



## TaxPayers' Alliance | 08/09 Review

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

*"Britain's independent grassroots campaign for better services and lower taxes"*



[www.taxpayersalliance.com](http://www.taxpayersalliance.com)



# Welcome to the 08/09 Review of the TaxPayers' Alliance

Dear Supporter,

2009 saw the fifth anniversary of the launch of the TaxPayers' Alliance; looking back over the past five years we are incredibly proud of what we have achieved. When many people come across the TPA for the first time, they assume that we are a decades-old institution, which is testament to the impact we have had over a comparatively short period of time.

How many other organisations are used as an adjective in the media? One print journalist recently wrote that he was coming over "all TaxPayers' Alliance". This illustrates the position we now hold in Britain as the guardian of taxpayers' money, the voice for taxpayers in the media and their representative in Westminster.

This success is down to the hard work of our campaign team (whom you can read more about on the following pages), our 25 local branches, our 3,000 activists and our 32,000 supporters. The other people who deserve a special mention are our fellow Board members – Mike Denham, Florence Heath, Ruth Lea, Saul Haydon Rowe, Johannes Tynes – who guide the campaign and ensure we meet our targets (see page 25).

All this wouldn't be possible, of course, without the generous financial assistance of our supporters. We are proud of having one of the broadest bases of support of any



think tank or campaign group operating in British politics. This guarantees our independence, ensures that we stick to our principles and makes us unafraid to speak our mind. A big thank you to all of you.

Once you have read this review, do give us feedback. If you would like to become an activist or if you would like to make a contribution to the campaign, we'd be delighted to hear from you.

The next year is going to be crucial with the run-up to the general election. The economy is in a mess and the fiscal situation is dire. We hope you will join us in our campaigning ahead.

With best wishes,

Andrew Allum  
Chairman

Matthew Elliott  
Chief Executive

## Meet the team

### The people that make it happen



**Mark Wallace**  
Campaign Director

Mark studied Archaeology at Durham University, then became Campaign Manager of the Freedom Association, before joining the TPA as Campaign Director in 2007. He is responsible for promoting the TPA's research and message, and overseeing our EU campaign.



**John O'Connell**  
Policy Analyst

John attended Nottingham Trent University, where he received a Bachelors degree in Politics, and then University College London, where he obtained a Masters degree in European Public Policy. As a policy analyst in the research team, John concentrates on government institutions, local government waste and public sector productivity.



**Matthew Sinclair**  
Research Director

Matthew studied for a BSc in Economics and Economic History and an MSc in Economic History at the London School of Economics before starting at the TPA in 2007. He has been the Research Director since the end of 2008, is responsible for leading the TPA's research effort and has produced pioneering research on the NHS, green taxes, the cost of crime, taxpayer funded lobbying and the financial crisis.



**Matthew Elliott**  
Co-founder and Chief Executive

Matthew Elliott was born and brought up in Leeds. He moved down to London in 1997 to study at the London School of Economics, where he graduated with a First class BSc in Government. After graduation, Matthew worked for a number of MPs and MEPs in the House of Commons and the European Parliament, before co-founding the TaxPayers' Alliance in 2004. As Chief Executive, Matthew is responsible for making the TPA Britain's highest profile campaign group or think tank. He directs the operations of the TPA, regularly lectures in both Britain and overseas, and is frequently asked to appear in the media as an expert on fiscal policy, British and EU politics. Matthew is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, has written numerous think tank pamphlets and authored four books: *The Bumper Book of Government Waste* (Harriman House 2006); *The Bumper Book of Government Waste 2008* (Harriman House 2007); *The Great European Rip-Off* (Random House 2009); and *Fleeced!* (Constable & Robinson 2009).



**Sara Rainwater**  
Operations Director

Sara attended Middle Tennessee State University and then the London School of Economics, where she received a Masters degree in European Studies. After graduating, Sara worked at the European Foundation, edited the *European Journal* and later joined Global Vision as the manager. Sara oversees the administration and management across the TPA's two offices in London and Birmingham.



**Tim Aker**  
Grassroots Co-ordinator

Tim read History and Politics at Nottingham University. After graduating he worked for Chelgate, before joining the TPA in May 2007. He is responsible for building the TPA's grassroots campaign and liaising with our 3,000 activists.





## Meet the team | The people that make it happen

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**Florence Heath**  
**Co-founder**

Florence moved to London in 2000 to study Geology at Imperial College, graduating with a Masters in Petroleum Geology. As well as co-founding the TPA, Florence has authored think tank publications, been involved in international political organisations and currently works as a geologist for an international petroleum company.



