

TaxPayers' Alliance | 09/10 Review

UK DEBT
CLOCK

£

78 1663693850

Over **£30,000** per family

TIME TO WAKE UP.

 **tpa**
The TaxPayers' Alliance

www.taxpayersalliance.com
0845 330 9554

KELTRUCK

www.debt-clock.org

Welcome to the 09/10 Review of the TaxPayers' Alliance

Dear Supporter,

Welcome to a round-up of the sixth year of the TaxPayers' Alliance. In the past twelve months we have continued to expand and grow, both in size and influence. This year has been the most important in our history, with our ideas having a major influence on a new system for MPs' expenses, on spending cuts and on transparency.

When we published our 08/09 Review, we were at the centre of the major political storm around expenses. Following the General Election many of our ideas about how the system could be improved were taken up by Ipsa, the new independent organisation set up to regulate MPs' expenses.

To journalists our authority in Westminster on issues like transparency and accountability is unparalleled. We have been called "Britain's most influential free-market group" by *City AM*, and described as "arguably the most influential pressure group in the country" by *The Guardian*. This is reflected in the huge volume of media coverage that we continue to receive, which has now reached an average of 700 high-quality media hits every month.

Through the media we are continuing to extend our reach far beyond Westminster, constantly attracting new supporters. We have more than 55,000 supporters across the UK, one of the broadest networks of any think tank or campaign group in British politics. Our passionate local groups mean we are

always active at grassroots level. This year has also seen a fresh approach to campaigning, with the creation of a New Media team.

Once you have read this review we'd be delighted to hear your feedback. Whether you would like to become an activist, or make a contribution to the campaign, we're always happy to hear from you.

We hope that the ten policy victories on the next page demonstrate that not only do we create first class public policy, but we also create the climate of opinion for that policy to be implemented.

With best wishes,



Andrew Allum
Chairman



Matthew Elliott
Chief Executive



TEN POLICY VICTORIES

- ✓ 1. A fairer, more transparent system for MPs' expenses
- ✓ 2. An end to councils hiring expensive lobbyists
- ✓ 3. Substantial cuts in public spending
- ✓ 4. Taxpayer funded spending and contracts online
- ✓ 5. Getting a grip on public sector pay
- ✓ 6. First step to tackling pension deficit
- ✓ 7. Ineffective Regional Development Agencies scrapped
- ✓ 8. Dozens of wasteful Quangos culled
- ✓ 9. Zero tolerance on taxpayer funded extremism
- ✓ 10. Help for the poorest in society

CAMPAIGN 1:
DEBT CLOCK
TOUR

CAMPAIGN 2:
STOP THE EU
RIP-OFF

CAMPAIGN 3:
COALITION
AGAINST HATE
EDUCATION

Aug '09

8th TPA staff at Sara Rainwater's wedding

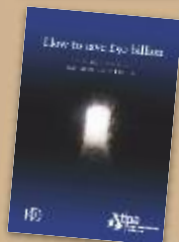


Sept '09

1st Matthew Elliott's new book *Fleeced!* is published by Constable

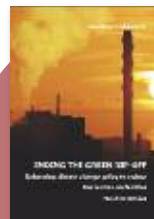


11th *How to save £50 billion*, co-written with the Institute of Directors, is released



Farewell to Tim Aker

Dec '09



18th New report released: *Green taxes: Ending the green rip-off*

9th Alistair Darling's pre-Budget report

4th Our popular *Public Sector Rich List* report is released



20th *Ten Years On* released with new website and nationwide cinema advertisements

1st *Public Affairs News* names the TPA runner-up for 'Think Tank of the Year'



Nov '09

Jan '10

11th Final consultation on MPs' expenses

20th Windsor and Maidenhead council cut council tax by 4%

Farewell to Susie Squire



Andy Whitehurst joins the TPA

Feb '10

1st We move to 55 Tufton Street



2nd New West Yorkshire branch opens

5th CPS brings criminal charges against Lord Hanningfield and MPs Chaytor, Morley and Devine



17th TPA exposes green propaganda costs, DEFRA Climate Change viral video released



5th *Daily Telegraph* names Matthew Elliott 31st most influential person on centre right

Oct '09

Emma Bennett joins the TPA



20th Lee Rotherham debates the future of the EU at the Oxford Union





30th David Cameron said: "The TaxPayers' Alliance is one of the only political groups worth joining other than the Conservative Party"

26th Matt Sinclair's new book, *How to Cut Public Spending*, is released



1st Matthew Elliott comes 25th in a list of the top 50 political influencers in *Total Politics*



We launch our manifesto to hold the government to account

Mar '10



Farewell to Ben Farrugia

Emma Boon joins the TPA



Apr '10

1st We release our annual *Town Hall Rich List*

2nd TPA voted favourite think tank of *ConservativeHome* readers – we came top in four out of five categories

12th The Debt Clock sets off on a 1,500 mile tour of the UK



23rd Protesters gather in Yorkshire to show disapproval of payouts to senior council staff



May '10

11th Coalition is formed after indecisive election result. Departments start implementing a number of TPA recommendations



Dominique Lazanski joins the TPA

Jun '10

2nd Research Director, Matt Sinclair, is interviewed on *BBC Radio 4's Moral Maze*

22nd We held a Post-Emergency Budget briefing for nearly 150 journalists and opinion formers

TPA Annual Review 09/10 released

Aug '10



26th The Government announces cuts to quangos after a long TPA campaign against these wasteful bodies

Farewell to Mark Wallace



13th The Government scraps Prevent grants as recommended by the TPA in September 2009

1st *Trade Union Rich List* is released by the TPA



1st Emma Boon recommends laws to be repealed on *Today* on *BBC Radio 4*

Jul '10



TPA FOUNDERS



Matthew Elliott
Co-founder and Chief Executive

Matthew graduated from the LSE with a First Class BSc in Government. He worked for a number of MPs and MEPs before founding the TaxPayers' Alliance in 2004 with Andrew Allum and Florence Heath. In 2010 Matthew was ranked 25th in the *Total Politics* 'Guide to the Top Political Influencers'. In 2009 he founded Big Brother Watch (see page 31) and was recently described as "probably the most effective political campaigner that Britain has produced in a generation".

Andrew Allum
Co-founder and Chairman

Andrew graduated from Imperial College with a First in Physics before taking a Masters at Oxford. Before becoming unpaid, non-executive TPA Chairman, Andrew served as a Westminster City Councillor. He currently works as a Partner at a leading strategy consulting firm.



Florence Heath
Co-founder

Florence is one of the Co-founders of the TaxPayers' Alliance. She read Geology at Imperial College and went on to do a Masters in Petroleum Geology. Florence currently works as a geologist for an international petroleum company.



NEW MEDIA

Andy Whitehurst
New Media Coordinator

Andy read Politics and Philosophy at the University of Leeds, before completing a Masters in International Relations. He coordinates the TPA's new media activities, and also accompanied the Debt Clock for the duration of its UK tour.



OPERATIONS

Sara Rainwater
Operations Director

Sara attended Middle Tennessee State University and then the LSE, where she received a postgraduate degree in European Studies. She worked at the European Foundation, edited the *European Journal* and later joined Global Vision as a Manager before moving to oversee TPA finances and management.



