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Rachel Reeves has had a difficult start to her ministerial career. As well as Labour's new chancellor of the Exchequer claimed to have worked
as an economist at Halifax Bank of Scotland (HBOS) immediately before becoming an MP.One of those who challenged it was a retired former colleague, Kev Gillett. In a public post on LinkedIn, which he asked followers to share, he wrote: "Back in 2009 Rt Hon Rachel Reeves worked 3 levels below me. Just facts. She was a Complaints Support
Manager at LBG/HBOS. Not an Economist. #factcheck."In fact it emerged that she had worked in a managerial role within the bank's complaint handling department and her LinkedIn profile was updated to remove the claim. Gillett also made another claim about Reeves's time at the bank from 2006 to 2009, writing that she: "Nearly got sacked due to
an expenses scandal where the 3 senior managers were all signing off each others expenses." Reeves's team vigorously denied the allegations. However, Labour's imminent victory in last summer's general election prompted a post on a private Facebook group for former HBOS employees that BBC News has seen asking if anyone remembered
Reeves.One former employee replied: "the expenses dept certainly do!"Several others made reference to Reeves being investigated over her expenses spending. BBC News has been seeking the truth behind these suggestions, speaking to more than 20 people, many of whom were former colleagues, and gaining access to receipts, emails and other
documents. We have learnt that there was an expenses investigation into Reeves and two other senior managers. A detailed six-page whistleblowing complaint and dozens of pages of attached evidence, which we have seen, raised concerns that the three managers were using the bank's money to "fund a lifestyle" with allegedly inappropriate spending
on dinners, events, taxis and gifts, including for each other. We have not been able to establish what the final outcome of the investigation, which was conducted by Internal Audit at the request of the bank's risk department, found that the three managers appeared to have
broken the rules and the whistleblower's allegations were substantiated, according to a senior source with knowledge of the investigation. A spokesman for Reeves said the Chancellor had no knowledge of the investigation. A spokesman for Reeves said the Chancellor had no knowledge of the investigation.
she took up a job at Halifax Bank of Scotland in West Yorkshire in 2006. The role required her to move north from London, where she had unsuccessfully stood as Labour's parliamentary candidate in what had been a safe Conservative seat. She initially worked in the mortgage department, but in late 2007 moved to become Head of Business Planning
in the Customer Relations department, which handled complaints. Her career at HBOS coincided with what would prove to be a tumultuous time for the bank. The global financial crisis which began in late summer of 2007 would force the sector to embark on a massive programme of job cuts and cost savings. In September 2008, HBOS itself came close
to collapse, requiring a government-brokered takeover by Lloyds and an emergency bailout which would total £20.5bn of taxpayers' money. It was shortly after this near-collapse, by early 2009, that a whistleblower from her department raised concerns about the spending habits of Reeves and two other managers, one of whom was Reeves's
boss. Before this, in late 2008, a memo was circulated to Reeves and others which called for tighter cost control within Customer Relations", raised concerns about "spending on travel" and on corporate spending cards, including Motivation cards
which were used to reward staff. It laid out proposals to "improve cost controls" which included monthly discussions with Reeves and another of the senior managers who the whistleblower claims, invoices, Thanks card use and reports". Separately, Reeves was emailed in mid-December 2008 about
proposals for a presentation setting out how much had been spent on Motivation cards, recognising top performers and on taxi travel, to "focus attention on particular aspects of travel that are costly and perhaps need more consideration". Reeves replied to say that she was not sure a "huge analysis" was needed and she wanted to see the papers
before they went any further. The whistleblower's complaint submitted by early 2009 was a six-page document laying out a range of concerns about an alleged spending culture in the Customer Relations department. Reeves's boss, and another senior manager in the department.
who we are not naming, was responsible for signing off the expenses of the other two managers. The report and attached receipts and other documents seen by BBC News show Reeves was accused of spending hundreds of pounds on handbags, perfume, earrings and wine for colleagues, including one gift for her boss. Concern was also expressed
about her spending on taxis and on a Christmas party. The whistleblower believed the spending to be excessive. After a call to the whistleblower was instructed to hand in a physical copy of their report and supporting evidence, two sources said. A separate source, who contacted BBC News themselves in the wake of an
article on the furore around Reeves's CV last year, was also aware that someone had blown the whistle on Reeves and another colleague. The report was passed to the bank's risk department. A source who worked in risk at the bank told us: "Given the nature of the allegations -
claiming expenses for things you wouldn't normally claim expenses for - and the relative seniority of the individuals, the matter was referred for investigation by a team outside of that department. "The Internal Audit department, which had access to expenses claims and sign-offs, then assessed the complaint and supporting documents, according to
two sources. It found that there was evidence of apparent wrongdoing by the three senior managers including Reeves, a senior source with direct knowledge of the investigation and passed its findings to an investigation told BBC News. Internal Audit completed its involvement in the investigation and passed its findings to an investigation told BBC News. Internal Audit completed its involvement in the investigation and passed its findings to an investigation told BBC News. Internal Audit completed its involvement in the investigation and passed its findings to an investigation and passed i
normal process would then have been for the managers to be interviewed about the allegations. There would then be an assessment of potential disciplinary action if necessary. However it does not appear that this next interviewed, as
did her boss, who said she was "not aware of an expenses probe and my departure was not related to any alleged investigation". The other senior manager declined to comment. There is no evidence of which we are aware that the bank's internal investigation was completed, or that there was ever a concluding finding of any wrongdoing. Reeves left
the bank in May 2009, as did her boss. The other senior manager was on sick leave in May and never returned to work at the bank. There is no suggestion any of the departures were linked to the investigation or spending issues and a spokesman for Reeves said the Chancellor left the bank on good terms. They also provided a statement from the
lawyer who provided legal advice on the compromise agreement - a voluntary legal document ending an employee's employment - she signed on her departure. He said it was a "standard-style agreement adopted by the company when a mutually agreed exit was made during the bank's restructure". "Absolutely no allegations of wrongdoing or
misconduct were mentioned by the HBOS HR team during this process," he said. What lay behind the whistleblower's complaint and the grumbles of other colleagues was unhappiness relating to several different areas of spending. One concern was the use of bank payment cards to pay for Christmas and birthday gifts. "A culture developed among
senior managers in Customer Relations where gifts were given freely to direct reports - both upwards," one former colleague of Reeves and the other senior managers had both a corporate credit card and another payment card known as a
