

## HMRC's new directors: white, male and from big business

Published: January 13, 2026, 6:24 am

---

HMRC has [announced the appointment of two new executive directors](#).

They are [Simon Ricketts](#), who I gather is from Rolls Royce, and Mervyn Walker who I [believe is from Anglo American](#). Why the press release could not say so is not clear.

So the [HMRC Board](#) loses a woman as a member, is increasingly male, remains, I think, entirely ethnically white and, as the press release is proud to make clear, 'provide[s] a rich mix of Board-level experience in major corporations'.

If you wanted a sorer tale of a governance structure not reflecting the stakeholders an organisation is meant to serve it would be hard to find one.

It remains the case the HMRC needs a significant reorganisation from the top down but it is certainly not happening yet.