Emma Bennett
Executive Assistant

After studying International Relations at Exeter University, Emma went on to work in both Brussels and Westminster. As well as assisting Matthew Elliott on a day to day basis, Emma played a crucial role in organising the European Resource Bank, a major international conference hosted by the TPA in September 2010.



Dominique Lazanski
New Media Special Projects

Dominique holds degrees from Cornell University and the LSE. She spent more than ten years in the Internet industry and has written and spoken on digital issues over the years from a free market and entrepreneurial perspective.



CAMPAIGNS

Fiona McEvoy Grassroots Manager

Fiona read English Literature and Drama at the University of Birmingham, before moving to read Classical Studies at the University of Durham. Fiona has a key role in recruiting and organising grassroots activists from around the country.



Emma Boon Campaign Manager

Emma graduated from University of Edinburgh, with a Masters before taking a postgraduate diploma in Broadcast Journalism at City University. Emma worked as a reporter before joining the TPA to communicate their work to the media.



Tim Newark Grassroots Coordinator

Tim is an historian and author. He is also a veteran local campaigner, once founding his own political party to stand as an independent councillor.



Raheem Kassam Campaign Manager, Coalition Against Hate Education

Raheem has a BA in Politics from the University of Westminster. As well as leading the TPA Campaign Against Hate Education, Raheem also has expertise in international counter-radicalisation and counter-extremism.



Andrew Allison Grassroots Coordinator

Andrew was born and raised in Co. Durham, and campaigned in his first general election in 1987. He moved to the East Riding of Yorkshire ten years ago, and works in the driver training industry, as well working part-time for the TPA.



RESEARCH

Matthew Sinclair Research Director

Matthew studied for a BSc in Economics and Economic History and an MSc in Economic History at the LSE. He has represented the TPA at events in Rome, Washington DC, Brussels, Strasbourg and New York. He edited 'How to Cut Public Spending'.



John O'Connell Deputy Research Director

John attended Nottingham Trent University, where he received a BA in Politics, and then UCL, where he obtained an MSc in European Public Policy. John concentrates on government institutions, local government waste and public sector productivity.



Dr Lee Rotherham Policy Analyst

After researching for the "Westminster Group of Eight" Eurorebels, Lee advised three Shadow Foreign Secretaries, and worked as Chief of Staff to the Rt Hon David Heathcoat-Amory MP. Lee works on our 'Stop the EU Rip-Off' campaign.



Jennifer Dunn Policy Analyst

Jennifer has a Masters in Public Policy and Administration from the LSE. Working in partnership with the Drivers' Alliance, Jennifer's research focuses on transport.



Mike Denham Research Fellow

Mike studied PPE at Oxford University, and has a MA in Economics from the LSE. A former Treasury economist who worked extensively on public spending and fiscal analysis during the 1970s and 80s, he now scrutinises public spending on the TPA 'Burning Our Money' blog.





WEST MIDLANDS

We have more than 55,000 supporters, more than 5,000 of whom are grassroots activists, regularly organising and taking part in protests and making their voices heard. Our grassroots campaigners are so important, as they drive the TPA message to the frontline of politics.

Fiona McEvoy heads up the West Midlands TPA and this year has used the Freedom of Information Act to expose a range of ways in which local councils in the region have wasted taxpayers' money. The media have highlighted these stories on numerous occasions, with Fiona often appearing on TV and radio.



Tax group attacks Screen WM chief's expenses

Tax group attacks Screen WM chief's expenses

THE TaxPayers' Alliance (TPA) has launched a campaign to force the Screen West Midlands (Screen WM) chief to reveal his expenses. The group says the chief has claimed £10,000 for his private life, including a holiday in the Maldives and a private jet. The TPA says the chief has also claimed for his private car and for his private secretary. The group says the chief has also claimed for his private life, including a holiday in the Maldives and a private jet. The TPA says the chief has also claimed for his private car and for his private secretary.



HULL & EAST RIDING

One of our many victories in Hull and East Riding came in December 2009, when Hull City Council announced that council tax would not rise in the next financial year.

Andrew Allison called for Hull City Council's new Chief Executive to be on a lower salary than that of the outgoing Kim Ryley. The result was the deputy chief executive was promoted to the top job on £150K, and the post of deputy chief executive was abolished, meaning a net saving to the taxpayer of around £160K a year.

We led protests in Beverley, in the East Riding of Yorkshire, after the cabinet voted to award a discretionary payment of £364,205 to the pension fund of Sue Lockwood, the outgoing Corporate Services Director.



In Islington we attracted a lot of media attention over a story about the so-called 'Living Wall'. The council squandered £100,000 on a failed gimmick. The 30ft high wall covered in plants was supposed to be a substitute for a local park they had built on. But the design and special watering system had never been tried before and turned out to be a failure. Islington was left with the most expensive patch of dried out scrub in Britain. Tim Newark, TPA Grassroots Coordinator, is pictured here in front of it.



£1 billion pension black hole makes council 'insolvent'
Taxpayer group's claim as staff are warned

£600,000 council scheme 'duplicates' work says Taxpayers' Alliance
Business centre is waste of cash, claim

Headed up by Peter Webb, the Surrey TPA recently made waves by branding the local County Council insolvent, after details of the huge pension deficit were revealed. Branch members have since been focussing on the authority's balance sheet, and have been keeping up the pressure on council bosses to address this worrying situation.

Peter Webb has publically called for greater financial transparency and for a more detailed Annual Report so that taxpayers can see precisely how their money is being spent.

We've just launched a branch in Aberdeen in Scotland, and have already attracted attention from local media. *The Scottish Sun* wanted our view on the local council who spent £400,000 rebuilding some garages, only for drivers to discover they were so narrow that it was impossible to get out of the car!



Fiona McEvoy and team collecting signatures on the UK Debt Clock tour



55 Tufton Street Our new home

In February 2010, the TaxPayers' Alliance moved to a new home in the heart of Westminster. 55 Tufton Street has not only provided us with the chance to expand our campaign, but has also fostered greater cooperation between fellow think tanks and campaign groups. Being in the same building as the Africa Research Institute, Big Brother Watch, Civitas, the Conservative Cooperative Movement, the New Culture Forum, the Nothing British campaign and NO2ID has strengthened the influence of our ideas in Whitehall and Westminster. The new powerhouse is the brainchild of Midlands businessman Richard Smith, and has already been nicknamed 'Think Tank Central'. Our next-door neighbours are the Centre for Policy Studies, and both Open Europe and the Social Market Foundation are also based on the same street.

An added benefit of being based on Tufton Street is that we're now closer than ever to 4 Millbank, where the *BBC*, *ITN* and *Sky* have their political news studios. Now the broadcasters have clocked on to the fact that we're so close, we regularly get calls from producers and reporters wanting a guest to react quickly to a breaking news story. TPA staffers can often be seen, jackets flapping, sprinting down the road, ready to step straight into a live interview.

The more spacious new office has seen our Wednesday Meeting numbers swell to record levels this year. The monthly gatherings are a place for like-minded people on the centre right to gather and talk policy. Key players know that 55 Tufton Street is the place to be to discuss and collaborate on cutting edge areas of policy and campaigns.