'Motivation' or 'Thanks' card. The Motivation card was intended to be used to reward high-performers for good work. There was guidance about its use. In February 2008 a memo instructed HBOS employees on the correct use of Motivation cards, which were widely used within the Customer Relations department. It stated that the cards were to be
used to "reward/acknowledge colleagues who have gone the extra mile". Suggested gifts included "chocolates, flowers, wine, vouchers or you could simply log on and send a free e-card to say 'Thanks' for a job well done", the memo said. It warned that managers would be "responsible for all transactions on your card and will be held accountable if
spending on your statement cannot be verified". Spending in this area was scrutinised because the company incurred tax on it. The memo doesn't explicitly prohibit Christmas and birthday gifts with the bank's money, and believed that doing so was in
breach of the rules. Several said any birthday gifts were bought with their own money. However, one ex-staff member, Jane Wayper, a former HR business partner who was given permission to speak to us by Reeves's team, claimed that "birthday gifts and Christmas presents could be purchased using Motivation cards" and "staff were encouraged to
do so for their teams". Reeves bought birthday presents for colleagues with HBOS's money throughout her time in Customer Relations, receipts show, with purchases including wine and cosmetics. Some were bought using a Motivation card, while others were reimbursed through an expenses claim. She also spent £152 on a handbag and perfume as a
present for her boss using the bank's money, according to the whistleblower's report. The present was a joint gift from Reeves and one of the other managers who was later investigated alongside her. And she bought earrings as a present for her PA, which she claimed back on expenses. Her PA, Linda Barrowclough, said she had received Christmas
and birthday gifts from Reeves but had assumed they were "personal gifts [and] they'd have come out of her own pocket". Reeves also used her Motivation card to spend more than £400 on a leaving meal for a colleague, which Reeves also
bought for her PA and others, was more complicated. That's because, according to internal bank guidance we have seen, these could be bought on expenses providing they were small gifts of £25 or less and they were not bought using the Motivation card. The £25 limit was based on tax advice as anything more substantial would attract tax. It appeared
to her colleagues that Reeves had broken these rules. But there does appear to have been confusion about the policy. We have also seen emails showing that Reeves was encouraged by her boss to buy more expensive Christmas presents, and to pay for them with her Motivation card. In late October 2008, Reeves's manager wrote that "after checking
with other departments, it looks like the standard practice of buying Christmas gifts for direct reports using motivation bank will continue this year", emails seen by the BBC show. She suggested spending £50 to £75 per person on the presents. A reminder titled "further clarity" about how to buy Christmas gifts and how much to spend was circulated
by another HBOS employee in early December, emails show. Reeves and the other managers who were later investigated were all among the recipients of this email confirming the rules on Christmas gifts. While seasonal gifts, such as at Christmas, were allowed, the managers were explicitly told they could not use Motivation cards for these
purchases. The cost of these "trivial" gifts was also not allowed to exceed £25, in line with HMRC guidance, the email, Reeves wrote that she didn't understand
why the "goal posts are shifting" and said she had already ordered and paid for her presents using "Motivation Bank/Thanks, and I do not intend to cancel them," claiming this would cost more time and money. A colleague responsible for finance acknowledged that the message on paying for Christmas gifts hadn't always been clear but said: "I don't
believe that the goalposts are being moved. "Receipts show that gifts bought by Reeves at Christmas 2008 included a £49 handbag for her PA, while she herself received £55 worth of wine from her boss. There was a widespread belief at the bank that there had been an expenses investigation into Reeves and two colleagues. But Reeves has said that she
has no recollection of being investigated or having questions raised over her expenses. A spokesman for Reeves said she was "proud of the work she did at HBOS" and was not aware of an investigation nor was she interviewed, and she did not face any disciplinary
reference. "Reeves's team put forward several former HBOS employees for interview who they said corroborated her account that she had not been investigated. One said she hadn't seen evidence of senior managers misusing expenses and the bank had controls to prevent it but she left in February 2008, more than a year before Reeves departed. She
also said that she had never heard of giving birthday and Christmas gifts at HBOS's expense as being part of the bank's policies. Another, Jane Wayper, the former HR business partner, said in a statement that she didn't recognise the accusations against Reeves and "would have been aware of any investigation which concluded there was a case to
          as she would have been involved in the disciplinary process. She said there was "extensive oversight of all expenses policies" and claimed that "birthday gifts and Christmas presents could be purchased using Motivation cards". But this is at odds with a document seen by BBC News and the testimony of 11 sources we have spoken to. Many of
Reeves' former HBOS colleagues were worried about the consequences of sharing confidential information with BBC News but believe it is in the public interest for what happened, and their concerns about the now-Chancellor's spending of the bank's money, to be reported. But, given their concerns about speaking out publicly, we have agreed not to
name them. A Downing Street spokesman said the prime minister had no concerns about Reeves's conduct. Asked whether Sir Keir Starmer still thought the Chancellor and the prime minister are working hand in hand to deliver on the
priorities, the plan for change, and to deliver the higher growth and the improvements in living standards that the country needs. "The Number 10 official added that the chancellor had gone through the declaration process, which all members of Cabinet go through, when asked if she disclosed that there had been an investigation into her expenses
 before she was an MP.Conservative leader Kemi Badenoch said the investigation raised questions for the chancellor. She posted on X: "Keir Starmer said 'restoring trust in politics is the great test of our era'. Until she [Reeves] comes clean - not just about her CV but about the circumstances in which she left HBOS, no one will take him seriously. "The
investigation at HBOS was not the last time Reeves would face scrutiny over her expenses. In 2015, it emerged that she was among 19 MPs who had their official credit cards suspended by the parliamentary expenses watchdog after failing to show their spending was valid. Reeves owed more than £4,000 in spending at the time when her card was
blocked. She subsequently cleared her debt. If you have any information on stories you would like to share with the BBC Politics Investigations (BBC News reported on Thursday that Rachel Reeves had exaggerated her online CV and had been investigated over
her use of expenses while working at Halifax Bank of Scotland (HBOS), Labour colleagues have mounted a robust defence of the chancellor. Sir Keir Starmer said she had "dealt with any issues that arise" from the questions about her CV, and Health Secretary Wes Streeting told BBC Newsnight that she was doing a "brilliant and difficult job". But
2006 and 2009. A detailed six-page whistleblowing complaint was submitted, with dozens of pages of supporting documents including emails, receipts and memos. It accused Reeves and two other managers, one of whom was her boss, of using the bank's money to "fund a lifestyle", with spending on events, taxis and gifts, including for each other. We
