

I note from the BBC website that you are conducting an investigation into the big four as auditors. Having spent nearly 40 years either working in or consulting for big companies usually cleaning up the mess they leave when employed as consultants I would like to make a suggestion that would ultimately benefit companies, shareholders and employees as well as customers and the poor old taxpayer who seems to pick up the bill each time

I would adopt the following

1. auditors can not have a consultancy business. This would stop them using audit to sell their services so they have a vested interest in saying everything is okay (on top of most of the things that are wrong are caused by their consultancy)
2. Auditors to be appointed by HMRC AFTER the end of the accounting period from a panel of firms who are ONLY auditors. No consultancies. No inclusion of Chinese wall firms
3. Auditors to have liability through their professional indemnity if company then folds for something that should have been picked up on audit. This means the auditors insurers pick up the bill not the tax payer. The insurers will then enforce proper objectivity

Just a thought from someone who sees what the Big Four do and finds them immoral and unprofessional