

# Peter Osborne opens a media can of worms

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By Jonathan Cook

The [revelations](#) last week by the *Daily Telegraph*'s former chief political commentator Peter Osborne that his newspaper spiked stories that upset advertisers to avoid losing lucrative ad revenue have apparently taken most journalists by surprise.

It has been especially embarrassing for the *Telegraph*, because one of the advertisers it apparently placated was the HSBC bank, currently at the centre of a storm of disclosures that its Swiss operation systematically helped clients worldwide with tax evasion. Other *Telegraph* journalists have backed Osborne, [saying](#) the paper avoided stories that risked antagonising a range of advertisers and even foreign governments. [Read more](#)