Africa Research
Institute



www.taxpayersalliance.com



Paulette gives a warm welcome to visitors at 55 Tufton Street



Planning future campaigns in our boardroom



Team meeting in the courtyard



Our interns often become full time members of staff



Research, Campaign and New Media teams working together



Sara keeps Matthew on his toes throughout the day



Peer reviewing our research with outside experts



When we pick a policy target we commission polling and carry out focus groups to make sure our arguments hit the mark.

RESEARCH Papers

For each policy target we start with research, getting our team of researchers and analysts to use primary sources, such as the Government's Budget, to piece together the raw facts and figures that will be the supporting infrastructure of the final research paper.

We also use the Freedom of Information Act to request information about where taxpayers' money is spent. Our team sends out thousands of emails and letters each year and makes hundreds of phone calls every week, to find out where your money is going.



Matthew Elliott

"There is a reason that the TaxPayers' Alliance goes from strength to strength, and it's down to how we campaign."



media

Once a report is written and checked it's ready to be released to the media. We work closely with local and national broadcasters and newspaper journalists. We sometimes offer juicy findings to a tabloid newspaper as an exclusive. Or we might work with the politics units at the *BBC*, *ITN* and *Sky News* to ensure we make a big impact in the breakfast or evening news.



NEW Media

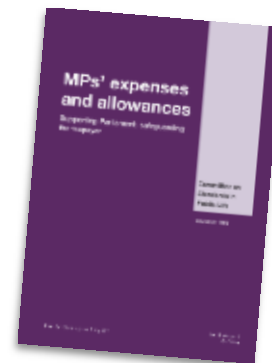


We've made nine new videos this year, on everything from climate change to welfare reform. Our research is often the subject of lively discussion on the country's top political blogs, including our own. We also built three, substantial new websites this year: www.greateudebate.com, www.debt-clock.org and a revamp of our home site www.taxpayersalliance.com



CAMPAIGNING

Typically the research paper will be commented on, attempts will be made to undermine it and eventually ministers will start to pick up on it, getting it attention right up in the top echelons of government. Throughout the process we're always offering spokespeople for comments and meetings. We send our reports to relevant MPs as well as giving evidence to Select Committees and, at grassroots level, organising protests.



PROTESTS

Our activists make themselves heard at grassroots level with frequent protests and petitions.



The start of 2010 saw a General Election on the horizon and all three main parties publishing manifestos.

It also saw, for the first time, a TPA manifesto.

The handy leaflet lays out our policies on tax and spending, reforming services and democracy and transparency. Each policy is given a target time to be implemented: within three months, a year or five years. This is our benchmark to chart the success or failure of the new coalition Government.

You can download your own version from our website <http://bit.ly/TPAmanifesto>

The manifesto is tangible evidence of just how many ideas have been generated by the TPA in the last twelve months – the manifesto is bursting with proposals, and we couldn't even include them all!



TaxPayers' Alliance Manifesto

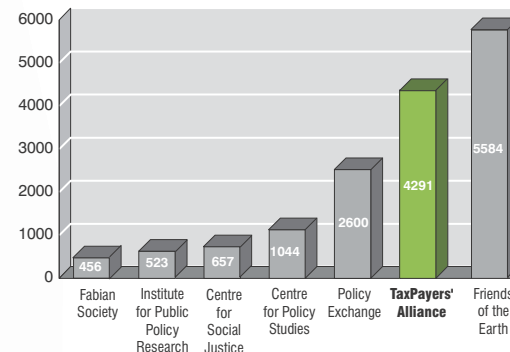
TEN POLICY VICTORIES

1. MPS' expenses
2. End councils hiring expensive lobbyists
3. Substantial cuts in public spending
4. Taxpayer funded spending and contracts online
5. Getting a grip on public sector pay
6. Steps to tackling pension deficit
7. Scrapping ineffective RDAS
8. Wasteful Quangos culled
9. No taxpayer funded extremism
10. Help for the poorest in society

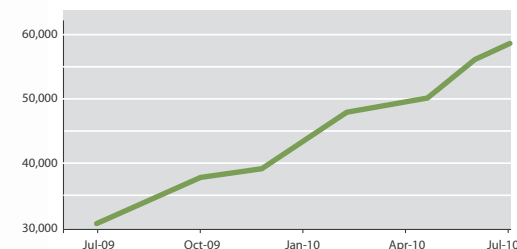
...still lots to do!!

How we measure up

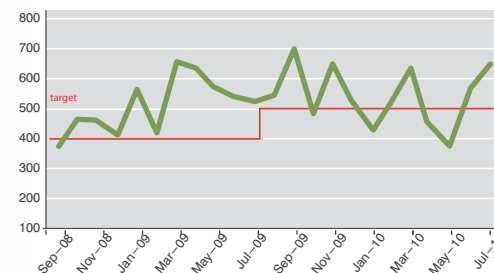
Comparative Media Statistics Aug '09 to Aug '10



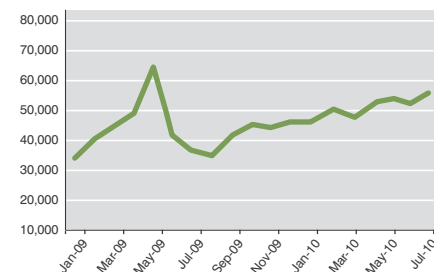
Total number of Supporters Jul '09 to Jul '10



Total number of Media Hits Sep '08 to Jul '10



Total number of Website Visitors Jan '09 to Jul '10



media



Having played a major role in exposing MPs' expenses, we led the campaign to reform them, demanding police investigations into several parliamentarians. In March 2010 TPA supporters protested outside court in Southwark, as three MPs and Lord Hanningfield went on trial, charged with fraud over their expenses – a major victory in our 'Bring them to Justice' campaign. That trial is ongoing as we go to press.

RESEARCH
Papers

- The Case Against Boosting MPs' Pay (Aug 2009) <http://bit.ly/MPs2010>
- TPA written evidence to Sir Christopher Kelly's Inquiry into MPs' expenses (Nov 2009) <http://bit.ly/Kelly09>
- MPs' Resettlement Grants (Jun 2010) <http://bit.ly/MPgrant>

CAMPAIGNING



We submitted evidence to Sir Christopher Kelly's Inquiry on MPs' expenses, and Matthew Elliott was invited to sit on the advisory board of Ipsa, the new body that oversees MPs' expenses.

ipsa
Independent Parliamentary
Standards Authority

We were the first to reveal the extent of taxpayer funded lobbying and political campaigning in the UK. More than £37 million was spent on this in 2007-08. It's not just public sector bodies hiring political consultants and funding trade associations, it's also funding going to nominally independent political campaigns and think tanks. Environmental policy campaigns such as the Sustainable Development Commission received over £6.7 million and £191,000 was paid to Action on Smoking and Health (ASH).



POLICY VICTORY

We are very pleased that Ipsa adopted the vast majority of Sir Christopher Kelly's proposed changes to the system of MPs' expenses. **But there is still more to do.** MPs should be selected through open primaries and voters should be able to 'recall' MPs who misbehave.

RESEARCH Papers

- Taxpayer funded lobbying and political campaigning (Aug 2009) <http://bit.ly/TFLPC>

media

The Daily Telegraph

Government's £37m on lobbying itself

Implement the Kelly proposals in full

"The Kelly Review produced a practical and sensible set of reforms of the MPs' expenses system which should be enacted in full, immediately."



