

TaxPayers' Alliance



Reforming taxes, cutting spending and protecting taxpayers



Dear Supporter,

For over eight years, the TaxPayers' Alliance has campaigned for simpler, fairer and more competitive taxes and more efficient public services. We hope you enjoy reading about some of our most recent achievements in the following pages.

Our campaign works in three ways: through **solid research** which establishes the facts about the effects of high taxes and how your money is spent (page 8); through **strategic communications**, working with the media to inform the public (page 10); and through **sustained campaigning** from grassroots Action Days around the country to meetings with politicians in Westminster (page 12).

Our campaign is enhanced by our **75,000 supporters and activists** who have helped us push for reform and our grassroots activists have secured some vital local wins.

With the economy in a dismal state, taxes rising and a huge deficit in the public finances, it has never been more important that we fight for lower taxes and cuts in wasteful spending. That is the only way we will get the economic growth, new jobs and higher wages that Britain needs.

Our campaign objectives are **reforming taxes** (page 26); **cutting spending** (page 28) and **protecting taxpayers** (page 30) and we will be fighting for policy change in those areas.

The publication of *The Single Income Tax*, the final report of the 2020 Tax Commission, is a vital step in setting out our plan for ambitious but realistic tax reform. But we can't let it gather dust on the shelf. Over the next year we move on to the next phase of that project with hard-hitting campaigns making the case for tax reform.

At the same time we need to expose wasteful spending, showing that the Government can and must be more efficient. Ultimately, of course, the best value comes when money is left in the pockets of the people who earned it. We will also stick up for taxpayers, for example by stopping their cash being handed over to trade unions which then disrupt public services with strikes.

Thank you for supporting our work.

We really appreciate it, and everyone at the TaxPayers' Alliance is looking forward to working with you to reform taxes, cut spending and protect taxpayers.

With best wishes,

Matthew Elliott
Founder

Andrew Allum
Chairman

Matthew Sinclair
Chief Executive

The TaxPayers' Alliance
55 Tufton Street
London SW1P 3QL
Telephone: 0845 330 9554
Email: info@taxpayersalliance.com

The TaxPayers' Alliance is a Company Limited by Guarantee in England No. 04873888



John O'Connell discussing the TPA's research at an international conference



Jonathan Isaby making the case for tax reform at No. 10



A local TPA activist signing up new (and future!) supporters



TPA staff past and present celebrating the launch of the 2020 Tax Commission report



Our Campaign Manager attacking wasteful spending



Our operations team keeping supporters updated with regular mailings

"Arguably the most influential pressure group in the country" – *The Guardian*

Meet the team

FOUNDERS

Matthew Elliott Founder

Matthew launched the TaxPayers' Alliance in 2004 as a non-partisan grassroots campaign for lower taxes and better public spending. Under his leadership, the TPA has grown to become "arguably the most influential pressure group in the country" according to the *Guardian*, with over 75,000 supporters and a high media profile.



Matthew also founded Big Brother Watch (BBW) in 2009 to campaign for civil and personal liberties. BBW has become a leading voice in this debate, winning praise for its research and campaigns from leading activists such as Henry Porter and long-standing groups such as NO2ID.

From September 2010 to May 2011, Matthew took a sabbatical from the TPA and BBW to lead the NOtoAV campaign in the nationwide referendum on changing Britain's electoral system. The NO campaign won by a margin of over two to one, defeating electoral reform by 67.9 per cent to 32.1 per cent.

Matthew, Andrew Allum and Matthew Sinclair provide the strategic leadership for the TPA.

Andrew Allum Chairman

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



Matthew Sinclair Chief Executive

Matthew has a BSc in Economics and Economic History and an MSc in Economic History from the LSE. He joined the TPA in 2007 as a Policy Analyst and was then promoted to be Research Director and then the campaign's first overall Director managing the day-to-day campaign. As the recently appointed Chief Executive, he is now leading the TPA in its fight to reform taxes, cut spending and protect taxpayers.

Matthew has written and edited pioneering research – including the books *How to Cut Public Spending* and *Let Them Eat Carbon* and the landmark report *The Single Income Tax*. He also represents the TPA in major broadcast interviews and at parliamentary hearings and other high-level meetings.



OPERATIONS

Emma Bennett Operations Director

Emma has a BA in International Relations from Exeter University. Emma joined the TPA in November 2009 and was promoted to Operations Director in January 2011. She is responsible for the organisation and finances of the TPA.



CAMPAIGNS

Jonathan Isaby Political Director

Jonathan joined the TPA in August 2011 after more than a decade in political journalism, having worked for the BBC, *Daily Telegraph* and ConservativeHome.com. He coordinates the TPA's work campaigning in the media and Parliament, and engages with journalists and politicians to make the case for lower taxes and more efficient public services.



Robert Oxley Campaign Manager

Robert studied International Relations and Politics at the University of Sheffield. He worked in the House of Commons before joining the TPA. He focuses on communicating the TPA's work to the media.



GRASSROOTS

Andrew Allison National Grassroots Coordinator

Andrew was born and raised in Co. Durham. He launched the Hull and East Riding branch of the TPA in 2009 and became National Grassroots Coordinator in October 2010, overseeing the work of activists across the country.



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.



Maria Fort Scheduling & Outreach

Maria studied International Affairs in the USA and has an MSc from the LSE in European Politics. After joining the TPA in 2011 from the NOtoAV Campaign and Big Brother Watch, she now works closely with the operations team and the TPA's Founder, Matthew Elliott.



RESEARCH

John O'Connell Research Director

John has an MSc in European Public Policy from UCL. He joined the TPA in February 2009 as an intern and has since risen to become Research Director. As well as overseeing the 2020 Tax Commission, John manages the TPA's busy and wide-ranging research programme.



Chris Daniel Policy Analyst

Chris has an MA in Politics from Lancaster University. He joined the TPA in September 2010 and his work concentrates on local government waste and public sector productivity.



Rory Meakin Research Associate

Rory studied Economics and Politics at Southampton University and holds the Investment Management Certificate. Before joining the TPA, he worked in the public sector for the NHS. Rory concentrates on economics, finance and taxation.