have seen these documents and spoken to more than 20 people, many of whom were former colleagues. The chancellor and her expenses before she became an MPThe complaint led to an internal investigation by the bank's risk department. This was passed to internal audit, which reviewed the allegations and concluded that they were substantiated
expenses and said she left the bank on good terms. She said her expenses had always been signed off in the proper way. The person who signed off her expenses, her boss, was also subject to the internal investigation. Other Labour figures have criticised BBC News's reporting on the story, with two MPs repeating similar attacks. On Friday, Science
Secretary Peter Kyle told BBC Radio 4's Today programme that the reporting was "inaccurate". Both he and Siobhain McDonagh, a Labour MP who appeared on BBC's Politics Live on Thursday, raised comments by a former HR manager, Jane Wayper - which, they said, disproved the BBC News's story. Image source, EPA-EFE/REX/ShutterstockImage
caption, Science Secretary Peter Kyle has criticised the BBC's reporting on Rachel ReevesWayper spoke to the BBC after being given permission to do so by Reeves's team. She provided an on-the-record statement which said she "would have been made aware of any investigation which concluded there was a case to answer" on the basis that she
 "would have been required to organise and oversee a disciplinary process". However, the BBC has not reported that the case reached a formal conclusion, or that there was disciplinary action. Kyle incorrectly claimed that the quote had not been included in our report - but it had been in the article since it was first published on Thursday morning. He
also incorrectly referred to Wayper as the head of HR at the bank. In reality she was an HR business partner working in the department where Reeves worked. On Friday, Reeves was asked about the expenses claims directly. She said her
expenses had been "signed off in the proper way" and "no issues were ever raised" during her time at the bank. Her expenses probe. Reeves left the bank in May 2009, as did her boss. The other senior manager was on sick leave in May and
never returned to work at the bank. There is no suggestion any of the departures were linked to the investigation or spending issues and a spokesman for Reeves said the chancellor left the bank on good terms. Reeves has accepted the findings of another part of our investigation, this time over her CV. We established that the chancellor had
exaggerated the length of time she worked at the Bank of England. Reeves has often said she spent the "best part of a decade" working at the bank when setting out her credentials to run the economy to voters. However, her LinkedIn profile said she only worked there for six years - from September 2000 to December 2006. A year of that time was
spent studying at the London School of Economics (LSE). The BBC has now established that Reeves left the Bank of England in March 2006, meaning the time she spent working there amounts to five and a half years. A spokesman for Reeves confirmed that dates on her LinkedIn were inaccurate and said it was due to an administrative error by the
team. Her profile on the social media site has since been updated. Rachel Reeves after questions were raised about inaccuracies in her CV and her use of expenses in a previous job. The chancellor has been accused by former employees of being involved in an "expenses
scandal" while working at Halifax Bank of Scotland (HBOS) from 2006 to 2009, according to the BBC. She has also been accused of saying she worked for the Bank of England for longer than she did. Politics latest: PM ditches visit after tractors bypass gates Downing Street said the PM believes he can trust the chancellor. Ms Reeves' spokesperson
said she was "not aware of an investigation, nor was she interviewed". Her lawyer has denied the allegations. Leader of the opposition Kemi Badenoch said Ms Reeves had "very, very serious questions to answer" over the allegations. Jayne Wayper, former HR business partner for HBOS, said: "I do not recognise any of the accusations or claims that
have been made against Rachel Reeves. "One ex-colleague told the BBC she nearly got sacked after an investigation into three senior managers accused of "signing off each other's expenses". This included spending hundreds of pounds on handbags, perfume, earrings and wine for colleagues, including one gift for her boss. A whistleblower said there
was also concern about her spending on taxis and on a Christmas party. In a Facebook group of former HBOS employees seen by the BBC, several people referred to Ms Reeves being investigated over her expenses spending. Image: Pic: Reuters Sir Keir's official spokesman said it was "correct" the prime minister has "no concerns whatsoever" about
the chancellor's conduct and has confidence in her. He also said: "I can't speak to her time prior to government." The PM works hand in hand and has full faith in the chancellor. "Sir Keir later said she has "dealt with any issues that arise" from questions about her career before becoming an MP.Ms Weyper, former HBOS' HR, said there was an
 "extensive oversight" of all expense policies, receipts were signed off by line managers and in her role she "would have been making these claims about Rachel Reeves. However, I do not recognise them and understand she left the bank
on good terms," she added. Reeves was 'not aware of an investigation' A spokesperson for Ms Reeves said: "Rachel is proud of the work she did at HBOS and the teams that she led, it is 16 years since she left the bank and the first time she was made aware of these claims was when approached by journalists. "She was not aware of an investigation nor
was she interviewed, and she did not face any disciplinary action on this or any other matters. All expenses were submitted and signed off in the proper way. "Several former tolleagues from her time at the bank, including HBOS' former HR business partner, have corroborated this account. "Rachel left HBOS in 2009 on good terms." Ms Reeves's lawyer
while she was leaving HBOS said she left HBOS with a "standard-style agreement" after a "mutually agreed exit was made during the bank's restructure". David Sorensen, a managing partner at Morrish Solicitors, added: "My clear understanding at the time was that my client, who was in a senior role, left on good terms when HBOS plc was acquired
in 2009, as evidenced by the payments made to her, the retention of her company car and other benefits for a six-month period, and a favourable reference. "Absolutely no allegations of wrongdoing or misconduct were mentioned by the HBOS HR team during this process." Read more: Judge 'wrong' to let Gaza family settle in UK under Ukraine scheme
PM saysTreasury launches inquiry into leak of growth forecasts Please use Chrome browser for a more accessible video player 1:02 'I am not satisfied with the level of growth' LinkedIn dates questionedQuestions have also been raised about Ms Reeves' online CV, as her LinkedIn profile said she stayed at the Bank of England nine months longer than
she actually did, the BBC has reported. She has publicly said she spent a decade there, but her LinkedIn profile claimed she worked at the bank from September 2006. However, she is understood to have left by March 2006, when she started working at HBOS. That means she spent five and a half years at the bank, including nearly a
year studying. Ms Reeves' spokesman, in a comment given to the BBC, said the dates on her LinkedIn were inaccurate and blamed an administrative error by her team. They said the chancellor had not seen it before it was published. The chancellor had not seen it before it was published. The chancellor had not seen it before it was published. The chancellor had not seen it before it was published. The chancellor had not seen it before it was published. The chancellor had not seen it before it was published. The chancellor had not seen it before it was published. The chancellor had not seen it before it was published. The chancellor had not seen it before it was published. The chancellor had not seen it before it was published. The chancellor had not seen it before it was published. The chancellor had not seen it before it was published. The chancellor had not seen it before it was published.