Reform lobbying

"End taxpayer funded lobbying and political campaigning and require greater transparency for lobbying by public affairs companies."



POLICY VICTORY

In August 2010, the Government announced an end to taxpayer funded lobbying by local authorities. We hope the Government extends this to all government departments and quangos, and we will be campaigning hard for them to do so.



RESEARCH
Papers

- **How to save £50 billion: Reducing spending for sustainable public finances** (Sep 2009) <http://bit.ly/save50bn>
- **How to Cut Public Spending (and still win an election)** (Mar 2010) <http://bit.ly/TPAbook>
- **The Economic Cost of High Spending** (Apr 2010) <http://bit.ly/spendgrow>
- **The economic effects of rapid fiscal adjustment** (Jun 2010) <http://bit.ly/BEFMOD>



media



The *Bumper Book of Government Waste* highlighted the waste and excess of our government. A series of research papers, as well as our highly respected Economics101 blog, have built up our campaign for spending cuts. Our newest book came in the form of *How to Cut Public Spending (and still win an election)*, edited by our Research Director, Matthew Sinclair. The book updated and expanded on a previous pamphlet, written in conjunction with the Institute of Directors, *How to save £50 billion: Reducing spending for sustainable public finances*. We continue to spread the message that ambitious cuts in spending can deliver improvements in both the UK's fiscal position, economic prospects and job creation.



CAMPAIGNING



Our Pre-Emergency Budget briefing and Post-Emergency Budget briefing were the must-go events for all political journalists and fellow opinion-formers in Westminster. A range of speakers provided quick, original and incisive analysis of the Emergency Budget 2010, particularly highlighting how a rise in VAT would punish the poor.

POLICY
VICTORY

The Government is halving advertising spend, with the Central Office of Information announcing it will shed 40% of staff. Some wasteful fake aid programmes have been scrapped. Other more substantial cuts are highlighted on the following pages.



MANIFESTO

Reduce public
spending

Many items in our manifesto deal with substantial cuts in public spending and they are highlighted on the following pages. Some smaller examples include: cut the Government's advertising spend in half; institute clear fiscal rules with expenditure targets and drop the 0.7% target for foreign aid spending to focus more on results.

Transparency of public sector spending has been a core principle of our campaigning ever since we first started to use the Freedom of Information Act to expose how taxpayers' money was being wasted. Following our advice, Windsor and Maidenhead Council were the first to publish on the Internet all spending over £500. We then met representatives from Northamptonshire County Council to discuss how they could increase transparency and they are now also publishing all spending over £500 online. We are extremely pleased that the Coalition has taken on transparency as a key principle of government. Not all spending is online yet so we will continue to work with them on this until the time when taxpayers can see how every penny of their money is spent.



Mark Wallace with representatives from Windsor and Maidenhead Council



Matthew Sinclair speaks at the Post-Bureaucratic Age conference

CAMPAIGNING

We met representatives from Northamptonshire County Council to discuss how they could increase transparency around council business. As a direct result of the discussions they're now publishing salaries and expenses and all spending over £500 online as is the Department for Communities and Local Government.

"The Man in Whitehall will have no escape from the hyperscrutiny of the digital age. Groups like the TaxPayers' Alliance, and bloggers like Guido Fawkes, will feature more heavily in his nightmares than ever before — shouting and demanding that he achieves better value for money. Internet exposure will be a powerful enemy of bureaucratic excess."

The Spectator (Jan 2010)

SPECTATOR



POLICY VICTORY

The Coalition has pledged:

- ✓ All data is published on a regular basis, in an easy to use, standardised format
- ✓ All councils spending above £500 should be published online
- ✓ All central government spending and contracts over £25,000 online

Publish full data on spending

"Follow the example of the US government and councils in the UK. Taxpayers have a right to know how their money is being spent."



RESEARCH Papers

- Council Spending Uncovered: Middle Management Pay (Jan 2009) <http://bit.ly/pay09>
- Public Sector Rich List (Dec 2009) <http://bit.ly/PSRL09>
- Towards Transparent Rewards (Feb 2010) <http://bit.ly/TranRew>
- Town Hall Rich List 2010 (Apr 2010) <http://bit.ly/THRL2010>

Two signature publications of the TPA are our *Public Sector Rich List* and *Town Hall Rich List* which we have published annually since 2006. The aim of these publications was to bring more transparency to top level public sector pay, because we believe that public opinion and the media will act as a check on big pay rises if they are out in the open. We are extremely pleased therefore that the Coalition has promised to publish all salaries over £58,000 on the internet.

"It was not until the birth of the TaxPayers' Alliance that anyone compiled this data systematically and drew attention to the surging salaries, burgeoning staff empires and general waste. What Mr Osborne wants to do is put the TaxPayers' Alliance out of business — in the nicest possible way."

Fraser Nelson, Editor of The Spectator



media



POLICY VICTORY

The Coalition announced a two year pay freeze in the Emergency Budget. Before the General Election both Gordon Brown and David Cameron accepted the need for transparency in top public sector pay. We are extremely pleased that the Coalition has started to implement this. **But there is still more to do.** Not all salaries over £58,000 have been published on the internet yet, so we will continue to pressure the Government until this is done.

CAMPAIGNING

After we battled Kent County Council to reveal senior officers' pay in 2007, new guidance on salary transparency was issued. It is now recommended that all public bodies provide salaries of senior staff as a matter of routine, in bands of £5,000. This year we submitted evidence to the Public Administration Select Committee on Top Pay in the Public Sector.



Introduce a 2 year public sector pay freeze

"Public sector staff are better paid, get better pensions and work fewer hours than workers in the private sector."



MANIFESTO

RESEARCH
Papers

- **The Hundred Club: Whitehall Pensions** (Nov 2006) <http://bit.ly/pension06>
- **£1m civil service pensions** (Dec 2007) <http://bit.ly/pension07>
- **£1m NHS Pensions** (Feb 2008) <http://bit.ly/pension08>
- **The UK pensions crisis** (Nov 2008) <http://bit.ly/crisis08>
- **How to save £50 billion** (Sep 2009) <http://bit.ly/50Bil>
- **Council pensions: The £53 billion black hole** (Mar 2010) <http://bit.ly/53Bil>



PROTESTS



Hull and East Riding, Grassroots Coordinator Andrew Allison organised a series of rallies and protests outside the Town Hall in Beverley, after councillors approved inflation busting pay rises to retain senior staff, who later left. Those staff took enhanced final salary pensions and large discretionary payments to their pension funds, Sue Lockwood, director of corporate resources, receiving £364,205.

POLICY
VICTORY

The Coalition has announced a new Commission on Public Sector Pensions to be led by former Labour Minister, John Hutton. In our written evidence, we highlighted the growing gap between public and private sector pension provision and made recommendations on how public sector pensions can be made sustainable and affordable in the long term. **But there is still more to do.** We estimate that every household will have to pay up to £40,000 over the next few decades to fund gold-plated retirement benefits for public sector employees. We will continue to campaign for this to change.