Dominique Lazanski Digital Policy Analyst

Dominique has an MSc in Information Systems Management from the LSE. She holds a BA from Cornell University and is currently working on her PhD. She has spent over 12 years in the Internet industry with many of those years working in Silicon Valley.



RESEARCH COUNCIL

Mike Denham Research Fellow

Mike studied PPE at Oxford University, and has an MA in Economics from the LSE. He is a former Treasury economist who worked extensively on public spending and fiscal analysis during the 1970s and 1980s.



Dr. Lee Rotherham Research Fellow

Lee has led the TPA's EU research since 2009 and our 'Stop the EU Rip-Off' campaign. He has also written two books on the subject – *Ten Years On* and *The EU in a Nutshell*. He has advised three Shadow Foreign Secretaries and worked as Chief of Staff to the Rt Hon David Heathcoat-Amory MP.



Mark Wallace Research Fellow

Mark was previously Campaign Director at the TPA. He is now Head of Media Relations at the Institute of Directors.



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

The TPA has helped launch the careers of many key players in the fields of politics and policy-making. Here's what a few of our former staff are now doing:

James Frayne (Campaign Director, 2005-07) Director of Communications, Department for Education



Blair Gibbs (Campaign Director, 2006-07) Head of Crime & Justice, Policy Exchange



Corin Taylor (Research Director, 2006-09) Senior Policy Advisor, Institute of Directors



Fiona McEvoy (Campaign Manager, 2007-10) Campaign Manager, Charities Aid Foundation



Susie Squire (Campaign Manager, 2008-09) Head of Press, Conservative Party



Jennifer Dunn (Policy Analyst, 2009-10) Policy Researcher, Countryside Alliance



INTERNS

"It was an amazing work experience, where I got to see and learn how we can all make a difference for a better and fairer UK."

— Sandra Fischetti



"The TPA is a wonderful organisation at which to intern, offering invaluable insight into UK tax policy and its implications for society."

— Babatunde Onabajo

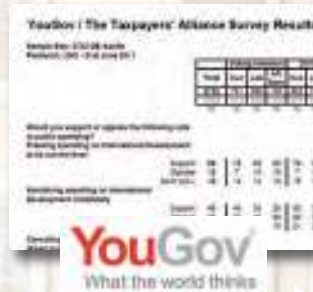
Campaign overview

By publishing reliable research, using all available media to communicate our messages and knowing the right doors on which to knock, we are proud to be influencing the public policy debate like never before.

Phase 1 *Solid research*

Focus groups and opinion polls

Market research is used to identify how we can best make the case for lower taxes and demonstrate to politicians that there is popular support for cutting wasteful spending.



Research notes and papers

Reports based on primary research – such as systematic Freedom of Information requests – and detailed analysis are the foundation of our campaigns.



Cutting edge books

Books are used to address major issues where there is a pressing need for heavyweight analysis, such as tax reform and the European Union.



Phase 2 *Strategic communications*

Newspapers and magazines

Newspapers are critical in reaching millions of people and setting the media agenda, so we work closely with leading print journalists.



Radio and TV

Television and radio have big audiences and are the fastest way of reaching large numbers of people. TPA spokesmen frequently appear on the BBC, Sky and a host of other channels.



Website, Twitter and Facebook

Tools such as Facebook and Twitter are an increasingly powerful way of engaging with new audiences, particularly young people, and the TPA has led the field in integrating our web and social media presence.



Phase 3 *Sustained campaigning*

Lobbying Parliament

Talking directly to politicians and officials is vital to build their support for changes in policy and the TPA regularly briefs Ministers, MPs and civil servants.



Building coalitions

Joining forces with other groups – both here in Britain and internationally – provides a powerful opportunity to build broader support for our policy objectives.



Organising activists

Grassroots activists can fight local campaigns and ensure that the TPA is engaging with every level of government and trusted local media.



Policy impact



Phase 1

Solid research

Producing regular, rigorous research has always been an important part of our strategy for winning hearts and minds – and eventually achieving those all-important policy changes.



Few arguments are ever won without **reliable facts and figures** to back up a case, which is why the work of our research team is central to what we do. Whether it be poring over spending data released by Whitehall, analysing local councils' annual accounts or conducting our own Freedom of Information (FoI) requests to obtain data direct from government departments or agencies, we remain determined to expose how taxpayers' cash is being spent – or mis-spent, as the case may be.

Eye-catching reports such as our **Town Hall Rich List** have helped set the terms of the public debate by providing hard evidence to taxpayers, the media and politicians alike of where our hard-earned cash is going. This prominent report has been published for a number of years, and its success means that local authorities must now pro-actively publish the details of senior salaries themselves.

Other reports such as **Taxpayer Funding of Trade Unions** have massively influenced Government policy. We showed that trade unions receive taxpayer-funding of at least £80 million per year through staff on the public payroll who are paid to work for a union. The evidence we provided through

robust research means politicians are finally acting to stop the subsidy.

Our series of papers looking at the cost of **public sector pensions** continues to raise alarm bells as to how a multi-billion pound black hole is ever going to be filled. We looked at how the number of retirees is fast catching up with the number paying into public sector schemes, as well as the huge annual cost of financing the Local Government Pension Scheme – it's the equivalent of £1 in every £5 of Council Tax.

And reports like **Local Motoring Taxes** and **Total Lifetime Tax** have brought home to an overtaxed public the stark cost of electing politicians who for too long have been too keen to take more of our money.

The TPA has an **active grassroots network across the UK**, and we complemented that with papers which honed in on wasteful spending in the regions this year too. **In the Midlands**, we lifted the lid on the huge cost of council staff who are suspended on full pay – with one member of staff picking up full pay while suspended for a massive 950 days. **In Hampshire**, we examined the cost of expensive flights taken by council staff and **in Northern Ireland** we looked

at the cost of mileage rates that are far more generous than HMRC accepts.