repeatedly said she spent 10 years at the Bank of England, citing her time as an economist there as why she can be trusted with the UK's finances. Rachel Reeves is under mounting pressure over allegations she used company expenses in a former job to buy handbags, perfume, earrings and wine for colleagues, and exaggerated her Bank of England
experience on her CV. Before entering parliament, the chancellor was one of three employees investigated by Halifax Bank of Scotland (HBOS) for using her expenses to "fund a lifestyle" with inappropriate spending on dinners, events, taxis and gifts, the BBC has alleged. The broadcaster uncovered documents it said showed Ms Reeves was accused of
spending hundreds of pounds on the items, including one gift for her boss. Concerns were reportedly raised about her spending on taxis and on a Christmas party, with one whistleblower believing it to be excessive, the BBC said. A former colleague told the BBC managers who had "a very cavalier attitude regarding theorem."
budget in the department", and cited a leaving meal for a colleague costing more than £400 for which Ms Reeves used a company spending card. The BBC investigation also found Ms Reeves exaggerated her CV (Getty Images) The BBC investigation also found Ms Reeves exaggerated her CV (Getty Images) The BBC investigation also found Ms Reeves exaggerated her CV (Getty Images) The BBC investigation also found Ms Reeves exaggerated her CV (Getty Images) The BBC investigation also found Ms Reeves exaggerated her CV (Getty Images) The BBC investigation also found Ms Reeves exaggerated her CV (Getty Images) The BBC investigation also found Ms Reeves exaggerated her CV (Getty Images) The BBC investigation also found Ms Reeves exaggerated her CV (Getty Images) The BBC investigation also found Ms Reeves exaggerated her CV (Getty Images) The BBC investigation also found Ms Reeves exaggerated her CV (Getty Images) The BBC investigation also found Ms Reeves exaggerated her CV (Getty Images) The BBC investigation also found Ms Reeves exaggerated her CV (Getty Images) The BBC investigation also found Ms Reeves exaggerated her CV (Getty Images) The BBC investigation also found Ms Reeves exaggerated her CV (Getty Images) The BBC investigation also found Ms Reeves exaggerated her CV (Getty Images) The BBC investigation also found Ms Reeves exaggerated her CV (Getty Images) The BBC investigation also found Ms Reeves exaggerated her CV (Getty Images) The BBC investigation also found Ms Reeves exaggerated her CV (Getty Images) The BBC investigation also found Ms Reeves exaggerated her CV (Getty Images) The BBC investigation also found Ms Reeves exaggerated her CV (Getty Images) The BBC investigation also found Ms Reeves exaggerated her CV (Getty Images) The BBC investigation also found Ms Reeves exaggerated her CV (Getty Images) The BBC investigation also found Ms Reeves exaggerated her CV (Getty Images) The BBC investigation also found Ms Reeves exaggerated her CV (Getty Images) The BBC investigation also found Ms Reeves exaggerated he
LinkedIn profile. The reports are a major embarrassment and are likely to lead to more questions over whether she can continue as chancellor, as the economy struggles under the impact of her Budget. But Ms Reeves's spokesperson said she did not recall being investigated by HBOS or facing questions over her expenses. Sir Keir Starmer backed Ms Reeves's spokesperson said she did not recall being investigated by HBOS or facing questions over her expenses. Sir Keir Starmer backed Ms Reeves's spokesperson said she did not recall being investigated by HBOS or facing questions over her expenses.
Reeves, and his official spokesperson said the prime minister has no concerns about her conduct. But Labour grandee Dame Siobhain McDonagh said there are "questions to be asked" even as she described the chancellor as "one of the most hardworking, honest politicians that I have ever met". She said: "We've got to be sure about what happened
with the expenses scandal. As far as I'm aware she absolutely denies that she was approached by anybody about the expenses scandal. So I think there's still questions to be asked about what is going on and we'll see what happens." A spokesperson for Ms Reeves said she left HBOS in 2009 "on good terms". "Rachel is proud of the work she did at
HBOS and the teams that she led. It is 16 years since she left the bank and the first time she was made aware of these claims was when approached by journalists," they said. "She was not aware of an investigation, nor was she interviewed, and she did not face any disciplinary action on this or any other matters. All expenses were submitted and
signed off in the proper way. "Several former colleagues from her time at the bank, including HBOS's former HR business partner, have corroborated this account." She was also backed by a former senior manager at the bank, including HBOS's former HR business partner, have corroborated this account." She was also backed by a former senior manager at the bank, including HBOS's former HR business partner, have corroborated this account.
made against Rachel Reeves". "I would have been made aware of any investigation which concluded there was case to answer," Ms Wayper said. Ms Wayper said the company's expenses policy at the time allowed colleagues to buy each other birthday and Christmas presents, "indeed, staff were encouraged to do so for their teams". Rachel Reeves
worked at the Bank of England for five and a half years (PA)She said: "Rachel travelled extensively in her role using the train and then taxis primarily to get to sites. She was also on a relocation package having moved to Leeds from London and was able to claim all travel expenses for travel to London. "There was an extensive oversight of all expenses
policies. Receipts were signed off by line managers, but they were also reviewed regularly by internal audit. That was standard practice. "I cannot speak for the motivations behind those who have been making these claims about Rachel Reeves. However, I do not recognise them and understand she left the bank on good terms. "And David Sorensen and the second she have been making these claims about Rachel Reeves."