Increase contributions to unfunded public sector pensions from 6 to 8% of salary and cut pay for the top 10% of earners in the public sector by 5%

"Public sector staff are better paid, get better pensions and work fewer hours than workers in the private sector."



media



RESEARCH Papers

- The Case for Abolishing Regional Development Agencies (Aug 2008) <http://bit.ly/RDAcut>
- Structure of Government 3: The Case for Abolishing Regional Development Agencies (Aug 2008) <http://bit.ly/abolishRDA>
- Regional Development Agencies: Having a ball at the 2008 Party Conferences (Dec 2008) <http://bit.ly/RDA2008>
- Regional Development Agencies Exposed (Jun 2010) <http://bit.ly/RDA2010>

media

Private firms lose out in race for RDA grants

by David Gove
CLIMATE: The regional development agencies (RDAs) are about to help private businesses more exposed to the public sector, which is expected to be paid out of grants to be handed back to the public sector.
Business from the 'topped' Alliance does prefer to be seen as a group and projects involved in the region between a number of a total of 12,000.
These groups - which focused about 1,000 to the well-served labour party last year - were among the biggest beneficiaries, receiving over £100 in grants in the region.
According to the figures, which were only released following a request for information, the RDA's were only allowed to spend the money on a number of projects, but not on the public sector.



MailOnline
£54,000 on taxis and film festival jaunts: What Labour job-making boards did with taxpayers' £15 billion

Telegraph.co.uk
Development agencies 'hinder local growth'
More than 1,000 businesses have said that Regional Development Agencies in England which may have actually damaged economic growth in the region.
By Christopher H. Hargrave, Hargrave & Hargrave
Published: 12:00 AM GMT on 12 Aug 2008

We led the campaign to abolish Regional Development Agencies, which the Government announced in their Emergency Budget in June. They were created to coordinate economic development across the regions but are simply an unnecessary and expensive layer of bureaucracy that stifles genuine private enterprise. We compiled the first full list of grants dished out by the RDAs and showed how most of them had gone to predominantly public sector projects. We also exposed how they used taxpayers' money to lobby the government for more funding, and failed to plug the gap between regions.

POLICY VICTORY

In the June 2010 Emergency Budget, the Government announced the abolition of Regional Development Agencies so this is a clear policy victory for the TPA. **But there is still more to do.** The Government has announced that they will enable the creation of Local Enterprise Partnerships. We will make sure this is not the RDAs under a new guise.



Scrap Regional Development Agencies and cut other business spending

"We can help businesses more by keeping down taxes rather than sustaining costly business support bureaucracies."

In 2008 we gave evidence to the House of Commons Business and Enterprise Committee, arguing that RDAs are a £15 billion failure that have neither accelerated economic growth in the regions, nor reduced the disparities between them.



RESEARCH Papers

- **Quangos report 2007-08 ACA to YJB: A guide to the UK's semi-autonomous public bodies** (Oct 2009) <http://bit.ly/quangos>
- **Members of the Board: Holding quangos to account** (Dec 2009) <http://bit.ly/quango2009>
- **Identifying bodies to cut** (Mar 2010) <http://bit.ly/orgcuts>

The TPA published the most comprehensive survey of the size and extent of the quango sector in 2009. We listed details of the bodies that are ripe for cuts, such as the Standards Board for England. In *How to Save £50 billion* we outlined how £1.3 billion could be saved by rationalising some quangos and abolishing many others. We've also highlighted how a green quango (the Sustainable Development Commission) operated like a big political think tank, doing work similar to that performed by Friends of the Earth. Quangos that are spending taxpayers' money shouldn't be engaging in political campaigning.



media

POLICY INFLUENCE



Caroline Spelman (Meriden, Conservative) quoted our figures on quango spending in the House of Commons.

"The TaxPayers' Alliance estimates that every year £90 billion of taxpayers' money is spent by unelected quangos"

POLICY VICTORY

The Coalition has pledged to cut the cost of quangos and save £600m. They've already culled....

- ✗ The Infrastructure Planning Commission
- ✗ Regional Local Authority Leaders' Boards
- ✗ Tenant Services Authority
- ✗ The Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency
- ✗ Standards Board for England
- ✗ BECTA
- ✗ More than 30 environmental and agricultural quangos at DEFRA, including the Sustainable Development Commission

But there is still more to do. There are many other quangos that need to be abolished and we will continue to push the Government hard on this issue.

Abolish a range of quangos

"There are 1,148 quangos spending £90 billion of taxpayers' money a year. Some could be scrapped, for example the School Food Trust, the Office for Fair Access, the Carbon Trust and the Government Equalities Office."

Reform quangos

"Giving select committees control over quango budgets and appointments would mean greater accountability for how quangos regulate and spend taxpayers' money."

tpa

MANIFESTO

Papers

- **Council Spending Uncovered II: Preventing Violent Extremism Grants** (Sep 2009)
<http://bit.ly/prevent09>
- **Foreign Office Prevent Grants** (Aug 2010)
<http://bit.ly/FCOprevent>

The Prevent Strategy was supposed to be a fund distributed by local councils and the Foreign Office in order to stop people from becoming violent extremists. Since Prevent began, there have been ongoing concerns about the groups getting taxpayers' money and how they were spending it. As a result of our FOI requests, £12 million of spending on the Prevent Strategy was comprehensively listed by us for the first time. Our report showed how much each organisation received individually in the 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 financial years. Skilled policing and robust intelligence are the most effective ways of tackling violent extremism, and these millions of pounds of taxpayers' money could have been far better spent. We are therefore delighted that the Government scrapped the local government Prevent scheme in July 2010 and we are now urging the Foreign Office to scrap their scheme too.

media



The Daily Telegraph



POLICY VICTORY

In July 2009, the Government announced that they would scrap Prevent grants to local authorities. **But there is still more to do.** We now want the Government to scrap the Foreign Office grants too.



Cancel Prevent grants from local authorities

"They aren't an effective way of confronting extremism and a lack of control means some of the money may have supported extreme Islamist groups."

CAMPAIGNING

As a result of our research, the Communities and Local Government Committee in the House of Commons asked us to provide evidence for their inquiry into Prevent.

We also called for Prevent grants to be scrapped in our book, *How to Cut Public Spending (and still win an election)* because they aren't an effective way of confronting extremism, and we feared some of the money may have supported extreme Islamist groups.



RESEARCH Papers

- **Flat Tax: Towards a British Model** (2006) <http://bit.ly/flattax>
- **Tax Burden Highest for the Poorest Households** (2007) <http://bit.ly/taxburden>
- **A taxpayers' guide to the party political responses to the fiscal crisis** (2009) <http://bit.ly/fiscalcrisis>
- **Welfare reform** (2010) <http://bit.ly/welfare2010>

Reform taxes and benefits

"Make the system simpler, improve incentives to work and cut costs. The income tax threshold should be increased so that we don't take people's money in tax then give it back in benefits."



NEW Media

We released a video, 'Welfare reform in tough times', to show why welfare isn't working. It explains how we can begin repairing the system and highlights key points from our 'Welfare Reform' report. <http://bit.ly/welfarevid>



POLICY VICTORY

In the Emergency Budget, the Coalition took the first step towards a £10,000 personal allowance by announcing that it will increase by £1,000 in April 2011 to £7,475. This is worth £170 a year to basic rate payers. This simple and sizeable relief will mean around 880,000 of the lowest paid people in the UK will now pay no income tax; it will allow the average worker to keep £700 more of their own money. It's also an incentive for more people to leave benefits and move into employment.