In addition to producing research papers at a rate of more than one a fortnight, the last year has seen us produce some additional big publications:

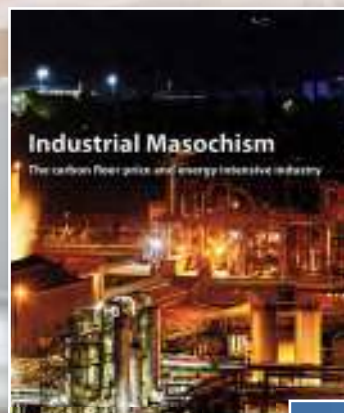
Let Them Eat Carbon by Matthew Sinclair hit the shelves in August 2011 and exposed how current climate change policies are dramatically pushing up household energy, petrol and shopping bills – hitting those who can least afford them the hardest. He followed that up in November with a paper analysing the burdens of bad green policies on British industries; it was aptly titled **Industrial Masochism** as we desperately need them to create jobs and growth, but hurt them with taxes and regulations.

Dr Lee Rotherham's book, **The EU in a Nutshell**, was published in July 2012, serving as a timely contribution to the debate about the cost and benefits to the British taxpayer of the UK's continued membership of the European Union.

There was also the publication in May 2012 of **The Single Income Tax**, the final report of the 2020 Tax Commission. See p. 26 for more on this landmark report.

"The TPA's research in its quantity, quality, significance and influence remains unmatched amongst its peers. Whether they are tackling wasteful public sector spending, the follies of our energy policies, the horrendous complexities of the EU or the need for a simpler and more competitive tax system, they can be relied upon to provide solidly-researched, relevant and independent analysis. If they didn't exist, someone would have to invent them. But, thank goodness, they exist. And, very deservedly, they flourish."

– **Ruth Lea**, Economic Adviser, Arbuthnot Banking Group.



Over the past year, our research team has produced **33 hard-hitting research papers** based on nearly **3,000 Freedom of Information requests**.



Our research is widely downloaded by the media and public. Our Tax Commission final report was **downloaded more than 10,000 times** in the first week after it was published.

Phase 2 Strategic communications

The media play a crucial role in our campaigning, by helping to publicise our work and spread our messages to the wider public.

Every time a journalist covers one of our reports or invites us to comment on a story, it means that **we are helping to set the news agenda** and that our ideas are shaping debates about public policy.

We regularly **secure coverage in the national daily and Sunday papers** for our reports: our campaign team have built up relationships with journalists from across Fleet Street and they know that our research is reliable, rigorously-sourced and relevant to their readers' interests.

What's more, **TPA spokesmen are always available for comment** on other matters, even during evenings and weekends. As a result, barely a day goes by when you will not see us defending taxpayers somewhere in the press.

Occasionally we will work closely with an individual newspaper on a particular campaign where our interests coincide. For instance, we have long supported the *Daily Express* campaign for a different relationship with the European Union and jointly hosted a fringe meeting on the issue during the 2011 party conference season. We have also successfully backed the *Sun* campaign opposing rises in fuel duty.

Many people get their news from the TV or radio, so we work hard to get our messages out through these highly-

trusted mediums. Our London office is just a stone's throw from the Westminster studios of the **BBC, Sky and ITV**, meaning that we can be on air within minutes of the call coming from a producer wanting a contribution from us.

During the year, members of **our team have appeared on all the main national TV news programmes**, as well as international networks such as Fox News, Al-Jazeera and Euronews. And while it's always great to be able to convey TPA messages through appearances on programmes like BBC2's *Daily Politics* or *Newsnight*, we have enjoyed exposure to completely different audiences through interviews for shows like ITV1's *Daybreak* and BBC1's *The One Show*.

This year saw a particular media landmark for us when our Campaign Director, Emma Boon, appeared as a panellist on BBC1's flagship discussion programme, **Question Time** – the first time that the TPA has been represented on the show. This one appearance massively boosted our profile and gained us many new supporters.

Local and regional media are also important to us: many of our reports contain detailed information relating to every local council in the country, allowing us to hone our messages to make them relevant to a particular locality.

Our digital presence has also been boosted over the last twelve months, with our website being redesigned in order to better showcase our work and **maximise integration with social media**.

We keep the world up-to-date with our take on topical news stories via the blog on the website, which gets updated every day.

We have also launched a series of **interactive apps** to allow people to relate our research to their local area or individual circumstances. Among the most popular was the **Tax Buster** – allowing people to tap in how much they've paid for fuel, alcohol, tobacco and other goods and see just how much of the price has gone straight to the Treasury in taxes and duties.

We have also used new technology to launch tools allowing people to tap their postcode into our website and access a whole host of data about their local council.

Through our **YouTube** channel you can now catch up with many of our TV appearances, and if you are not already following us on **Twitter**, then you should be! We are **@the_tpa**. Also be sure to join our **Facebook** group at **www.facebook.com/taxpayersalliance**



The TPA has had **over 8,500 media hits** in the past twelve months.



Our cutting-edge campaign videos have been watched **over 300,000 times** on YouTube.



The TPA website is one of the most visited political campaign sites in Britain, receiving **over 500,000 page views** a month.





Phase 3 Sustained campaigning

To secure the policy changes we seek, our campaigning leads us from the nation's streets into the corridors of power.

Our grassroots supporters have always been instrumental to our campaign.

We now have **a network of 75,000 taxpayers** across the country who lead local campaigns against hare-brained council schemes, defend taxpayers in the local media and raise national issues with their MPs.

Our National Grassroots Coordinator, Andrew Allison, plays a crucial role in our work. Keeping in touch with our activists across the UK, he oversees our campaigning at a grassroots level, with **regular Action Days** seeing our messages being taken to high streets and market squares across the land.

If a local council is trying to increase tax or frittering away your money, **a TPA protest or petition won't be far away**.

We then take taxpayers' concerns straight to the decision-makers in Westminster and Whitehall. Since Jonathan Isaby joined us as Political Director in August 2011, **our voice has been heard in Parliament louder and clearer than ever before**.

Over the last year our work has been raised countless times in the **House of Commons**, including several mentions during **Prime Minister's Questions**.

Ministers and opposition spokesmen alike have commended our research from the front benches of both the Commons and the Lords.

Whenever we publish a report or a debate takes place that affects taxpayers, we brief MPs and peers from across the political spectrum.

