

From: Dan Neidle dan@taxpolicy.org.uk
Subject: Re: Request for comment - fraudulent affidavits
Date: 13 May 2026 at 17:34
To: Alistair Robertson info@arg-notary.com

Dear Mr Robertson-Gopffarth,

You should be aware that HMRC today published a warning that these schemes are fraudulent -
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hmrc-issue-briefing-tax-fraud-warning-about-bills-of-exchange-schemes/tax-fraud-warning-attempts-to-use-bills-of-exchange-to-pay-hmrc>

As a matter of fact, you facilitated a major fraud. I accept your word that you were unaware it was a fraud, but I do not accept you acted properly.

The notary code of practice requires that:

"You make sufficient enquiries of your clients and other persons involved in instructing you to be satisfied that no fraud or violence is involved in requests for notarial services."

We don't believe you did make sufficient enquiries - the documents contained obvious indicia of fraud. Nobody settles a multi-million HMRC liability by sending HMRC a "bill of exchange". The suggestion that the Chief Executive Officer of HMRC had personally "accepted" such a document in settlement of a tax debt was extraordinary and implausible. The statement that a mere Royal Mail proof of delivery "verified" acceptance by HMRC was also plainly wrong, as is the idea that this means an account is "settled in fact".

Once these indications existed, you could not simply treat the contents as "a matter for the declarant".

We will fairly reflect your response in our article, including your position that you did not prepare the affidavits, did not verify the claims within them, verified the identity and status of the declarant in the standard manner, and deny fraud or misconduct.

We will not redact your name. You acted in your professional capacity as a notary, applying your signature and seal to a document which we are reporting on. Your involvement is directly

document which we are reporting on. Your involvement is directly relevant. We will say that you should have realised that the affidavit was being used as part of a fraudulent scheme, and that by administering the oath and applying your signature and seal you lent notarial authority to a document intended to mislead HMRC and/or others into believing that a tax liability had been settled.

We will be publishing around 8am tomorrow morning.

Yours sincerely,

Dan Neidle



Dan Neidle

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On 13 May 2026, at 17:03, Alistair Robertson <info@arg-notary.com> wrote:

Dear Mr Neidle

I strongly refute any allegation of fraud or misconduct against myself. I neither prepared those affidavits nor verified the claims within them. My professional role was clearly identified in the Notary Jurat: to facilitate a third party in taking an oath. The third party involved was a professional whose identity and status I verified in the standard manner.

Any suggestion that I was knowingly or ought to have been aware of any fraud is misguided, misleading, and highly offensive. I would invite you to redact my details in anything published, given the above.

With kind regards

Alistair Robertson-G

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Confirming the facts, Sealing the truth

I am a member of the Notaries Society - for more information please visit www.thenotariessociety.org.uk

My Practice is regulated through the Faculty Office of the Archbishop of Canterbury

This electronic message contains information from Alexander Alistair John Robertson-Gopffarth, Notary Public of God's Blessing Cottage, God's Blessing Lane, Holt, Nr Wimborne, Dorset BH21 7DE with ICO registration number ZB357700 ("Notary Business") or its affiliates, which may be confidential, privileged or otherwise protected from disclosure. The information is for the intended recipient only. If you are not the intended recipient, you must not use this message, we shall be grateful if you would notify us immediately at info@arg-notary.com, and delete the message from your system. Unless expressly stated otherwise, this message does not constitute an offer, acceptance, or agreement of any kind. Sender is not liable for damage, errors or omissions related to or caused by transmission of this message.

Your personal data will be processed in connection with notarial and associated services and related business activities. Please view our [privacy notice](#) for further information. If you provide services to our Notary Business you agree to comply with the data processing terms ("Terms") which can be accessed [here](#). Your attention is particularly drawn to clause 8 of the Terms. To the extent of any conflict, the Terms shall prevail over any services agreement or other agreement between you and our Notary Business in relation to the services.

On 12 May 2026, at 10:35, Dan Neidle <dan@taxpolicy.org.uk> wrote:

Dear Mr Robertson-Gopffart,

I am a tax lawyer and investigative journalist, and founder of the think tank Tax Policy Associates.

We are investigating the use of fraudulent bills of exchange to purportedly settle liabilities to HMRC.

We have seen affidavits notarised by you and signed by a man called Andrew Jackman, who operates one of these schemes. The affidavits each state that a bills of exchange for a large sum of money was "accepted in settlement" of an HMRC account by the Chief Executive Officer of HMRC, and that the account was "settled in fact by the amount of the Bill". Your notarial jurat states that Mr Jackman swore the affidavit before you, and that it was issued under your signature and seal of office.

As a notary you have a duty to uphold the rule of law. You should be aware that nobody really pays taxes with bills of exchange, and you should have realised that these affidavits were likely part of a scheme to defraud HMRC. You certainly should have realised that the statement that the Chief Executive of HMRC had "accepted" a bill of exchange was false.

We will be publishing some of the affidavits and naming you as the notary who notarised them. Our article will say that this was an obvious fraud; that you knew or should have known it was an obvious fraud; and that, by notarising the affidavit, you lent notarial authority to a document intended to mislead HMRC and/or others into believing that a tax liability had been settled. We will be making a complaint of notarial misconduct to the Registrar of the Faculty Office.

If you have any comment, please provide it by 5pm tomorrow.

Yours sincerely,

Dan Neidle



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