Ms Reeves's lawyer at the time who handled her departure from HBOS when it was acquired, said "absolutely no allegations of wrongdoing or misconduct were mentioned by the HBOS HR team during this process". He added: "My clear understanding at the time was that my client, who was in a senior role, left on good terms when HBOS plc was
acquired in 2009, as evidenced by the payments made to her, her retention of her company car and other benefits for a six-month period, and a favourable reference."The chancellor's LinkedIn profile claimed to have worked at the Bank of England from September 2006 - although she has previously publicly claimed to have worked
there for a decade. The BBC said Ms Reeves had in fact left the Bank of England by March 2006, when she began working for HBOS. The chancellor's team said the error was due to an administrative mistake by one of her staff and that Ms Reeves had not seen the LinkedIn page before it was published. Her LinkedIn page was updated on Thursday
following the BBC report. Kemi Badenoch said the BBC investigation raises "serious questions" for Ms Reeves. The Tory leader added: "Keir Starmer said 'restoring trust in politics is the greatest test of our era'. Until she comes clean, not just about the circumstances in which she left HBOS, no one will take him seriously." Reform UK about the circumstances in which she left HBOS, no one will take him seriously." Reform UK about the circumstances in which she left HBOS, no one will take him seriously." Reform UK about the circumstances in which she left HBOS, no one will take him seriously." Reform UK about the circumstances in which she left HBOS, no one will take him seriously." Reform UK about the circumstances in which she left HBOS, no one will take him seriously." Reform UK about the circumstances in which she left HBOS, no one will take him seriously." Reform UK about the circumstances in which she left HBOS, no one will take him seriously." Reform UK about the circumstances in which she left HBOS, no one will take him seriously." Reform UK about the circumstances in which she left HBOS, no one will take him seriously." Reform UK about the circumstances in which she circumstances in
deputy leader Richard Tice added: "Rachel Reeves cannot even manage the economy." Ms Reeves has repeatedly claimed to have worked for the Bank of England for a decade, or the best part of a decade, but questions were raised in November about the veracity of the claim. She made the claim in an interview with
Stylist magazine in 2021, at the Labour Party Business Conference last February, at a CEO summit in July 2022, and in a video published on her Facebook page in the same month. A document published on her Facebook page in the same month. A document published on her Facebook page in the same month. A document published on her Facebook page in the same month. A document published on her Facebook page in the same month. A document published on her Facebook page in the same month. A document published on her Facebook page in the same month. A document published on her Facebook page in the same month. A document published on her Facebook page in the same month. A document published on her Facebook page in the same month. A document published on her Facebook page in the same month. A document published on her Facebook page in the same month. A document published on her Facebook page in the same month. A document published on her Facebook page in the same month. A document published on her Facebook page in the same month. A document published on her Facebook page in the same month. A document published on her Facebook page in the same month. A document published on her Facebook page in the same month. A document published on her Facebook page in the same month. A document published on her Facebook page in the same month. A document published on her Facebook page in the same month. A document published on her Facebook page in the same month. A document published on her Facebook page in the same month. A document published publish
financial and monetary stability to Britain's economic success." Published: 11:43 BST, 13 February 2025 | Updated: 13:35 BST, 13 February 2025 Rachel Reeves was investigated over irregularities in her expenses claims when she worked for a bank, it was claimed today. The Chancellor and two other senior managers at the central bank are said to
have been subject to an internal audit at Halifax Bank of Scotland (HBOS) after whistleblowers alleged they were using the system to 'fund a lifestyle' including dinners, gifts and taxis. A BBC investigation into the Chancellor's time there found that an initial probe found grounds to believe that rules had been broken, although it was unable to
determine what the final outcome was .A spokesman for the Chancellor told the broadcaster she was unaware any investigation is the latest to raise questions about Ms Reeves' time as an economist before entering politics as MP for Leeds to raise questions about Ms Reeves' time as an economist before entering politics as MP for Leeds to raise questions.