Our Chief Executive, Matthew Sinclair, was asked for the first time in May 2012 to give oral evidence to the powerful Public Accounts Committee. We have also made submissions to consultations run by a number of government departments or agencies on topics ranging from MPs' pay and allowances to the structure of the tax system.

We have also **taken our messages straight to ministers** and their advisers inside Downing Street, the Treasury and a host of other government departments.

We have also worked hard to **build coalitions of support** around particular issues. That's why we teamed up with the Institute of Directors to create the 2020 Tax Commission, allowing us to draw on their expertise, alongside that of other respected organisations such as the Centre for Economics and Business Research and the Institute of Economic Affairs.

We continue to host the monthly "Tuesday Meeting" in Westminster, bringing together campaign groups, think-tanks, parliamentarians and others from the broad movement for free markets and smaller government.

This has become a **vital forum for collaboration** on a wide-range of campaigns and issues.

The meetings generally attract an attendance of nearly 100 people and speakers over the past year have included Rohan Silva, Senior Policy Adviser to David Cameron; Nick Herbert MP, Minister for Policing; Toby Young, founder of the West London Free School; Peter Osborne of the *Daily Telegraph*; and Martin Callanan MEP, leader of the European Conservatives and Reformists group in the European Parliament.

We are also **in touch with groups representing taxpayers around Europe and the rest of the world** and occasionally meet to learn from each other and plan co-ordinated campaigns.

In May 2012, the Australian TaxPayers' Alliance was launched, with its founders citing our "significant success" here in the UK as having inspired them.



Over **75,000** supporters and **3,000** activists add to the power of our campaign.



"The TaxPayers' Alliance runs one of the most modern and effective campaigns in the country. Like many of my colleagues in Westminster, I'm always delighted to receive reports and briefings from the TPA because it is vital that we in Parliament are constantly reminded of the need to protect taxpayers' interests."

— **Chris Heaton-Harris MP**, Public Accounts Committee



2011 SEPT



1: Matthew Sinclair argues that current climate policies impose an unfair burden on families and businesses



7: Lord Reay cites *Let Them Eat Carbon* in Parliament, saying it "dissects brilliantly" the effects of climate policy

PATRICK O'FLYNN DAILY EXPRESS



7: Patrick O'Flynn argues that the Government should be open about the cost of climate policies, supporting the Information Tribunal case brought by Matthew Sinclair



12: Matthew Sinclair presents a special segment for BBC's *Daily Politics* about his book *Let Them Eat Carbon*

16: New research uncovers the multi-billion pound hidden costs of the high speed rail project



the guardian



18: The Guardian reports on mounting opposition to HS2

16: New edition of the *Trade Union Rich List* launches



19: TPA event at the Liberal Democrat Party Conference looks at how to cut council spending



25: New research exposes the £1 million bill for councils attending award ceremonies such as "Loo of the Year"



30: Pin-up of the Month is Andrew Robathan MP, Pinhead is Cllr Gordon Matheson, Glasgow City Council



30: Re-introduction of weekly bin collections announced

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30



3: The *Daily Mail* runs a double-page spread covering our research into how taxpayers' money is subsidising trade unions



13: Matthew Elliott launches a new blog for the *Daily Mail*



15: Matthew Sinclair speaks at an IEA event about HS2



19: Andrew Allison reveals the true cost of taxpayer-funded 'Pilgrims' in Hull



27: New research finds Transport for London spends £10 million a year on salaries for surplus staff

"Anyone who wants to understand how they are affected, and what can be done about the gross failure and exorbitant cost of politicians' attempts to curb greenhouse gas emissions, will find it invaluable."

— Lord Lawson of Blaby
on *Let Them Eat Carbon*



Axe the 50p Rate campaign launches



4: Jonathan Isaby pins our 50p badge on Brian Binley MP



4: Peter Bone MP proudly wears our 50p badge on BBC2's *Daily Politics*

"They'll always listen to the trade unions, but they'll never listen to the TaxPayers' Alliance."

– **Prime Minister David Cameron** goads opposition MPs in answer to Henry Smith MP who raised the *Trade Union Rich List* at PMQs



23: Jonathan Isaby clashes with Polly Toynbee on Sky News over the value of the "Occupy" protests

2011
OCT



27: Pin-up of the Month is Margaret Hodge MP, Pinhead is Cllr Nick Clarke, Cambridgeshire County Council



26: Aidan Burley MP initiates heated Commons debate on taxpayer funding of trade unions, based on TPA research

28: Labour peer Lord Knight cites TPA research on the Common Agricultural Policy in the Lords



The Daily Telegraph



7: Matthew Elliott is named 27th most influential 'right-winger' and Matthew Sinclair 53rd by the *Daily Telegraph*



15: Local activist Dennis Allen launches new Shropshire Branch with an Action Day



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31



3: Packed TPA fringe events at the Conservative Party Conference



4: Cabinet Office Minister Francis Maude announces a review of taxpayer funding for trade unions



13: *Wasting Lives* report launches, comparing the performance of the NHS to other healthcare systems



18: New TPA research calls for a full merger of Income Tax and National Insurance, with protection for pensioners



26: *South Wales Echo* reports local TPA research on its front page



27: Local activist Rosie Greer launches new grassroots branch in Northern Ireland



30: New research on Midlands councils' spending on flights



5: Action Day in Bath calls for the next council boss to get 10 per cent less than the £210,000 currently paid out

23: John Whittingdale MP: "Is my right hon. Friend aware of research by the TaxPayers' Alliance that shows that residents of the Maldon district are paying more in motoring taxes and receiving less in direct benefit than anyone else in the entire country?"



Prime Minister David Cameron:

"That is why in the Budget we took the decision not only to get rid of the tax increases on petrol that were coming down the track, but to make a cut in petrol duty."



