggestion](#) that it seems its UK operations are structured to make sure no tax is paid in this country. Now the Guardian reports:

*Controversy around Britain's energy industry will intensify on Monday amid revelations that the former head of a low-tax-paying power provider has been hired to help oversee HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC), and a warning that a new price regime demanded by the regulator, Ofgem, could still mean consumers paying £55m more a year than they should.*

*RWE npower was at the centre of a storm last week after admitting it had paid £2m, £3m and nothing in tax in the years 2009-2011, but now it transpires that Volker Beckers, its former boss, has been appointed as a non-executive director at the HMRC.*

He's in good company, with former KPMG and PWC partners who have no doubt seen their incomes boosted over the years by the sale of tax avoidance by the ir firms.

I have made the point before, and I will make it again, that this is no way to organise a tax authority. H M Revenue & Customs should be run by people who are committed to the social value of tax, not by people who believe it is best avoided.

There's more on this in '[Over here and under-taxed](#)'.