**20 things you may not know about HMRC**

1. **Created on 18 April 2005, under the direction of the UK’s longest-serving modern-day Chancellor, Gordon Brown, HM Queen Elizabeth II personally approved the new department’s name ‘Her Majesty’s Revenue and Customs’, known as HM Revenue and Customs.** Our name automatically changed to ‘His Majesty’s’ when the King ascended to the throne.
2. **More than £10.5 trillion (£10,592,900,000,000) in revenue has been collected by HMRC since 2005 to support UK public services.** This only includes the UK tax revenue collected from April 2005 to March 2024 (19 years), as our Annual Report (2024-25) will be published in the summer.
3. **The first HMRC Board consisted of nine (9) men and one (1) woman. In April 2025, the Permanent Secretaries and Executive Committee show a more even split of eight (8) men and seven (7) women.**
4. **HMRC staff were among the first civil servants to start working towards new operational delivery qualifications recognised across government and registered by the Qualification and Credit Framework (formerly known as NVQs).**
5. **Our curriculum-linked** [**Tax Facts programme**](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tax-facts-for-children-and-young-people/tax-facts-resources-for-teachers-and-parents) **helps children and young people to learn about the UK tax system before they enter it. Junior Tax Facts (age 8 to 13) introduces primary and younger secondary school pupils to the basics of tax.** **Tax Facts (age 14 to 17) helps teenagers understand tax in more practical terms**. The programme provides lesson plans for teachers, videos and other resources. Some HMRC colleagues support schools by running the sessions, in addition to their usual jobs, as Tax Facts ambassadors.
6. **HMRC has responsibility for enforcing the National Minimum Wage and National Living Wage, which includes ensuring employers pay their workers correctly.**
7. **In 2007 HMRC published two podcasts and became the first UK Government department to deliver advice to customers in this format.**
8. **Since its launch in December 2017, more than 7 million people have downloaded the free** [**HMRC app**](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/download-the-hmrc-app)**, and accessed their tax information.** **In 2024 alone there were more than 100 million HMRC app sessions.**
9. **HMRC’s online guidance was viewed more than 750 million times, by 20 million different users, during 2023/24** helping them view information at a time that suits them.
10. **More than 1.2 million parents have claimed their Child Benefit through the** [**HMRC app**](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/download-the-hmrc-app) **or via the**[**digital service**](https://www.gov.uk/child-benefit/how-to-claim)**, since the service went online in May 2023. Over 87% of the claims are now digital.** Families are encouraged to claim Child Benefit as soon as they can after their baby is born, as the claim can only be backdated up to 3 months.
11. **The department’s Fraud Investigation Service was launched in 2016. It recovered assets worth more than £1 billion from the proceeds of crime and tax offenders in its first 5 years**. This included eight gold bars weighing around 16 kgs and worth £750,000, seized from a passenger at Manchester Airport, and £48,000 found in a freezer drawer, hidden among chicken nuggets at a house in Blackpool. The gold was later auctioned with the proceeds returning to the public purse.
12. **In 2010 we successfully launched the ‘Connect’ IT system which now has the capacity to search more than 22 billion records at the touch of a button**, using data from across our tax regimes to help identify fraud and improve compliance.
13. **Around 1.5 billion suspicious or malicious events are blocked by our cyber security team every month** (2023-24 annual report).
14. **When HMRC was formed in 2005, it operated from more than 500 individual office sites. Today HMRC’s more efficient estate comprises of 28 offices, with the majority of our workforce in 14 regional centres and our London HQ.**
15. **HMRC’s HQ is 100 Parliament Street in central London. It was from a balcony at this building (then the Ministry of Health) that Prime Minister Winston Churchill gave his impromptu ‘victory for the cause of freedom’ speech on VE Day (8 May 1945) at the end of the war in Europe in World War Two.**
16. **In the days before laptops and portable computers in our offices, between 2010 and 2011 HMRC introduced a power saving capability to almost all workstations which automatically put desktops into an energy saving ‘sleep mode’ when not in use.** This saved almost £500,000 a year in electricity costs and reduced emissions by almost 3,000 carbon tonnes.
17. **Our** [**Stamp Duty press machines**](https://www.mynewsdesk.com/uk/hm-revenue-customs-hmrc/pressreleases/end-of-an-era-as-stamp-presses-decommissioned-by-hmrc-3110466) **were officially retired from service on 19 July 2021, following changes needed during the COVID-19 pandemic, bringing to an end more than 300 years of tax-related history.** The first ‘stamp duty’ was introduced in 1694 as a temporary measure to fund the war against France. Over the centuries Stamp Duty was even paid on gloves, mittens, and playing cards. From July 2021, an electronic process was adopted for the remaining transactions which still require physical stamps, such as duty paid on shares purchased on a stock transfer form.
18. **Items deemed of significant cultural, scientific or historical importance can be** [**accepted in lieu**](https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/supporting-arts-museums-and-libraries/supporting-collections-and-cultural-property/acceptance-lieu) **of Inheritance Tax. HMRC works closely with the Arts Council, National Archives and other organisations to transfer important assets for the nation:**
* **In 2020/21 HMRC accepted the archive of the late Professor Stephen Hawking and the contents of his office at the University of Cambridge.** The archive was permanently allocated to the Cambridge University Library and the contents of his office were offered permanently to the Science Museum.
* **In 2022/23 a sectional model of a fighting vessel once owned by Admiral Nelson was accepted.** It is thought to have been made for him on board HMS Victory and is one of only a handful of similar models, making it very rare. This was permanently allocated to the National Museum of the Royal Navy in Portsmouth.
1. **At the UK border, the new** [**Customs Declaration Service**](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/customs-declaration-service) **supports import and export declarations needed to move goods into and out of the UK.** More than 70 million import declarations alone were submitted in 2023 to 2024 using this new service.
2. **HMRC has helped facilitate temporary UK import admissions for everything from the move of pandas to/from Edinburgh Zoo to ceremonial items for dignitaries attending state occasions, including HM Queen Elizabeth II’s funeral and HM King Charles III’s Coronation.**

**We also supported the seamless transition of thousands of items of sporting equipment arriving in, and later leaving the UK, from all over the World for the more than 10,500 athletes who competed in the London 2012 Olympics**. We supported the Glasgow 2014 and Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games and will do so again when the games returns to Glasgow in 2026.

Ends.

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