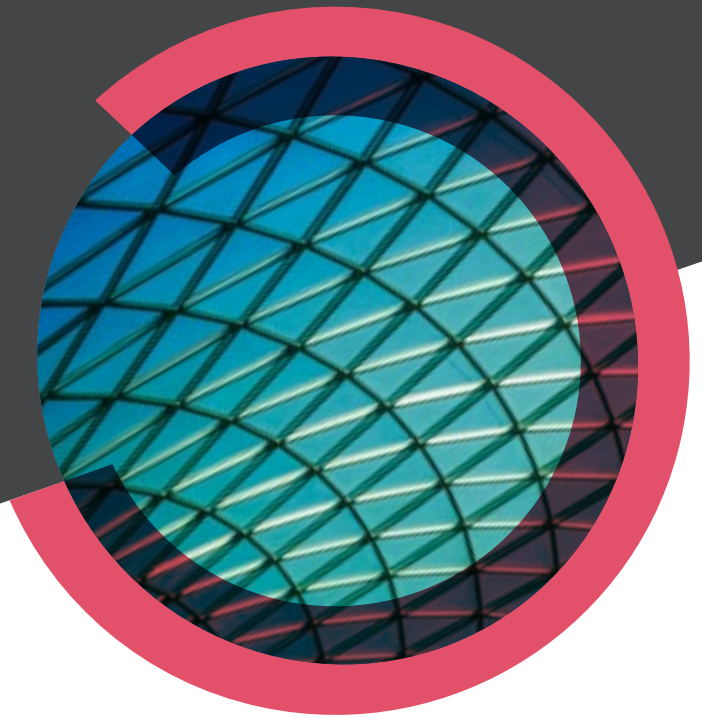


UNEXPLAINED WEALTH ORDERS



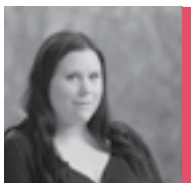
This week the NCA had a well explained telling off in the Court of Appeal when it was defeated by Nurali Aliyev and ordered to pay £1.5m in costs. It seems that the NCA investigators ignored clear evidence that properties had been bought using legitimate resources.

Duncan Hames, director of policy at Transparency International UK, said: "This case has highlighted major weaknesses in the UK's defences against dirty money that should be addressed urgently. Secretive corporate ownership continues to be a pervasive issue across the UK with tens of thousands of properties owned by opaque offshore vehicles."

And added: "The government should require transparency over who really owns secretive offshore companies holding UK property, making it easier to identify property bought with suspicious wealth and giving the corrupt no place to hide."

This may well dampen the appetite of the NCA to pursue legitimate cases, but at the very least it ought to now be seeking to bring meritorious cases.

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