West and Pudsey in 2010.Last year her claim in an interview with Stylist magazine from 2021 that she had spent a decade at the Bank of England, was contested, after it was revealed her LinkedIn account described it as a six-year period between 2000 and 2006. She was also accused of claiming she was an 'economist' on official documents at a time
when she was not working as one, later editing her LinkedIn profile to clarify that she was in 'retail banking' at HBOS instead. The Chancellor and two other senior managers at the central bank are said to have been subject to an internal audit after whistleblowers alleged they were using the system to 'fund a lifestyle' including dinners, gifts and
taxis. The investigation is the latest to raise questions about Ms Reeves' time as an economist. Last year her claim that she had spent a decade at the Bank of England was contested after it was revealed her LinkedIn account described it as a six-year period between 2000 and 2006. Tory leader Kemi Badenoch said: 'The BBC's investigation raises
serious guestions for Rachel Reeves. Keir Starmer said "restoring trust in politics is the great test of our era". 'Until she comes clean - not just about the circumstances in which she left HBOS, no one will take him seriously. 'But Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer told broadcasters: 'Rachel Reeves has dealt with any issues that
arise. 'She delivered a really important budget for the country that balanced the books, gave us stability, that is beginning to see some of the growth we need. 'She is determined that we go further with that.'So she can deal with the issues that arise out of this
report many years ago. What I am concerned with - what she is concerned with, we get up every day to do - is to make sure that the economy in our country, which was badly damaged under the last government, is revived and we have growth, and that is felt in the pockets of working people across the country (so) they feel better off. 'A lawyer for the
Chancellor has also said she was not subject to 'allegations of wrongdoing or misconduct' during her career in retail banking. Ms Reeves' spokesperson said she was 'not aware of an investigation nor was she interviewed, and signed off
in the proper way. 'Several former colleagues from her time at the bank, including HBOS' former HR business partner, have corroborated this account. 'Rachel left HBOS in 2009 on good terms.' David Sorensen, the lawyer who represented her as she left the bank, said her exit was 'a standard-style agreement adopted by the company when a mutually
agreed exit was made during the bank's restructure'. Mr Sorensen, a managing partner at Morrish Solicitors, said: 'My clear understanding at the time was that my client, who was in a senior role, left on good terms when HBOS plc was acquired in 2009, as evidenced by the payments made to her, the retention of her company car and other benefits
for a six-month period, and a favourable reference. 'Absolutely no allegations of wrongdoing or misconduct were mentioned by the HBOS who worked alongside Ms Reeves, also said she did not recognise any of the claims about her former colleague. In a statement, she
added: 'In my role, I would have been made aware of any investigation which concluded there was a case to answer.' would have been required to organise and oversee a disciplinary process. This did not happen.' | 3, "loginUrl": "login" | 5 The Chancellor of the Exchequer has been made aware of any investigation which concluded there was a case to answer.' I would have been required to organise and oversee a disciplinary process. This did not happen.' | 3, "loginUrl": "login" | 5 The Chancellor of the Exchequer has been made aware of any investigation which concluded there was a case to answer.' | 3, "loginUrl": "login" | 5 The Chancellor of the Exchequer has been made aware of any investigation which concluded there was a case to answer.' | 4 The Chancellor of the Exchequer has been made aware of any investigation which concluded there was a case to answer.' | 4 The Chancellor of the Exchequer has been made aware of any investigation which concluded there was a case to answer.' | 4 The Chancellor of the Exchequer has been made aware of any investigation which concluded there was a case to answer.' | 4 The Chancellor of the Exchequer has been made aware of any investigation which concluded there was a case to answer.' | 4 The Chancellor of the Exchequer has been made aware of any investigation which concluded the exchequer has been made aware of any investigation which concluded the exchequer has been made aware of any investigation which concluded the exchequer has been made aware of any investigation which concluded the exchequer has been made aware of any investigation which concluded the exchequer has been made aware of any investigation which concluded the exchequer has been made aware of any investigation which concluded the exchequer has been made aware of any investigation which concluded the exchequer has been made aware of any investigation which are the exchequer has been made aware of a the exchequer has been made aware of a the exchequer has been made aware of a the exchequer has been made aware of a
journalism is supported by our readers. When you purchase through links on our site, we may earn an affiliate commission. India Block|Jordan Page|William Mata13 February 2025Rachel Reeves has been accused of exaggerating her CV on LinkedIn to inflate how long she worked for the Bank of England. The chancellor's account had previously said
she worked there from September 2000 to December 2006, but the BBC claims information states she had left by March 2006. At that point, she worked for Halifax Bank of Scotland (HBOS) in West Yorkshire, documentation is supposed to show, and not from December when she previously said. Ms Reeves has now updated her LinkedIn to show that
she worked at Halifax from March 2006 to May 2009. By this time, she had become increasingly involved in the Labour Party and became an MP in May 2010. A previous iteration of her LinkedIn, according to the BBC, stated that she had left in December 2010, although this has also been changed. "I spent a decade working as an economist at the
Bank of England and loved it," Ms Reeves said in a 2021 magazine interview. And at a Labour business conference in February 2024, she added: "I spent the best part of a decade as an economist at the Bank of England." Sir Keir Starmer has stated his "full confidence" in Ms Reeves as she has faced mounting pressure to present a growth strategy to
Parliament as the value of the pound has fallen and the Government's long-term borrowing costs have remained high. Since becoming the first woman to hold the office in its 800-year history, Ms Reeves' time as Chancellor has been defined by an introduction of the national wealth fund and the biggest tax rise since 1993 in her inaugural October
budget. But another surprising talking point has been her LinkedIn profile. Editing one is hardly headline news, normally. But Ms Reeves found herself in hot water over changes made to her online CV in November. The situation prompted a number of memes and jokes online. A debate arose over the accuracy of Ms Reeves describing herself as an
 "economist". Before becoming an MP for Labour, Reeves worked for the Bank of England and HBOS (the merged Halifax and Bank of Scotland) before going into politics. "He is very clear that this is a Chancellor that has been straight with the public about the state of the public finances and what is necessary to restore financial stability," the
 spokesperson said. "That is most important."Internet wags responded by making fake images of Ms Reeves as an astronaut and making up lies about their own CVs.On October 24, 2024, the right-wing political blog Guido Fawkes published an exposé claiming that Reeves was overplaying her role at HBOS. "The Chancellor states on her LinkedIn that
she was working as an "economist" at HBOS. This is not true," they said. "Guido can reveal that Reeves worked in a mundane support department at the bank, according to multiple former colleagues." Later on, Guido pointed out that Ms Reeves' LinkedIn profile had changed the label of her title at HBOS from "Economist" to "Retail Banking", and
switched the label from Bank of Scotland to Halifax. A spokesman for Ms Reeves said: "She worked in retail banking covering various areas drawing on her background as an economist. Her LinkedIn has been updated to reflect that." The Sunday Telegraph then dug into an interview Reeves gave to Stylist magazine in October of 2021 where she said:
"I spent a decade working as an economist at the Bank of England and loved it, so I was excited to be given the opportunity to help shape our country's economic future."However, Ms Reeves' LinkedIn states that she worked at the Bank of England for five and a half years and four months between 2000 and 2006. Henry Newman, former special
