

The demand for integrity requires consistency or it loo...

Published: January 12, 2026, 10:26 pm

There has been a theme on the blog this morning. It is, I would suggest, misjudgement and mismanagement.

First there is misjudgement in the [claims made by David Davis](#) that are flatly contradicted by evidence.

Then there is both [mismanagement and misjudgement by HSBC](#) on its role in facilitating tax evasion.

After which there is [misjudgement by the incoming chair of the FCA](#).

And the extraordinary mismanagement by ministers who thought it might be appropriate to appoint one of their own colleagues to [head the Charity Commission](#) when she has none of the required qualities for the job.

It was not my intention to make clear how widespread mismanagement and misjudgement appears to be around the government (and with two HSBC directors having served as ministers in recent years the suggestion of a link is appropriate) but the pattern is too obvious to ignore.

The Times, and others, are keen to highlight abuse in the charity sector at present, and some more recent revelations appear to have some justification. I am not keen on abuse anywhere. Who is?

But nor am I keen that those without sound judgement or qualification be permitted to continue in positions of trust either.

Consistency is desirable when demanding high standards, and we are not seeing it.

The question, of course, is why? And the all too apparent answer would seem to be that some think they have immunity to get away with it. I hope their time comes too.

The demand for integrity requires consistency or it looks like hypocrisy. There is a

strong whiff of that this morning.