

They have very long memories and no sense of contrition...

Published: January 12, 2026, 9:56 pm

---

They have long memories on the Isle of Man. As the [Isle of Man Today](#) website (which is the main news outlet for the island) notes this morning:

*It was Richard Murphy of the Tax Justice Network who claimed credit for raids on a revenue sharing deal between the island and the UK in 2009 and 2011.*

*The issue meant the island's public finances were sent reeling from the loss of more than £200m in VAT revenue - a third of government income - after the UK revised the Customs revenue sharing arrangement in 2009 and 2011.*

*Since then, however, it has started to rise again and in 2016 there was the introduction of FERSA (Final Expenditure Revenue Sharing Arrangement) .*

The story is about the Tax Justice Network Financial Secrecy Index. They have not noticed that I have not run this since 2009. But, I don't think they want that to spoil their story.

Because it is entirely true that I did single-handedly expose the way in which the Isle of Man did until about 2010 abuse a VAT subsidy from the UK to claim more than one-third of its government income from the British government meaning that, as a result, the UK subsidised it to be a tax haven. This was then taken away, and I was given credit for that fact. [The full story is here.](#)

I guess no abuser likes being exposed.

And it is certainly true that no tax haven has ever liked facing the fact that it lives off revenues transferred from other jurisdictions to which they should rightfully belong.

But what is really surprising about this story is that the Isle of Man shows no contrition for having acted in this way, of which they must have been aware, for so long. Instead they want to blame me for exposing them.

For the record, I am happy to take the blame for what I did. I did not close the Isle of

Man tax haven. But I exposed what it was doing and how it worked. And it so happened that cost them a third of their government revenue. So be it. I have nothing to apologise for. They still have.