advisor to the previous Conservative government, pointed out on X that one of those six years had been spent studying at LSE.Conservative Shadow Justice Secretary Robert Jenrick tweeted: "Reeves said she was an economist. Turns out she's just economical with the truth." Richard Holden, Conservative MP for Basildon and Billericay, has written a
letter to Reeves demanding that she "publish a full, unedited CV". Speaking on LBC at the time, former Labour minister Siôn Simon defended Ms Reeves. "It's much better to have worked in retail banking than to have been an economist at the bank," he said. "It was a much more interesting and challenging thing
an economist for 10 years."Internet jokesters seized on the drama. "As someone who got a first class honours degree from Oxford University and a doctorate from Harvard I can't understand all the fuss about Rachel Reeves telling the odd white lie on her CV," tweeted David Hales. "Rachel Reeves lying on her CV is literally the most relatable thing
about her," said Les the Croc. Some people referenced a previous drama about Ms Reeves' book, The Women Who Made Modern Economics. In October 2023, The Financial Times ran a story pointing out that numerous passages had been lifted from other sources without citation. Reeves admitted that there had been "inadvertent mistakes" and
promised to correct them in reprints."I'd like to wish Rachel Reeves the best of luck with her new self-help book, "How to Fake your CV"," joked Simon70. "It's her first book that she hasn't plagiarised."MORE ABOUT The Chancellor has been facing pressure after she quietly changed her LinkedIn profile to remove a reference to having worked as an
economist at Halifax Bank of Scotland (HBOS). This was also a claim she made during the 2010 General Election, when she told voters she had worked in retail banking for HBOS. The Times reported that she had been
 "running a small administrative complaints department that also dealt with IT matters". READ MORE: Kelly Given: Rachel Reeves is no feminist hero - she's the same as the rest Newspapers reports over the weekend further contested Reeves is no feminist hero.
Reeves's LinkedIn says this was in fact a six-year period, between 2003-2004, Reeves was also studying for a master's degree at the London School of Economics, and she was just 27 when she left the Bank of England in 2006, suggesting all her roles were junior positions. The Conservatives accused Reeves of telling "brazen"
lies. Former Tory chair Richard Holden has now pressured Reeves to make clear her exact work history, saying that allegations of having lied on her CV are "not trivial matters — and leave serious questions". Tory MP and former party chair Richard Holden has now pressured Reeves to make clear her exact work history, saying that allegations of having lied on her CV are "not trivial matters — and leave serious questions".
transparency - which is why I write to you seeking clarity. "This is equally important as many businesses and working people already feel as if Labour had not been honest with them ... I would therefore be grateful for a prompt answer to the following questions: 1. Between what years were you employed by the Bank of England? 2. What was your job
title at the Bank of England? 3. Between what years were you employed by HBOS? 4. What was your job title at HBOS? 5. What was the reason you left HBOS? 6. Will you now publish a full, unedited CV? "The allegations that your CV might not be accurate are incredibly serious and would raise significant concerns about your ability to be honest with
the British public, concerns which your Budget has already raised." On Monday, No 10 defended Reeves's record in office. "The Prime Minister is very clear that the Chancellor has restored financial stability," a spokesperson said. They went on: "This is someone who on coming into office looked under the bonnet and exposed a £22 billion black hole
in the public finances, and has been straight with the public about what is necessary to balance the books and restore financial stability in the face of that." The Treasury has been approached for comment. The revelations, first brought to light by the eagle-eyed reporters at Guido Fawkes, suggest that Reeves falsely claimed to have worked as an
"economist" at the Bank of Scotland - only for it to emerge that her role was far less glamorous, focused on back-office administrative duties. Let's get one thing clear: there's no shame in honest work. But when the person responsible for steering the British economy fabricates her credentials to gain political advantage, it's nothing short of a scandal.
Reeves, who has repeatedly boasted of becoming the UK's first female Chancellor, has since been caught quietly editing her LinkedIn profile to downplay her previous exaggerations. The timing of this revelation couldn't be worse for Reeves. Just as the country grapples with grim economic figures - a meager 0.1% growth in the third quarter of 2024,
and an outright contraction in September - Reeves was busy rewriting her professional history. Critics are now asking how can the public trust a Chancellor who fiddles her CV while her policies leave Britain's economy on the brink? The Conservative and Reform PMs have wasted no time in calling out Reeves for her deception. As Robert Jenrick
pithily put it: "Reeves claimed to be an economist, but it turns out she's just economical with the truth." Nigel Farage added: "Rachel Reeves told us she was an economist. In reality, she ordered the paper clips." A former Conservative MP said: "What we're witnessing here is not a simple oversight or an innocent error. It's a deliberate attempt to
mislead - a hallmark of Labour's current modus operandi. This is a party that came to power promising transparency and competence but has instead delivered sleaze, higher taxes, and economic mismanagement." Let's not forget that Labour inherited a thriving economy - the fastest-growing in the G7 under the Conservatives. And what has Labour
achieved in its short time in power? An economic slowdown, job losses, and a litany of broken promises, Reeves, who was supposed to be the financial brain behind Labour's grand economic vision, is now exposed as a figure whose qualifications may have been more fiction than fact. "Is it any wonder things are falling apart at the seams?" have been
the cries from critics across social media. "Is she even an economist?" others are now asking. This latest scandal comes on top of Labour's ongoing attacks on British businesses with its crippling employment taxes and draconian regulations. The farming community has been hit, small businesses are suffering, and hardworking families are being taxed
into oblivion. Reeves, who campaigned on a platform of helping the "working people," is now presiding over policies that do the exact opposite. In the real world, getting caught lying about your credentials is grounds for immediate dismissal. Why should it be any different in government? These officials work for us! How can we trust a Chancellor who
inflated her qualifications to secure the top job managing the nation's finances? And now, instead of owning up, she's quietly trying to rewrite history, hoping we wouldn't catch on. How can we trust a Chancellor who fiddles with the truth while claiming to protect the interests of the nation? This is the same Rachel Reeves who has been banging on
about a £22 billion blackhole but she won't let us see the figures. It's also the same Rachel Reeves who for the past few years kept trying to pass off predicted IMF figures as fact. Even when she was called out, she continued to do it. Is this a woman who can be trusted? Conservative Post readers think it's high time Reeves accepts responsibility for
her actions and steps down. In a recent poll, a staggering 97.1% think Ms Reeves should do the decent thing and resign. We agree. Britain deserves a Chancellor who is honest and transparent, not one who resorts to deceitful embellishments to climb the political ladder. The British public deserves better than this shambolic excuse for leadership. The
bottom line is the British people deserve the truth. Rachel Reeves may try to edit her CV, but she cannot edit the facts. The truth is that this Government, from the top down, is built on broken promises and arrogance. Britain deserves leaders who uphold integrity and are fit to govern, not those who deceive the very people they're meant to serve. The
only question now is: How much longer will the British public tolerate this circus of incompetence and dishonesty from Labour? Rachel Reeves must go, and she must go now. Image: Keir Starmer and Rachel Reeves in Parliament © UK Parliament / Maria Unger. Licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Unported license. Dear oh dear.
