

What to do about Google

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We now know that the Google tax decision will be precedent making: [the FT has reported that Facebook](#) is also under HMRC investigation. If HMRC are as successful with them in proportionate terms as they were with Google that should raise about £25,000 in tax. Which is precisely why the outrage on the Google tax decision is so appropriate: it is very obviously wrong for HMRC, wrong for the country, and maybe wrong for big business too at a time when it, like most elites in our society, is deeply alienating those whose support it needs.

There are, of course, things that can be done. Most I have said before, so let me make them brief.

First, if evidence was needed that HMRC needs top down reform then this is it. I have [written in depth about this here](#).

Second, the OECD Base Erosion and Profit Shifting proposals can be implemented and acted upon in full, including the power to deem companies like Google UK tax resident.

Third, [the UK's policy of being a tax haven can be changed](#).

Fourth we could have, [as the public demand](#), full country-by-country reporting.

Fifth, more fundamental reform could be started: the [time for unitary taxation](#), that apportions profits of a multinational company to the places where it trades on a just and equitable basis, has come.

Change is possible.

Why is the political will not present?

That is the question.