

The chaps are back in town

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The [FT carries this to](#) **Andrew Tyrie meets Big Four bosses as audit reform slows**

Head of competition regulator discusses splitting accounting firms at private dinners

Tabby Kinder in London 3 HOURS AGO

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The chairman of the competition regulator has held private meetings with some of the UK's most senior accounting executives in recent weeks, as momentum behind reform of the audit market shows signs of stalling.

As an indication of the times it is pretty telling.

The Tories are not interested in audit reform: why upset their chums? And who cares anyway if the odd company goes to the wall because monopoly suppliers don't do their job properly?

Whilst let's make progress over private dinners.

I could summarise this by saying 'the chaps are back in town'.

And for those of a certain age, that's not a reference to Thin Lizzy's 'The boys are back in town': the contrast would be stark.