Rachel Reeves has ended up in something of a pickle over her employment history, with the Chancellor under fire over whether she has been straight with the public about her economist background. Certainly after that Budget, Mr S is hardly surprised eyebrows are being raised... Pressure has been piling on Reeves for weeks, with questions arising
around exactly how long she worked at various institutions, exactly what she worked as and whether she has been playing fast and loose with the truth of the matter. As the curious case of the Labour MP's CV rumbles on, Steerpike has pulled together a list of exactly which of her claims have been challenged when. Here's the full timeline: LinkedIn
history Reeves has long publicised her employment background on LinkedIn, with the now-Chancellor initially stating that she worked as an economist role at the Bank of Scotland until December 2009. 15 October 2021 Speaking to
Stylist magazine, the Labour MP claimed: 'I spent a decade working as an economist at the Bank of England and loved it, so I was excited to be given the opportunity to help shape our country's economic future.' In the same interview, Reeves also confesses her worst work habit 'is wanting everything to be done straightaway - we have so much to do
in such little time'. Too little time'. Too little time to get your own CV right, eh? 24 October 2024 Inaccuracies on the new Chancellor's LinkedIn are flagged by Guido Fawkes. The political blog noted Reeves's claims she'd worked as an 'economist' at the Bank of Scotland on LinkedIn, before pointing to previous biographies she'd handed to event organisers that
state: 'Previously, she worked as an economist at the Bank of England, the British Embassy in Washington DC and latterly at Halifax Bank of Scotland.' Instead it transpires that, according to the Chancellor's former colleagues, she actually worked in a support department at Scottish bank, managing admin processes and IT-related issues. How very
interesting, 14 November 2024 During her first Mansion House speech, Reeves made reference to her economist background at the Bank of England but rather curiously stopped short of claiming she worked under the same title at Halifax Bank of Scotland. Preparing the groundwork, perhaps? 15 November 2024 Eagle-eved observers then spotted
that between introducing inheritance taxes for farmers and cutting the winter fuel payment, the Chancellor managed to find the time to edit her LinkedIn work experience details. Reeves quietly removed her 'economist at the Bank of Scotland' position and now claims to have held a 'retail banking' job at Halifax. A Treasury source confirmed the
correction to Guido, admitting: 'She worked in retail banking covering various areas drawing on her background as an economist. Her LinkedIn has been updated to reflect that.' 17 November 2024 But it's not just Reeves's tenure at Halifax Bank of Scotland that has come under scrutiny. The Chancellor is facing questions over the time she spent at
the Bank of England now, too. The Sunday Telegraph picked up on discrepancies between Reeves's claim in her 2021 Stylist interview and her personal LinkedIn profile. While the Labour MP states she worked at the Bank of England for six years on the online app, Reeves rather bizarrely told the feminist magazine that she had been at the institution
for 'a decade'. More than that, former Tory SpAd Henry Newman pointed out that one of those six years had actually been spent at the London School of Economics for a master's course. What sort of economist gets her numbers wrong by 50 per cent, eh? Meanwhile unimpressed Tories tell the Express: 'It seems Rachel Reeves's employment history
claims are about as accurate as her promises not to raise taxes on working people - based on deception and increasingly proven false.' Ouch. 18 November 2024 That's not all the Conservatives have to say about the case. Shadow paymaster general Richard Holden wrote a rather scathing letter to Reeves, calling on the Chancellor to directly respond
to the 'incredibly serious' claims against her. Holden called on the Labour politician to 'publish a full, unedited CV', fuming: 'The allegations that your CV might not be accurate...would raise significant concerns about your ability to be honest with the British public.' The gloves are coming off... I'm sure the Chancellor of the Exchequer
@RachelReevesMP & @UKLabour will be clearing this up in no-timeJust half a dozen CV points@christiancalgie @GuidoFawkes @PA @TelePolitics pic.twitter.com/7brUuN3icN— Richard Holden MP (@RicHolden) November 19, 2024 And now the Reeves backers are out in force. On LBC today, ally of the Chancellor and ex-Labour
minister Siôn Simon gave a rather odd defence of the embattled politician. Brushing off the criticism, Simon first insisted 'it's a bit of loose language on a CV or whatever', before claiming: It's much better to have worked in retail banking than to have been an economist at the bank... It was a much more interesting and challenging thing to have done
than just to have been an economist for 10 years. Er, right. That still doesn't guite explain Reeves's reluctance to be clear all this in the first place, however. And to make matters worse Guido revealed that, in official documents submitted to Companies House in 2008, during which time the now-Chancellor was working in 'retail banking', Reeves
detailed her 'business occupation' as 'economist'. The plot thickens... Downing Street has refused to say whether Reeves followed ministerial integrity rules after editing her online CV, while the PM's spokesperson sidestepped questions on the issue, noting instead that Sir Keir Starmer 'is very clear that this is a Chancellor that has been straight with
the public about the state of the public finances and what is necessary to restore financial stability'. The curious case continues...
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