

Is the whole of politics a charade, sham or fiasco?

Published: January 12, 2026, 9:32 pm


Prem Sikka, or Lord Sikka to give him his title, [had this exchange in the House of Lords](#):

P&O Ferries: Annual Reports

Question for Department for Business and Trade

UIN HL8194, tabled on 5 June 2025

Question




Lord Sikka
Labour
Life peer

To ask His Majesty's Government what fines they have levied on P&O Ferries Limited and its directors for failure to file annual audited financial statement at Companies House within the statutory prescribed time for the accounts made up to (1) 31 December 2021, (2) 31...

[Show full question](#)

Answer



Baroness Jones of Whitchurch
Labour
Life peer

Answered on

18 June 2025

P&O Ferries Limited has incurred the following penalties for delivering overdue accounts for the reporting years specified:

31 December 2021	£1500
31 December 2022	£3000

Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2023 will incur a £3000 penalty when they are delivered.

So, P&O fails to file accounts for considerable periods of time and apart from the automatically imposed penalties for late filing of accounts no action of any sort is taken

against the directors of the company despite the enormous risk to which they are exposing the creditors of the company, including those who have pre-booked tickets for its ferries, and of course, the government with regard to tax due.

Why is that?

Why is the government so indifferent to the apparent abuse of limited liability implicit in the late filing of accounts for such lengthy periods?

When the government is so dedicated to regulating - and rightly so - why is it so indifferent to enforcing the regulation that is put in place, and most especially that which is intended to prevent us from being abused?

How can you want to regulate and ignore regulation at the same time?

What can explain this mindset?

Is it simply that neoliberal politics is now purely performative, and that actual consequences don't matter so long as politicians appear to be doing the right thing?

Or is this something else, which I have occasionally described as constructive non-compliance? In other words, systems that appear to deliver appropriate outcomes are put in place, but then there is a deliberate policy of not enforcing them, making the whole of politics a charade, sham or fiasco.

Is that what neoliberal politics is all about now?