24: Pin-up of the Month is Martin Callanan MEP, Pinhead is Cllr Jason Kitcat, Brighton & Hove City Council



30: Interactive tool launches so supporters can compare public and private sector remuneration



1: Matthew Sinclair debates with actor Bill Nighy on the merits of a Financial Transactions Tax



4: TPA Tax Buster app launches, available at tpatxbuster.co.uk



11: Emma Boon named as a 'Rising Star' at the Public Affairs News awards



16: New interactive map allows supporters to compare their motoring taxes with neighbouring councils



11: New report shows that rural drivers pay more in motoring taxes than city drivers

24: New research looks at how public sector pension schemes will soon have more people withdrawing than paying in



"I do not think full-time trade unionists working in the public sector on trade union business rather than serving the public is right, and we will put that to an end."

– **Prime Minister David Cameron**, at PMQs, replying to a question from Tewkesbury MP, Laurence Robertson, who cited TPA research into taxpayer funding of trade unions



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30



1: Douglas Carswell MP raises TPA proposal to simplify the tax system in the Commons



2: New report finds thousands of pounds wasted on credit cards at the Sustainable Development Commission



7: Roundhouse founder Sir Torquil Norman launches new video on our website



14: New video for the TPA by visualisation experts See What You Mean shows why Income Tax and National Insurance should be merged



18: New report attacks carbon price floor as *Industrial Masochism* that will undermine British industry



24: New research reveals the £113 million taxpayer-funded subsidy to trade unions



28: TPA/IEA briefing ahead of the Chancellor's Autumn Statement

2011

DEC

Another successful year



5: Rob Wilson MP, Karen Lumley MP and Andrew Griffiths MP cite TPA research into taxpayer funding of trade unions when questioning Eric Pickles at Question Time. The House was noisy and required the Speaker to intervene, saying: "I want to hear about the views of the TaxPayers' Alliance from the hon. Gentleman!"



20: Justin Tomlinson MP thanks the TPA for research on local government spending transparency during the Christmas Adjournment debate



6: New research on the powers that could and should be repatriated from Brussels launches

7: A copy of *Terms of Endearment* is handed to Michael Fallon MP live on BBC's *Daily Politics*



20: Chris Heaton-Harris MP cites *Let Them Eat Carbon* in a speech on wind farm subsidies



27 Pin-up of the Month is Cllr Stephen Greenhalgh, Hammersmith & Fulham Council, Pinhead is Jerzy Buzek MEP

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31



5: BBC's *Daily Politics* cites TPA research on subsidies to trade unions



14: New research reveals the cost of staff suspended at Midlands councils – some for over 900 days



15: Matthew Sinclair debates environmentalist George Monbiot on the Radio 4 *Today* Programme



16: New research reveals that the members of Police Authorities claimed over £10 million in allowances



26: New research reveals that *Cost of Government day* 2012 is July 26, the day when you finally pay off your share of spending and regulation and start earning for yourself

2012

JAN

ipsa
Independent Parliamentary
Standards Authority

19: TPA submits response to IPSA consultation on MPs' expenses and costs

Council to chop spending by £12.4m in the next year



20: Victory in Bath as new council chief executive hired on lower pay after TPA campaign



27: Pin-up of the Month is Ed Miliband MP, Pinhead is Cllr David Seaton, Peterborough City Council



11: Julian Sturdy MP cites TPA research in Westminster Hall debate on Empty Property Rates



11: Jesse Norman MP quotes TPA research on abolishing taxpayer funding of trade unions in Ten Minute Rule Bill debate

GLOBAL
RANKINGS
2011

17: TPA ranks 22nd in top transparency and good government think tank global rankings



31: Labour MP Andy Slaughter and Labour peer Lord Bach cite Matthew Elliott's *Daily Mail* blog on legal aid cuts from the Opposition front benches in both houses of Parliament



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31



4: TPA reveals that the British Council spent a total of £6.7 million on its credit cards



10: New research reveals incredible credit card spending at Scottish Enterprise



15: New research reveals Midlands councils' middle managers cost taxpayers £465 million in one year



20: Ben Gummer MP presents Ten Minute Rule Bill on tax transparency statements



25: TPA report reveals how taxpayer contributions to local government pensions are equivalent to £1 in every £5 in Council Tax



30: New research finds that the total lifetime tax for an average family is £656,000

Council Tax campaign launches



12: TPA local campaigns launch attacking those councils increasing Council Tax

24: Redcar and Cleveland Action Day attacks a proposed rise in Council Tax

24: Victory for taxpayers as plans for council tax increase in Brighton & Hove are defeated

28: Action Day in Richmond, North Yorkshire, attacks another proposed rise in Council Tax



2: Emma Boon appears on the BBC's flagship programme *Question Time* – a first for the TPA



27: Pin-Up of the Month is Cllr David Burbage, Windsor & Maidenhead Council, Pinhead is Cllr Sarah Hill, Stoke-on-Trent City Council

2012

FEB



28: Leading commentator Stephen Pollard backs TPA calls for tax cuts to deliver economic growth in the *Daily Express*

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29



1: Hampshire branch launches with a new study on the cost of jet-setting council staff



11: Action Day in Bristol calls for a cut in the pay of the Chief Executive at Bristol City Council



13: TPA reveals £400,000 cost of fig trees in Parliament



20: TPA website relaunches, making it easier for supporters to engage with our campaign

2012

MAR

"I commend the work of the TaxPayers' Alliance in publishing the *Town Hall Rich List*... That list of shame, which is regularly updated and published, is a great public service."

– Labour frontbencher
Andy Slaughter MP,
praises TPA research on
senior executive pay
in local government



20: At a meeting in Brussels the TPA joins forces with other European taxpayer groups to plan a major European Citizens' Initiative on administrative spending in the EU



30: Pin-up of the Month is Ben Gummer MP, Pinhead is Cllr Kay Cutts, Nottinghamshire County Council



1: Answering a written parliamentary question about the local government pension scheme, Minister Bob Neill says the DCLG does not hold the relevant information and instead defers to recent TPA research

YouGov
What the world thinks

9: Major polling firm YouGov lists the TPA as a pressure group to which MPs should pay attention



17: Action Day in Tameside calls for an immediate cut in Fuel Duty of 2.5 pence per litre



24: Nottingham Action Day slams the council as the last holdout refusing to provide information about how it spends taxpayers' money

Sun

PAY IS 8% HIGHER IN STATE JOBS
Gap trebles since 2002

28: *The Sun* features our public-private pay comparison tool

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31



14: New TPA video asks: "How fast can the Government spend your money?"



