

From: Will Moy
Sent: 15/05/2014
To: Ed Humpherson
Subject: Tax avoidance figures

Dear Ed

Thanks very much again for your visit yesterday: we all found the session extremely interesting and useful.

Today, the Independent has reported that the Chancellor may have misled Parliament by making a comparison between the amount of tax recovered through HMRC's compliance work under this government compared to the last: he said during the Budget statement that it had doubled.

The Independent says that the way the compliance yield is calculated was changed in 2010 to include hypothetical "revenue protected" figures, which significantly bolster the overall total, and make the comparison unreliable. It quotes HMRC as responding that "the methodology used by HMRC entirely bears out the Chancellor's statement."

We've covered this here:

https://fullfact.org/live/2014/may/chancellor_george_osborne_tax_avoidance_misleading_parliament-32375.

Given the confusion, the significance of the Independent's allegation, and the fact that the level of tax avoidance is a recurring political debate, would the Authority clarify this dispute and also make clear what can reliably be said about the level of tax avoidance over time?

Best wishes

Will Moy

Will Moy
Director

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