At the beginning of August, Iain Duncan Smith announced plans for a much simpler welfare system where there will now be one single rate of benefits. One of the three options on the table in his consultation exercise is the TPA suggestion outlined in our July 2010 Welfare report. We will be working closely with Iain Duncan Smith as his consultation progresses.



POLICY INFLUENCE



To highlight the crushing size of the national debt, we undertook a 1,500 mile tour of Britain – featuring a 7 metre long, lorry-mounted digital Debt Clock, ticking up as the Government borrows more and more money. The message to the nation's politicians was: "Wake up to the National Debt!"

The custom-built clock is one metre high by seven metres long, and mounted on the back of a 14m lorry. Its 80cm (32 inch), 14-digit red LED display counted up the nation's debt at the breakneck speed of £5,169 per second – that's £446,575,342 per day. Before the Debt Clock we'd campaigned against the Government's dangerously high levels of borrowing with research showing that Brown planned to borrow double the debt needed to win WW1.

RESEARCH Papers

- Brown's borrowing will be double the debt needed to win World War One (Nov 2008)
<http://bit.ly/UKdebt>
- A taxpayers' guide to the party political responses to the fiscal crisis (Dec 2009)
<http://bit.ly/crisis09>
- How to Cut Public Spending (Mar 2010)
<http://amzn.to/buyHTCPS>

media



NEW

Media



POLLING

A Poll by the TPA found voters blame overspending for the recession and see tax cuts as the best way to recover.

- ✓ 67% say we are now paying the price for government overspending in the good years
- ✓ 59% see tax cuts as a better response to recession than higher spending
- ✓ 67% think that Gordon Brown should follow the example of Ireland's President and volunteer to take a 10% pay cut to help reduce government overspending
- ✓ 68% want a cut in interest rates

The full poll results can be found here: <http://bit.ly/TPApoll>



tpa

MANIFESTO

Institute clear fiscal rules with expenditure targets

"Research by international institutions shows they can help governments balance the books."



RESEARCH Papers

- The expensive failure of the European Union Emissions Trading Scheme (Oct 2009) <http://bit.ly/ETS2010>
- Hague's Handbag: Conservative Party policy after the ratification of Lisbon (Nov 2009) <http://bit.ly/EU Hague>
- The Expansion of the EU Quangocracy (Mar 2010) <http://bit.ly/EUQuango>
- Britain's Justice and Home Affairs Opt Ins (Apr 2010) <http://bit.ly/EUOptin>
- European Union Orchestras (May 2010) <http://bit.ly/EU band>



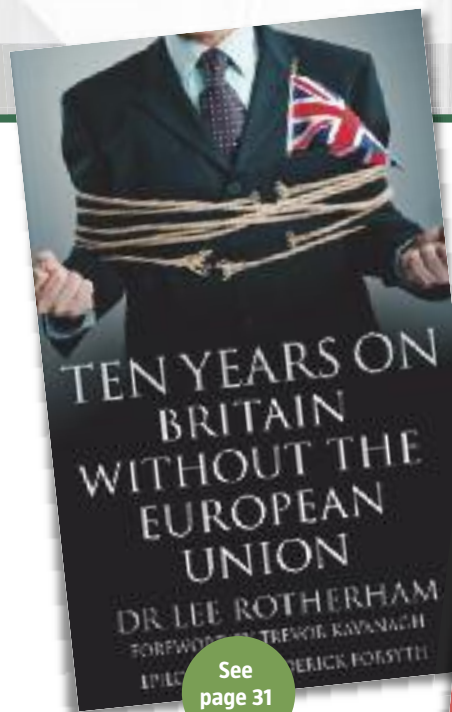
As part of the campaign, TaxPayers' Alliance EU policy analyst, Dr Lee Rotherham, released a book *Ten Years On: Britain without the European Union*. In it he envisaged a world without the red tape and waste of the EU. Buy it here: <http://bit.ly/TPAbook>



Much of our research has highlighted the cost to taxpayers and consumers of the European Union. The campaign includes detailed research, grassroots action around the country, high profile stunts and a flagship book, *The Great European Rip-Off*. We investigate the impact of EU policies, the way the EU spends taxpayers' money and the generous perks enjoyed by eurocrats and MEPs.

As well as our ground-breaking research, the campaign has forced the EU issue into the headlines with a campaign of publicity stunts. To highlight the huge sums of money that we are handing to the EU every day, TPA's own 'George Osborne' and 'Danny Alexander' paid a visit to the London office of the EU Commission earlier this year, to personally hand over a cheque for the £20.8 million (pictured far left).

The 'Stop the EU Rip-Off' campaign remains one of Britain's most high profile eurosceptic campaigns. Bill Cash (Conservative, Stone) had a copy of the *The Great European Rip-Off* in his hand when he spoke in the House of Commons in a debate on the EU.



See
page 31





Rip-Off

www.taxpayersalliance.com/eu



Ten Years On, was promoted in an advertisement, screened in cinemas across the country. You can watch it here: <http://bit.ly/TYOad>



One EU commissioner described our cinema advert as "odious but effective"



Hold a referendum on fundamental renegotiation of our relationship with the EU. Start EU Reforms

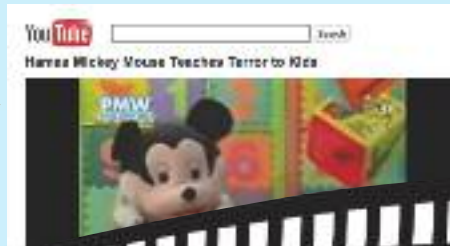
"A strengthened FOI, changes to development aid and improvements in scrutiny in the British parliament would greatly improve things pending a more fundamental change in Britain's relationship with the EU. The Government should also undertake a full cost benefit analysis on EU membership."



The TaxPayers' Alliance has been campaigning against Western taxpayers' money supporting hate education in the Palestinian Territories since January 2008. We have established an international coalition including partners in Germany, Italy, Sweden, France and Slovakia and have received backing from high profile politicians and organisations worldwide. Our research has highlighted how £100 million of British aid money has facilitated radicalisation of the Palestinian population by their leadership in the form of hate education through official radio, television, newspapers and even school books. Checks on where British aid money is spent are flawed, and we've discovered that as much as 14p in every pound spent on aid through the Department for International Development (DfID) is lost to non-frontline costs.

RESEARCH Papers

- Funding Hate Education (Jan 2008) <http://bit.ly/hate08>
- Palestinian Hate Education since Annapolis (Mar 2009) <http://bit.ly/Hate09>
- Lost along the way: The cost of the UK's international development programme (Nov 2009) <http://bit.ly/DFID09>



Michael Gove MP has praised the work of the TPA in exposing Palestinian Hate Education:

"It is certainly the case the PA has produced or has allowed to be produced textbooks, which in their detail - the TaxPayers' Alliance has done a brilliant job in exposing this - in their detail go beyond the offensive and are just downright evil."





CAMPAIGNING



This year the campaign was launched in Israel at a press conference with Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Danny Ayalon and a speech at the major Herzliya policy conference.

Photo left shows TPA Research Director Matthew Sinclair meeting Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Danny Ayalon, as both speak at an event in the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Jerusalem along with Finnish MEP Hannu Takkula.

Former Liberal Democrat spokesman on international development Michael Moore MP said:

"No British aid should fund people who seek to undermine the British, other allies or the Israeli state."



