

HMRC's revolving door is still working

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I was assured last night by a former very senior member of staff at HMRC staff that he thought much of what I said was quite reasonable but that the way I say it alienates people.

I assured him that I have been told this often. Indeed, I told him that over the last decade or so I have lost count of the number of times I have been told that if only I was a more reasonable chap I could achieve so much more than I have.

And I also assured him that I was entirely sure that every single person telling me that was completely wrong. In doing so I told him [the definition of the unreasonable man](#) as noted by George Bernard Shaw more than a century ago (which explains the language used):

The reasonable man adapts himself to the world; the unreasonable one persists in trying to adapt the world to himself. Therefore all progress depends on the unreasonable man.

I assured the person that I was talking to that I had, in my opinion, only succeeded by being an unreasonable man.

What I did not add at the time, but should have done, was that in my view it was quite unreasonable for a former very senior member of staff at HMRC to have moved directly to working for KPMG. I think we'd moved on before I had time to say so, so I'll make amends now.