21: At the Budget, George Osborne announces the introduction of tax statements, which the TPA has campaigned for



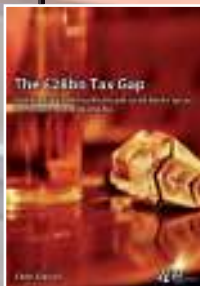
21: TPA responds to the Budget on Sky News



22: TPA/IEA Post Budget briefing looks at the measures announced in the Budget



9: John O'Connell appears on Sky News *Sunrise* discussing his report on tax revenues lost to the black market



9: TPA research uncovers £28 billion tax gap, as high taxes encourage evasion of certain duties



13: TPA research reveals the massive £54 billion deficit in local authority pensions

25: Andrew Griffiths MP: "Has the Prime Minister seen the research published today by the TaxPayers' Alliance, which shows that there are 3,097 town hall employees earning more than £100,000 and 52 earning more than £250,000?"

Prime Minister David Cameron: "My hon. Friend is entirely right to raise this issue. The important thing that we have done is to make completely transparent the pay in our town halls and local government... Every council should be transparent about how it spends council tax payers' money."



2012
APR

25: Town Hall Rich List 2012 launches, including an interactive online tool allowing taxpayers to easily find information about their council



30: Bob Neill MP states in Parliament that the Government welcomes the publication of the *Town Hall Rich List 2012*



27: Pin-up of the Month is Cllr Heather Caird, Chichester District Council, Pinhead is Cllr Peter Martin, Essex County Council



14: Action Day in Yeovil highlights the ever-increasing car parking charges in the town centre

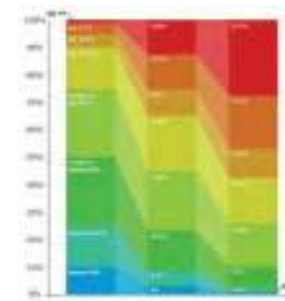
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30



7: TPA features on *Debating Democracy* on BBC Radio 4



9: TPA Northern Ireland branch exposes MLA travel costs



14: New graphic shows the distribution of tax amongst the population



17: TPA meets officials at Downing Street to discuss the findings of the 2020 Tax Commission

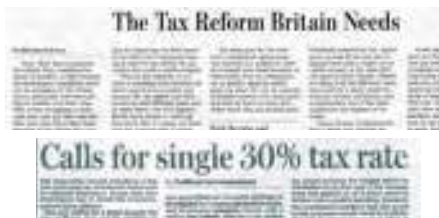


21: New TPA research challenges the value of Medicine Use Reviews by pharmacists



28: Action Day in Grantham attacks high Fuel Duty and the burden on motorists

Campaign for tax reform launches



21: The final report of the 2020 Tax Commission, *The Single Income Tax*, launches with strong support in Parliament and the media



31: Rory Meakin writes for the prestigious *Taxation* magazine about *The Single Income Tax* proposals



2: Emma Boon appears on *Newsnight* to discuss public sector tax dodgers



©2012 photograph by John Russell

22: Tax Commission Chairman Allister Heath, Editor of *City A.M.*, and Simon Walker, Director General of the Institute of Directors, at the launch of *The Single Income Tax*



22: Busy parliamentary briefing, letting MPs, peers and their staff know about *The Single Income Tax* proposals



26: Matthew Sinclair appears on BBC2's *Daily Politics* to discuss *The Single Income Tax* proposals



31: Heritage Foundation, the world's largest centre-right think tank, praises *The Single Income Tax* report

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31



1: Australian Taxpayers' Alliance launches, citing the TPA as an inspiration



12: Second Nottingham Action Day repeats calls for the council to be more transparent about how it spends taxpayers' money



19: Cardiff Action Day attacks proposals for a plastic bag tax, with strong support from local shopkeepers



20: TPA reveals the cost of collecting tax has barely fallen in over 50 years



26: Action Day in Beverley challenges the proposed increase in Fuel Duty



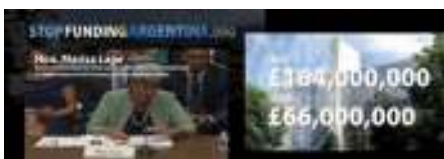
31: Pin-up of the Month is David Gauke MP, Pinhead is Cllr Richard Williams, Southampton City Council

Stop Funding Argentina campaign launches



8: Campaign launches calling for the Government to vote against World Bank loans to Argentina, which are backed with British taxpayers' money

Calls to stop UK aid cash pouring into Argentina



28: US Federal Communications Commissioner Robert McDowell welcomes the TPA's work on Internet freedom

2012
JUN



24: The Chancellor blocks plans for a plastic bag tax, weeks after he scrapped the 'pasty tax'

27: George Osborne announces that the Fuel Duty rise opposed by the TPA will not go ahead in August



30: Pin-up of the Month is David Laws MP, Pinhead is Cllr David Parsons, Leicestershire County Council



13: Nigel Adams MP raises the StopFundingArgentina.org campaign with David Cameron at PMQs

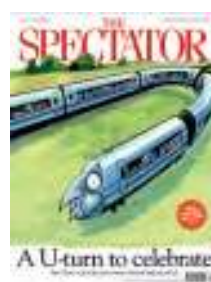
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

12: TPA petition on Argentina is the top trending on the official e-petition website

12: Andrew Rosindell MP tables an Early Day Motion in support of our StopFundingArgentina.org campaign, which is backed by MPs from all major parties



12: TPA staff discuss *The Single Income Tax* proposals with Oliver Letwin MP



13: *The Spectator* reports that the Government may scrap the £1,000-a-family HS2 project, which the TPA has campaigned against

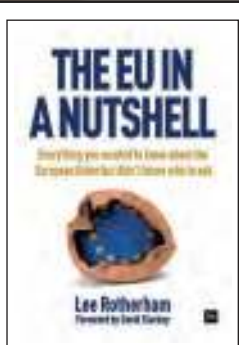


19: New research reveals that the EU has spent around €100 million subsidising environmental campaigns



