

## HMRC is not closing the tax gap

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The [Public Accounts Committee](#) has noted failures in HMRC's work in closing the tax gap this morning due to staff being diverted to tackle Covid fraud. As they noted:

*HMRC has conducted substantially fewer enquiries into suspected non-compliance since the pandemic began. It closed 29% (103,000) fewer cases in 2020-21 compared with the previous year and opened 32% fewer (114,000).*

As serious is how long investigations are taking. These are now very often far too protracted.

The answer is easy, of course. The PAC estimate the cost of this is £9bn. That's more than twice the cost of running HMRC a year. Just recruit more staff. Yet again, it's not rocket science, but the bleedin' obvious is not too regularly mentioned these days.