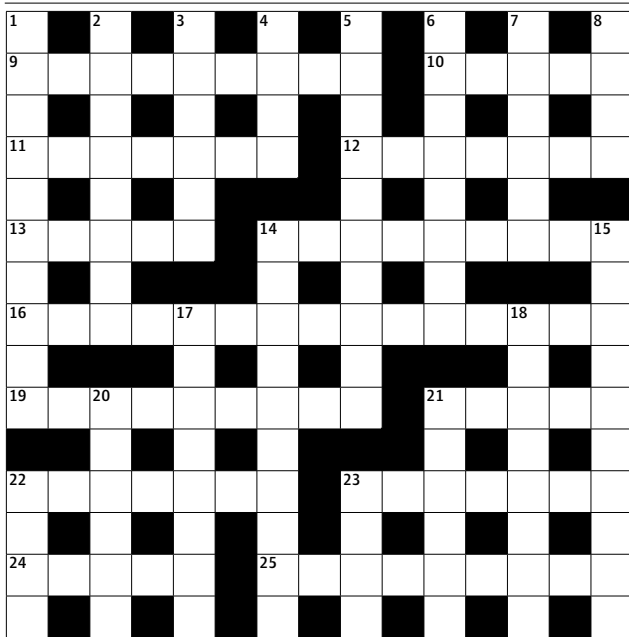


# Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,456 set by Pasquale

## Across

- 9** No natural listener, the boss – one getting spin introduced? (3-6)  
**10** Intimate pub, “The Queen” (5)  
**11,7,17** The Tories tell a whinger about 23 across’s message (4,3,2,4,8)  
**12** After start of affair longs to get letters (7)  
**13** Zero elasticity in arch (5)  
**14** Chemical separation could be produced by rinses? Yes (9)  
**16** A trip with the legwork would be disastrous for me (9,6)  
**19** Sort of politician expected to keep them open-mouthed? (9)  
**21** Very short attack (5)  
**22** Satirist aiming dart at fashion (7)  
**23,24** Old bird turns over, somersaulting into great river, making a retreat on island (7,5)  
**25** Excellent setter’s brilliant clue getting misprinted (9)

## Down

- 1** Start to slate deficient Labour leader Miliband for proceeding at snail’s pace? (4-6)  
**2** Cats finally sounding happy? That’s encouraging (8)  
**3** A church led by males and as it appears to potential female bishops? (6)

- 4** Upper-class boy brought up in Scottish estate (4)  
**5** Relation in voluntary organisation turning up in European country (5,5)  
**6** One spending time at 23 across 24 – the end of the line (8)  
**7** See 11  
**8** Woman like Molly Malone without husband (4)  
**14** Ability to absorb liquids comes from various openings in middle of tissue (10)  
**15** Soldiers who keep the machinery going? (10)  
**17** See 11  
**18** Birds with glossy appearance heading north – half of those off course will be trapped (8)  
**20** Keep quiet about employment in the 6 and 21? (6)  
**21** Prince gives warning about bishop (6)  
**22** Industrial area is rougher with characters regularly getting bumped off (4)  
**23** Nothing works, sorry! (4)

Solution No. 25,455

M	O	L	E	S	T	I	N	G	F	R	A	N	C	
A	I	O	N	E	A	H	O							
G	O	G	O	L	C	O	N	T	I	N	E	N	T	
I	H	I	E	E	R	A	T							
C	I	T	Y	C	E	N	T	R	E	I	D	L	E	
	S	I	S	I	S									R
A	D	O	P	T	E	E	C	O	P	S	H	O	P	
S	U	U								E	U	I		
P	O	T	S	D	A	M	H	A	N	G	M	A	N	
A		E	A	A	T	D								
R	A	J	A	C	R	A	N	E	F	L	I	E	S	
A	E	G	C	O	O	N	Y							
G	O	R	B	A	C	H	E	V	R	O	G	E	R	
U	E	M	E	E	C	E	A							
S	U	Z	I	E	R	A	R	E	E	A	R	T	H	