20: Working with the *Brentwood Gazette*, the TPA uncovers £5 million credit card spending at the council

2012
JUL



1: Major TPA book on the EU by Dr Lee Rotherham published



2: TPA hosts first keynote speech by Dr Liam Fox MP since he left the Cabinet, where he argued that Britain needs a new relationship with the EU



7: Matthew Sinclair appears on BBC *Breakfast*, arguing against a new tax on plastic bags



CabinetOffice



10: Dominique Lazanski appointed to the Government's Open Data User Group



27: Andrew Allum and Matthew Elliott announce the appointment of Matthew Sinclair as the TPA's second Chief Executive, with Matthew Elliott to stay on as Founder



31: Emma Boon leaves the TPA after two and half successful years



The 36 union fat-cats who are picking up more than £100k

20: *Trade Union Rich List* launches, showing that many union bosses organising disruptive strikes take six-figure remuneration packages



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31



2: Tim Montgomerie recommends Matthew Elliott to lead a 'No' campaign in any future referendum on EU membership



11: Matthew Sinclair argues on *Newsnight Scotland* that changes to disability benefits should not be overexaggerated



11: New research reveals a substantial rise in council staff drawing pensions compared to those paying in



18: Matthew Sinclair appears on Sky News attacking G4S for its failure to fulfill a key Olympics contract



24: Robert Oxley appears on Sky News *Sunrise* discussing David Gauke MP's comments on 'cash-in-hand' payments



31: Pin-up of the Month is Defence Secretary Philip Hammond MP, Pinhead is Energy & Climate Change Secretary, Ed Davey MP



2: Jonathan Isaby shares his expertise with our German counterparts in the *Bund der Steuerzahler* at a seminar held in Munich



5: Matthew Elliott is recognised for his work on behalf of taxpayers at a rally for 15,000 activists in Dallas, Texas

Fuel Tax campaign launches



21: *The Sun* backs our new campaign with the Petrol Retailers' Association which sees petrol forecourts across the country displaying our stands highlighting how much tax motorists pay when they fill up



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31



1: New research shows that government departments are still hiring new staff despite pledging a recruitment freeze



14: The first research paper of the new North East branch exposes the cost of flights taken by council staff in the region



18: TPA's campaign exposing the taxpayer funding of trade unions wins the prestigious Templeton Freedom Award for Initiative in Public Relations from the Atlas Economic Research Foundation



31: TPA publishes a comprehensive survey of Councillors' Allowances and launches interactive web tool

Objective 1

Reforming taxes

Our dysfunctional tax system puts people off working and investing in Britain. It needs to be reformed so people pay no more or less than their fair share.

We set out how lower, simpler and more transparent taxes could be achieved in ***The Single Income Tax***, the final report of the 2020 Tax Commission.

When we convened the Commission under the chairmanship of **Allister Heath, Editor of *City A.M.***, we brought together a wide range of tax experts, academics and businessmen to come up with a long overdue plan for tax reform and tax simplification in this country.

More than that, it should form the cornerstone of the Government's agenda for getting out of recession and restoring the economy to growth.

The product of the Commission's 18-month labour, *The Single Income Tax*, was published in May 2012 to **widespread critical acclaim** from commentators ranging from Fraser Nelson in the *Daily Telegraph* to Trevor Kavanagh in *The Sun* and Mary Dejevsky in *The Independent*.

The Government also warmly welcomed the report's "contribution to the long-term debate on tax policy".

Now that we have the right plan for tax reform, our **campaign for its implementation** really kicks in.

We have already had productive discussions inside **10 Downing Street** and at the Treasury, and we have a continuing programme of meetings with MPs, peers and ministers on a one-to-one basis to talk them through our proposals. Moves are already afoot for a parliamentary debate on the issues covered by the report.

We will also continue to talk to newspaper columnists, political commentators and other opinion formers to keep the plan at the forefront of their minds, as well as liaising with like-minded think-tanks to help **build a coalition to promote the plan**.

During the coming months our team will be working on additional research to further highlight various elements of our plan, not least the need for honesty from the Government that both elements of National Insurance Contributions are Income Tax by another name, with which they should be merged.

We will of course also be **using our digital media capabilities** to promote the message that a simpler, flatter, more transparent tax system should be a fundamental part of the Government's growth strategy.

The centrepiece of our plan is a **single flat rate tax of 30 per cent** on all labour or capital income, meaning that any stream of income would only be taxed once.

We propose the **abolition of eight existing taxes**, including the pernicious Inheritance Tax, Stamp Duty and Air Passenger Duty, as well as suggesting that local authorities should have to raise half of their spending power from local taxes.

Overall, we foresee taxes being cut to 33 per cent of national income, a move which would serve to kickstart the economy and help restore much-needed economic growth.

The respected Centre for Economic and Business Research modelled our recommendations and calculated that **all households would enjoy substantial tax cuts**, GDP would be nearly 10 per cent higher by 2030 and business investment would be 60 per cent higher by 2030. The budget deficit would also be wiped out much more quickly.

We are confident that *The Single Income Tax* is the plan for growth the Government is looking for.

© 2012 photograph by John Russell




"I certainly support flatter, fairer taxes."
– **David Cameron** at Prime Minister Questions, 27th June 2012



"The most comprehensive guide to supply-side economic reform published in Britain in a generation"
– **Fraser Nelson**, Editor of *The Spectator*





Objective 2 Cutting spending

The Government is spending beyond taxpayers' means and needs to deliver better value for money to leave more in the pockets of the people who earned it.

When the TaxPayers' Alliance was founded in 2004, one of our earliest pieces of work was to conduct a thorough audit of what actually happens to the hundreds of billions of pounds we pay in tax each year.

This research resulted in the publication of several editions of the **Bumper Book of Government Waste**, exposing tens of billions of pounds of unnecessary spending at a local, national and European level.

By providing solid and often eye-catching examples of waste which the media keenly reported, we were able to persuade people that there really were ways of cutting back on public spending which could, in turn, allow for tax cuts.

