

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.