

Is there any real new investment in HMRC? I'm not convi...

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This press release was issued by the Association for Revenue & Customs, the union that represents the top grade of staff at HMRC this afternoon:

ARC President Tony Wallace welcomed the Chancellor's announcement this afternoon to re-invest three quarters of a billion pounds in HMRC to further tackle avoidance and evasion.

Wallace said:

"Since 2010 ARC has consistently made the case that an investment in the work of HMRC and ARC members will yield a significant dividend for the country.

"In 2013 our budget submission suggested an investment of £312m could yield as much as £8.2bn. In June this year we met with David Gauke, Financial Secretary to The Treasury, and called for £750m to deliver on the Conservative Government's pledge to deliver an additional £5bn from tax avoidance. We are delighted that the Chancellor has accepted our case"

*"ARC has built a strong consensus among those who share our view. Senior figures from the CBI employers group, the accountancy profession (ACCA), Tax Justice Network and **Tax Research UK** all agree that the collection of tax is arguably the most important business of Government. Without it, there is no defence, no rule of law and no National Health Service.*

"The next step is to ensure that the Spending Review does not take away what the budget has provided — a better resourced HMRC, more capable of delivering on its job of reducing the tax gap"

I was happy to join with ARC in calling for more investment in HMRC.

I regret to say that I am already not convinced of Osborne's commitment.

The investment in HMRC over the next 5 years is actually no more than £270 million a

year ([page 74 here](#)). That's not how it was projected to parliament. And given that this is against a background of ongoing cuts of 5% per annum in the HMRC budget (or £250 million or so a year) there is almost no real investment at all.

I think ARC are aware of that from the wording of their press release. Take it that ARC and I, at least, don't really believe what ARC's boss is saying.