

KPMG with a conflict of interest? Surely not?

Published: January 14, 2026, 3:07 pm

The [Sunday Times reports](#) this morning that:

An international consulting firm won or managed foreign aid contracts worth more than £25m at the Department for International Development (DfID) at the same time as it was paid millions of pounds to scrutinise the department's spending.

KPMG led a consortium that received £10m in the four years to July 2015 to ensure that UK overseas aid was spent effectively.

As they explain:

The Independent Commission for Aid Impact (ICAI), the body that scrutinises the UK's foreign aid, appointed KPMG as the leader of a consortium paid £10m between May 2011 and July 2015 to help it hold the DfID to account. KPMG received a large share of the fee.

The ICAI and the DfID said measures were in place when KPMG won the contract to ensure there was no conflict of interest.

I note the reassurance, but this does not pass a smell test.

Again.