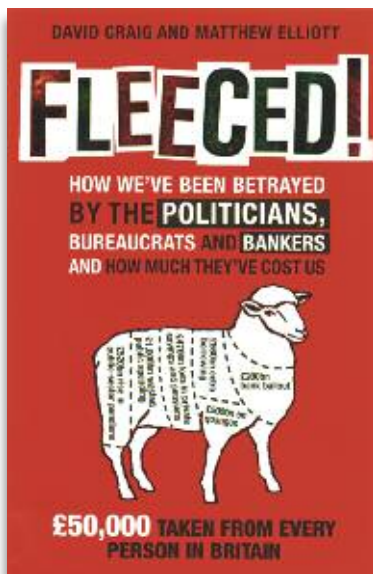
POLICY INFLUENCE

A spokesman for the Department for International Development said the department would look into our report's findings. After a recent event in the European Parliament, MEPs from across the political spectrum pledged to ask more questions about where EU funding was allocated and how it was spent.

Drop the 0.7% target for foreign aid spending and focus on results

"With huge amounts of aid money being wasted, spent on advocacy in the UK or supporting hate education overseas, big increases in the budget can't be justified."





Fleeced! How we've been betrayed by the politicians, bureaucrats and bankers and how much they've cost us

Author: Matthew Elliott Co-authored by: David Craig

Publisher: Constable



Fleeced! was the first book to bring together the total cost of government spending, the bailouts, the banking crisis and Westminster expenses scandal in one comprehensive text. It laid bare the terrible truth about Gordon Brown's criminal miscalculations since he assumed control of the UK economy in 1997. It described the then £700 billion budget deficit and how future governments would be forced into making tough decisions because of Brown's spending.

Fleeced! proposed fresh, workable solutions to save taxpayers' billions each year, such as curbing the use of management consultants (the NHS spends around £600 million a year on them); it also called for government to be tough on the bonuses of the state-run banks.

amazon.co.uk

Buy *Fleeced!* at Amazon.co.uk: <http://amzn.to/buyFleeced>



"The authors David Craig and Matthew Elliott deserve praise for the fine forensic job of exposing the mind-boggling levels of waste and staggering incompetence that our ruling classes have presided over for the last decade, identifying some £1.5 TRILLION that has been flushed down the sink."

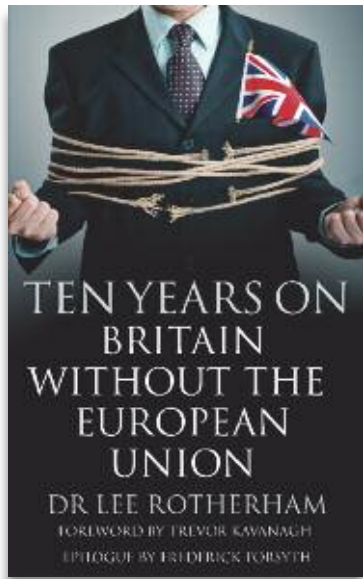
Pete Jessup, historytimes.com

"Fleeced! points the finger at the avarice and mismanagement across the public sector in enough detail to make sure that absolutely no readers will get through it without a few blood-boiling moments."

Money Week

"Fleeced! is the very first book to analyse the financial, fiscal and political crisis resulting from a decade spent under the stewardship of Gordon Brown and is a devastating indictment of Brown's time as Chancellor and Prime Minister."

Steve Baker, MP for Wycombe



Ten Years On: Britain without the European Union

Author: Dr Lee Rotherham

Publisher: TaxPayers' Alliance

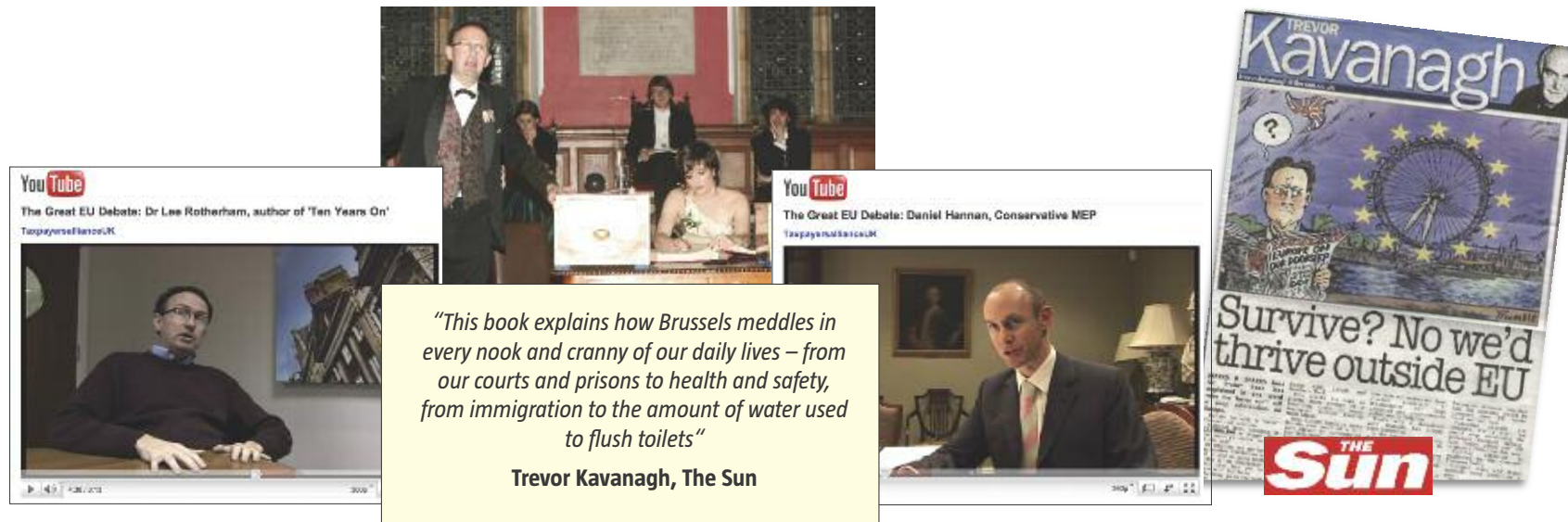
What would life be like if the UK left the EU? *Ten Years On: Britain without the European Union* combined a fictional narrative of daily life with a storyline on how we got to that happy point, sandwiched between brief contributions from celebrated journalist Trevor Kavanagh and hit author Frederick Forsyth.

