

Will Osborne go for the tax gap?

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I have already noted this morning that David Cameron is desperately playing his anti-tax haven line again. This may not be by chance. Something co-ordinated may be going on. As the [Guardian says in a headline this morning:](#)

Why Osborne may override his austerity agenda to track down missing tax

Labour's focus on uncollected tax is an idea the chancellor might well pinch at next week's Tory conference. But it would upset his chums in the Treasury

As they say:

Next week the current chancellor, George Osborne, steps up to the podium. His mentions of HM Revenue & Customs will be worth hearing. For all the Tories' ideological objection to taxation and Osborne's determination to cut staff numbers, HMRC has in recent years been one bit of Whitehall that has received words of encouragement from a politician who isn't exactly the public sector's best friend. Lin Homer (who will be gone by the next election) is one permanent secretary to have basked in Tory approval.

Osborne has been known to nick ideas and capture trends started by Labour and setting HMRC on the hunt for missing taxes would suit his financial plans as well — but would he boost HMRC at the expense of abandoning cuts in staffing and pay?

Could it be that George Osborne will be the next minister to borrow my ideas? I could not object, and would not, of course. The idea that Osbornomics might try to absorb Corbynomics this quickly is intriguing but if he is going to do it he'd better do it well or no one will be deceived. And I will be watching.