

# Poor, petrified, non-doms are terrified that they might...

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The [Guardian is reporting](#) this morning that:

*"People are jumping on planes right now and leaving," said Nimesh Shah, the chief executive of Blick Rothenberg, an accountancy firm that specialises in advising very rich "non-doms" on their tax affairs. "I am not being dramatic, they are leaving right now."*

*Shah said his clients – some of the richest people in the country – were "petrified" of plans to abolish the "non-domicile" regime, through which for the past 225 years wealthy people have been able to live in the UK and not pay tax on their overseas income.*

You can sense the hyper-ventilation from which Shah must be suffering oozing through every pore of this comment, largely because he senses his business model is disappearing in front of his eyes.

And what is it that his terrified clients are so frightened of? It is the risk that they might have to pay a fair contribution in tax to the country in which they wish to live and which they want to host their activities whether they are socially desirable, or otherwise.

There are three things to note. The first is that advisers like Shah are always inclined to overstatement, usually to protect their own self-interest.

Second, that said, I am sure he is right. Some of the thoroughly anti-social people he represents will leave the UK. Shah has every reason to worry about the future profitability of his firm if he is dependent upon them.

Third, he is drastically overstating his case. Some people will leave. A very few will do so straight away. But the vast majority will have good reason for staying. Methinks the man doth protest far too much.

And as for those poor, petrified clients? Maybe they should try living with the fear that you have no idea where the next meal might come from whilst being harassed for

repayment of innocently overpaid carer's allowance that you have no chance of ever refunding. Then you might find out what fear really feels like. As it is, I don't give a damn about their fear that they might just have to pay some tax, because is exactly what they should be doing.