

because of it, and funded by  
mors. But it was hampered by  
status or power to subpoena  
and disclosure documents.  
bled its punches: even though it  
illustrated long-term systemic  
ures, the inquiry still found no

## Cocktail

more recent scandals. Why,  
rly 2000, when safe but more  
ic clotting agents were given  
they not also made available  
me haemophiliacs, already  
cktail of viruses, found they  
xtracts that may contain the  
ative variant CJD.

one inquiry in Scotland, six  
with claims of a "whitewash"  
hile acknowledging the impact  
making it more difficult  
ex and derisory payments  
believably concluded that  
n done differently.

successive governments  
ctively deny responsibility  
ation for the contaminated

has recently gained new  
emophilia Society, once  
is of government because  
notion" and assurance even  
fety of the blood clotting  
gised to victims and added  
for an inquiry. A *Panorama*  
of the plight of children  
al school for haemophiliacs,  
did nothing while he was  
ary, used his last Commons  
mand an inquiry into the  
an industrial scale". And  
ll opposition parties –  
er Theresa May's new  
embined to demand a  
airy.

of Tainted Blood pointed  
scale of injury dwarfs  
disasters where there  
or public inquiries,  
e bombing. "Had  
one day, there would  
e investigation and we  
red this silent scandal,"  
ill endure it no more.

social work and social  
ble in the 2014 Research  
REF), considered a major  
992 university. Not only  
work considered to be  
ationally excellent, but  
was also judged to have  
dity impact in the 'real  
nt of this work rated as  
siderable".

ically highlighted work  
Georgios Antonopoulos  
cco smuggling, saying  
nent agencies across  
actices in the light of  
her research

## RENEWABLES

# Dirty business



HS2

# High spend rail

**I**NNOCENT buyers of "green" electricity may reasonably be surprised when they find the self-styled hippies who run green suppliers are in fact steely-eyed, wealthy businesspeople with their knives deep in each other's backs.

The long-running feud between Juliet "rebel within the establishment" Davenport's Good Energy plc (GE) and Dale "new-age traveller" Vince's Ecotricity Ltd burst into the media last week as Vince, having acquired 25.3 percent of GE's shares, demanded two seats on the board. He is outraged about Davenport's dealings with the Swansea Tidal Lagoon company (*Eyes passive*), controlled by, er, her husband, Mark Shorrocks (pictured).

If the DeLorean of the deep at Swansea gets public money to go ahead, says Vince, it will be a "hideously expensive" project. Davenport, he says, has been wasting GE shareholders' money, not only investing in hubby's lagoon but also paying millions in dubious consultancy fees to Shire Oak Energy, another company controlled by Shorrocks.

Shorrocks's network of companies and "related party" transactions is certainly byzantine. He intends to build the lagoon with rock blasted from a quarry (in a Cornish beauty spot, *Eye 1440*) owned by yet another Shorrocks firm. Last year he restructured his companies and "has taken advantage of exemption, under the terms of FRS 102 [an accounting rule], not to disclose related party transactions with wholly owned subsidiaries". Should the government ever be foolish enough to underwrite his lagoon, plenty of money will immediately be shelled out to various of his backers: he has issued £16.5m in loan notes to be repaid at a cool £41.5m.

It's not only Vince who has had enough of GE's involvement with Shorrocks and his schemes. Last year there was a flurry of large transactions in shares in the publicly listed GE. Two of its major shareholders – the "ethical investors" Jacques Tredoux and Seth Tabatznik and their Bertha Foundation ("make a positive difference to our planet") – fell out noisily with GE and sold their 20 percent holding, saying GE's dealings with Shorrocks showed the company did not share their values.

Five days before Bertha pulled out, in an amazing coincidence Shire Oak sold its 25,000 shares in GE, at which point it transpired that GE had failed to disclose either the Shire Oak holding or an even larger personal holding in GE by Shorrocks himself.

How might Dale Vince know so much about Shorrocks's multiple deals with Good Energy? In April this year, one Garry Peagam was made a director of Vince's Ecotricity. Would this be the same Garry Peagam who suddenly resigned as finance director from Good Energy in 2014, selling £485,000 of shares?

Will Vince get his seat on the GE board? No, says GE, there would be a conflict of interest! Welcome to the murky waters of "green" energy.

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The job, like so much else in HS2, has been outsourced – to a senior encounter from KPMG. Sue Kershaw, the firm's head of infrastructure programme and project management, claims that she is "responsible to the Government for Transport Secretary of state for HS2, the UK's new north-south rail line, is delivered to time and importantly that value is evidenced for the public purse". Not underselling the importance of the job, she continues: "This role is effectively the eyes and ears of government within the project."

It might be hoped that an objective public servant rather than a consultant would have this task, especially as KPMG is not without other interests in the project. Among its clients are, er, Carillion, Balfour Beatty and Sir Robert McAlpine. It audits and provides other services for the first two and acts a consultant for the third. Kershaw's boss, Richard Threlfall, describes himself as the "lead partner for Sir Robert McAlpine".

The project has already been plagued with conflicts of interest, not just over KPMG's role. Engineering company CH2M was forced to drop out of the contract to design phase 2 of the high-speed line after criticism from both the last two chief executives of HS2 Ltd came



## SHELL COMPANIES

# Prior record

**I**T'S two years since David Cameron promised new laws requiring the public disclosure of the ultimate owners of UK property regarded of the shell companies and trusts that they – following the *Eye's* exposure of the scale of the problem. Last year his successor Theresa May passed responsibility for this important part of the government's anti-corruption strategy to the new business minister Lord (David) Prior, still nothing has happened. Which makes an odd record with shell companies worth a look.

Back in 1993, Prior, son of 1980s Tory cabinet minister Jim Prior, became a director (along with his father and brother) of a new company called South Pickenham Estate Company Ltd. It