



Throwaway style: Designers model outfits made from rubbish at the launch of Junk Fashion in London. The sustainable fashion could help reduce waste

Sunak is told changes to tax year may cost billions

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Rishi Sunak has been urged not to begin preparations to move the 200-year-old date governing the tax year until at least 2027 over fears that the move would cost billions of pounds and cause an IT meltdown.

The Office of Tax Simplification (OTS), an advisory group, argued that the last day of the tax year on April 5 should be moved either to March 11 or to December 31, but not for at least two years. It concluded that the present tax year dates confuse workers, with some deadlines — income tax, national insurance and capital gains tax — being calculated based on an April 5 tax year end date, but others, including council tax rises and minimum wage and living wage increases, using March 11.

However, it said that any move to change the date, which Sunak is considering, after demands from businesses, should be delayed because of the technical upheaval it would cause, including the need for a revamp of the IT systems that deliver salaries, pensions and benefits in the public and private sector.

A Treasury spokesman hinted it would hold off on the plans. "Any long-term shift in the date of the tax year would be a huge undertaking for