There is still a lot to do. Grassroots supporters from across the country are **constantly flagging up examples of profligacy in their local council**, such as Crawley Council's £600 spend on translating just one copy of its magazine.

Quangos continue to waste taxpayers' cash too – for instance a Scottish NHS body spent over £1 million on a fleet of luxury cars.

At the national level too, politicians continue to press ahead with misguided and expensive projects, while the bloated Brussels bureaucracy of the European Union continues to be an expensive burden for UK taxpayers.

Much of our work uncovering waste has traditionally been done using the **Freedom of Information Act**. While this continues to be an immensely important tool for taxpayers to hold politicians to account, our task has now been made a little easier than it was previously.

Following our long campaign for spending by councils and government to be published – on the basis that they spend our money and we therefore have a right to know what they do with it – the Government has started publishing much of this data online and is obliging local authorities to do the same.

The format in which some of this data is made available often leaves more than a little to be desired. But the TPA uses it and **we are better placed than ever to scrutinise how taxpayers' cash is being spent**.

And whilst the very fact that this data is being published will have caused some

of those in power to pull the plug on a few of their more ridiculous spending wheezes, we are sadly confident that there remains a substantial deal of waste to be rooted out.

Over the coming year our team of researchers will **redouble our efforts to expose wasteful spending**.

We will pore over the latest releases from bodies like the Office for National Statistics and the National Audit Office to find out how public sector organisations have wasted taxpayers' cash.

We will also **rigorously inspect Government data releases** to see if the promised reductions in spending materialise and we will highlight any needless spending.

All of this intensive work will lead to the publication of an updated edition of *The Bumper Book of Government Waste*.

This exciting project will show that even after initial, modest budget cuts, **the Government is still spending billions** on schemes and projects that we don't need and simply cannot afford.

CUTTING COUNCIL SPENDING AND DELIVERING LOWER TAXES



Objective 3

Protecting taxpayers

For too long, it was easy for politicians to ignore taxpayers. Your money should not be squandered and you should be treated fairly by the taxman.



We are **the only group in the UK that represents the concerns of taxpayers** who are consistently let down by politicians wasting their money, by HMRC committing blunder after blunder and by councils not listening to their needs.

We force politicians to pay attention to taxpayers. We were at the forefront of holding HMRC to account when they charged 6 million people the wrong amount of tax and we liaise closely with Margaret Hodge MP and the Public Accounts Committee to make sure taxpayers are represented in their vital work.

Another important way we work for you is by exposing when taxpayers' cash is handed to those lobbying on behalf of a particular viewpoint or vested interest.

Few things are more invidious than those in power **channelling taxpayers' money to political causes**, campaigns or organisations which we would never dream of supporting with our own cash if we could spend it ourselves.

Thankfully, proposals from the Committee on Standards in Public Life for taxpayer funding of political parties to the tune of tens of millions of

pounds appear to have been jettisoned for now – although we remain vigilant and will oppose any future attempt to allow politicians to raid Treasury coffers to fund their own parties.

But there are numerous other ways in which **our money ends up backing controversial causes.**

Foremost among these is the subsidy given each year to trade unions. Our most recent research into the subject found that the unions enjoy an annual taxpayer subsidy equivalent to more than £113 million – both through direct grants and the salaries of union officials working within the public sector.

This subsidy means that unions' other funds are freed up for all the political donations they make and the partisan campaigns they support. Taxpayers should not foot these bills.

In October 2011, our findings on the **taxpayer funding of unions** formed the basis of one of the best-attended House of Commons adjournment debates in recent memory. We will update our research, so keep your eyes peeled for our renewed **campaign to end this scandalous subsidy.**

We have also exposed in the last year how millions of pounds of our cash has funded environmental groups and campaigners. Not only have **taxpayers been clobbered again** when these organisations have successfully lobbied for more green taxes, but also when they have launched legal action against the Government, leaving taxpayers with the bill for both sides of the case.

Much of this funding has come via the European Union, which is especially fond of subsidising political activity. Previous TPA research has exposed just how much of **taxpayers' money is given directly to political groups in the European Parliament.** It funds blatantly ideological campaigning and is another area which we will continue to scrutinise.



Challenging the Unions

Get involved

1. Sign up for our weekly e-bulletin

Keep up to date on all the latest TPA news, research and activities, receive invitations to special events and learn about more ways you can get involved. Return the form or email us at info@taxpayersalliance.com and we'll make sure you start receiving our updates. Also join our Facebook group at www.facebook.com/taxpayersalliance and follow us on Twitter [@the_tpa](https://twitter.com/the_tpa)



2. Become an activist in your local area

If you would like to become an activist and help us fight wasteful spending in your area, fill out the form and return it to us. Or email our Grassroots Coordinator, Andrew Allison, at andrew.allison@taxpayersalliance.com and he will be in touch about how you can help.

3. Donate to the campaign

It's never easy asking for money, but without supporters like you we couldn't campaign so effectively for lower and simpler taxes and less wasteful spending. We have been extremely grateful for the generous donations – big and small – from our network of activists and supporters. There are several ways you can donate:

- By filling out the form and sending a cheque or your credit card details to us
- Online at www.taxpayersalliance.com/donate
- Calling our Development Director, Sara Rainwater, on 020 7340 6021 and making a credit card donation over the phone
- Emailing Sara at sara.rainwater@taxpayersalliance.com for a standing order form so you can make regular donations



I would like to support the TaxPayers' Alliance by

- ☐ receiving your weekly e-bulletin
- ☐ becoming an activist in my local area
- ☐ making a financial contribution of £ _____

Mr ☐ Mrs ☐ Miss ☐ Other: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Tel/Mob: _____

Email: _____

Method of donation:

- ☐ Please contact me to discuss options
- ☐ Cheque made payable to 'The TaxPayers' Alliance'
- ☐ Credit/debit card (complete below)

| | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Number on card: | | CW2 last 3 digits on back |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| Name on card: <input type="text"/> | | |
| Postcode: <input type="text"/> | | |
| Valid from: | Expiry date: | Issue no: |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |

Complete and return to: The TaxPayers' Alliance,
55 Tufton Street, London SW1P 3QL