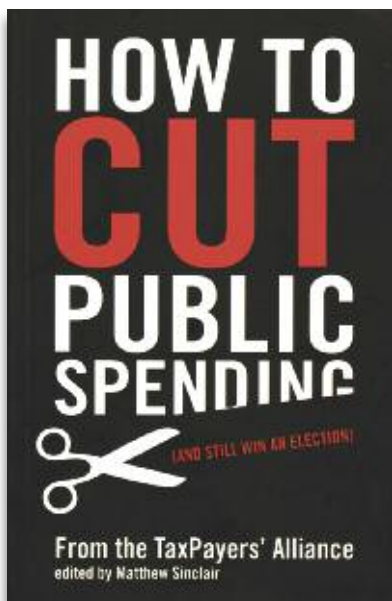
Ten Years On was more than just a book – it was a campaign in its own right. With demand leading to a print run of over 50,000 copies, it's reached an even bigger audience thanks to an online campaign called 'The Great EU Debate', which featured arguments from both sides of the divide. That debate reached the Oxford Union, where the TPA supported an evening's discourse between author Dr Lee Rotherham and Bill Cash (now Chairman of the European Scrutiny Committee), versus a Vice Chairman of the European Parliament and a leading light from the European Movement. In addition to guest author slots in a large number of trade journals, local press and the *Yorkshire Post*, it formed the subject of a full page opinion piece in *The Sun*. The author also spoke at the Bruges Group's annual conference, as well as addressing a major European conference in Stockholm as campaigners from other countries were interested in taking up the innovative approach of this campaign.



amazon.co.uk

Buy *Ten Years On* at Amazon.co.uk: <http://amzn.to/buyTYO>





How to Cut Public Spending (and still win an election)

Editor: Matthew Sinclair

Publisher: Biteback

The Government is running a £150 billion deficit, racking up hundreds of billions in new debts. The recession exposed the parlous state of the public finances. Politicians' irresponsible borrowing has threatened to create a new economic crisis, driven by excessive, wasteful spending. If serious cuts aren't made then Britons face years of tax hikes and economic decline.

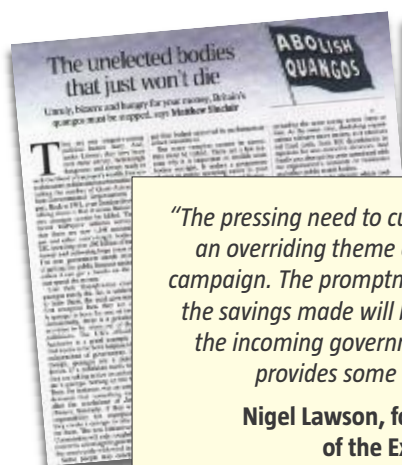
In *How to Cut Public Spending*, the TPA presented the most thorough investigation yet of this vital issue and a plan to turn things around. Edited by Matthew Sinclair, it included a detailed examination of the records of the major parties and sets out a detailed programme of potential cuts and essential reforms to ensure taxpayers get better value for money. Expert authors from around the world set out their experience of what it takes to successfully get a country's public finances in order. Since the book was published a number of its recommendations have been taken up by the Government including a two year public sector pay freeze and the abolition of quangos from the Regional Development Agencies to the Sustainable Development Commission.



amazon.co.uk

Buy *How to Cut Public Spending* on Amazon.co.uk: <http://amzn.to/buyHTCPS>

The Daily Telegraph



"The pressing need to cut public spending will be an overriding theme of the coming election campaign. The promptness, extent and nature of the savings made will be the defining issue for the incoming government. This timely book provides some useful pointers."

Nigel Lawson, former Chancellor of the Exchequer



"The British economy has a problem of too much public spending not too little taxation. Public spending can be cut and this book shows how. A cracking read on how the fiscal landscape could yet be transformed. We ignore it at our peril."

Graeme Leach, Chief Economist & Director of Policy, Institute of Directors



"An indispensable guide to the kind of steps we need to take to get to grips with excessive public spending, the biggest economic challenge facing Britain today. This book is a must for anyone who wants to understand how the next government could tackle the fiscal crisis."

Allister Heath, Editor, City AM



www.taxpayersalliance.com

A new campaign from the TPA, **Big Brother Watch**, fights injustice and campaigns to protect our civil liberties and personal freedoms.

The British state has accumulated unprecedented power and the instinct of politicians and bureaucrats is to expand their power base even further into areas unknown in peace time.

Big Brother Watch campaigns to re-establish the balance of power between the state and individuals and families.

We look for the sly, slow seizure of control by the state – of power, of information and of our lives – and we advocate the return of our liberties and freedoms.

In the past year Big Brother Watch has produced reports on CCTV cameras, the DNA database, covert surveillance by councils, data chips in dustbins, the right of local officials to enter private property, privacy in the NHS and CCTV cars.

BBW's Director, Alex Deane, and Campaign Director, Dylan Sharpe, campaign on all of these issues and more, lobbying all of the political parties and regularly appearing on national radio and television.



Alex Deane
Director

Alex read English Literature at Trinity College, Cambridge and took a Masters degree in International Relations as a Rotary Scholar at Griffith University. He is a Barrister and was David Cameron's first chief of staff.



Dylan Sharpe
Campaign Director

Dylan graduated from the University of Nottingham with First Class Honours in History and Politics, before studying for an MA in International Relations. He was Boris Johnson's Press Officer for the London Mayoral Campaign before joining Policy Exchange.



David Davis and Tony Benn at the BBW launch



www.bigbrotherwatch.org.uk

2020 Tax Commission

The 2020 Tax Commission is an exciting new development in the TPA campaign. With real progress in securing cuts in wasteful spending, we want to focus more on making the case for lower, simpler taxes. As the public finances recover, we will need to ensure that we have a clear and powerful case for tax reform along with a robust plan setting out the right steps to take. The new 2020 Tax Commission will aim to provide both. It will provide a detailed investigation of the economic case for tax reform and assess which reforms would be most efficient. At the same time, it will look at how we can best make the case for lower taxes and free markets by bringing together the best political minds interested in winning this vital debate.



The Commission will be
Chaired by Allister Heath
— City AM Editor



Green Taxes

Most of the Coalition's plans for climate change policy, like the EU Emissions Trading Scheme, are going to increase the burden on families and some of their assumptions about the likely costs of current policy are entirely unrealistic. We will continue to campaign for the wasteful 2020 renewables targets to be abandoned, and put pressure on politicians to re-think climate change policy to reduce the burden on consumers and taxpayers. We will also carry on campaigning against the Carbon Trust, which gets £93.4 million of taxpayers' money every year.



Trade Unions

Public sector workers still enjoy higher pay, fewer hours, more days off sick and more generous pensions than their private sector counterparts. We will continue to publicise the gap between the public and private sectors. We are going to carry on with our campaign for an end to all taxpayer funding for the trade unions. We also want to see a stop to staff getting time off for union work at taxpayers' expense. Recently we gave journalists a list of the 38 top-paid trade union bosses.



Research Director Matthew Sinclair challenged UNISON General Secretary Dave Prentis, live on the Daily Politics. Dave denied his £127,000 pay and perks package. <http://bit.ly/Prentis>

Pledge card

To: The TaxPayers' Alliance, 55 Tufton Street, London SW1P 3QL

Mr/Mrs/Miss/MS:

Address:

Postcode:

Mob:

Tel:

Email:

I wish to make the following donation to the TaxPayers' Alliance (please tick)

☐ £500 ☐ £250 ☐ £100 ☐ £50 ☐ Other

☐ I would like Matthew Elliott to contact me to discuss a more substantial donation.

www.taxpayersalliance.com

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We've worked really hard over the last year, but the next twelve months are just as important. Further public spending cuts are required, and the TPA needs the resources to speak even more strongly on behalf of taxpayers when the inevitable backlash occurs from taxpayer-funded vested interests. If you like what you've read and feel that you can make a donation to support the continuing work of the TaxPayers' Alliance, please fill in this pledge form, cut it out and return it to us by post.



www.taxpayersalliance.com



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