**Susie Squire**  
**Political Director**

Susie studied English Literature and Political Philosophy at the University of Cape Town, graduating with a Masters degree in English. Since graduation, Susie has worked on a number of voluntary projects in Southern Africa, written for Conde Nast and managed the Stockholm Network think tank's relationship with 138 free market organisations across Europe. As well as representing the TPA in the media, Susie is responsible for spreading our message to opinion formers across the political spectrum.



**Andrew Allum**  
**Co-founder and Chairman**

Andrew studied at Imperial College where he graduated with a First in Physics, after which he obtained a Masters degree from Oxford. Prior to becoming the TPA's unpaid, non-executive Chairman, Andrew led Conservative student groups, and has served as a Westminster City Councillor and Chairman of Governors at St. George's Secondary School in Maida Vale. Andrew currently works as a Partner at a leading strategy consulting firm.



**Fiona McEvoy**  
**West Midlands Campaign Agent**

Fiona studied at the University of Birmingham and then at Durham University before moving back to the West Midlands to launch and run our first satellite branch, the West Midlands TaxPayers' Alliance (WMTPA). She is responsible for running campaigns and generating media coverage in this important electoral region.



**Ben Farrugia**  
**Deputy Research Director**

Ben attended Birmingham University and then the London School of Economics, where he obtained an MSc in Political Sociology. Ben leads the TPA's research efforts into government institutions, international development and UK regional policy.



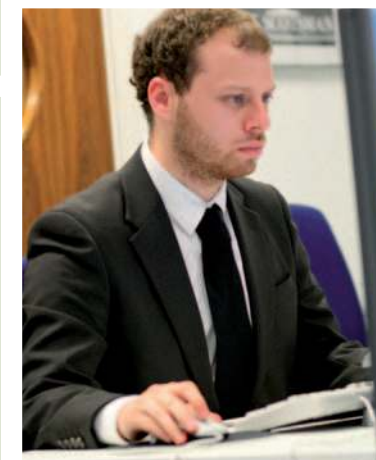
**Dr Lee Rotherham**  
**Policy Analyst**

After researching for the 'Westminster Group of Eight' Eurorebels, Lee advised three successive Shadow Foreign Secretaries, a role part-based in the European Parliament, and subsequently worked as Chief of Staff to David Heathcoat-Amory MP. A seasoned EU expert, Lee has authored numerous think tank publications and helps the TPA expose the waste and inefficiency of the EU, and its mammoth cost to British taxpayers.



**Katherine Andrew**  
**Office Manager**

Katherine studied Politics at York University, before joining the TPA as a Research Intern in February 2009. She became the Office Manager in June, providing organisational and administrative support to the team. She also assists with key research projects, including those tackling waste and inefficiency in the NHS.



## Grassroots A force to be reckoned with

At a national level, our research and media appearances maintain the TPA's high profile; but we also have a grassroots army of 32,000 supporters who campaign alongside us.



We voice the concerns of taxpayers across the country and campaign on key issues that are facing communities, in many cases teaming up with a variety of local groups with whom we share common cause.

This is not a micro-managed campaign. We don't order people about; we don't run everything from the centre; we open up opportunities for supporters to campaign for better services and lower taxes at a local level.

Too often individuals, local Residents Associations and voluntary groups fight tooth and nail against a council plan, tax increase or development and don't get the publicity or recognition they deserve. We're here offering advice, counsel and campaign strategies so people can succeed in protecting their local community from adverse political interference.

Over the last year, as well as campaigning with local taxpayer organisations, we have teamed up with key groups to further our mutual causes, protect taxpayers' money, local services and amenities. These include:

### No to the Bike Parking Tax



### Save Bathampton Meadows



### The West London Residents Association



## West Midlands

With more than five times as many supporters as when we launched back in summer 2007, the West Midlands TaxPayers' Alliance is flourishing, with regular action days around the region and some great hits in the local media. From speaking at business events in Solihull, to petitioning in Leek, the WMTPA has really made an impact on the local political scene, and now spin-off activist-run branches are taking shape in Wolverhampton, Staffordshire and Worcester.

Testament to our success in the region, the *Birmingham Post* asked us to write a piece on the prospect of a government bailout for Jaguar Landover, and the Channel 4 *Dispatches* programme interviewed the WMTPA about the colossal waste of money at the Public Gallery in West Bromwich. We've already exposed huge amounts of profligate public sector spending in the region and we're now a force to be reckoned with.





# Grassroots | A force to be reckoned with 31,981 supporters

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## West Midlands

Russell Booth recruited 547 new supporters in July 09. Russell, who has been a stalwart campaigner in Leek, Staffordshire, continues to fight for lower taxes across the West Midlands.



## Yorkshire

In his first few weeks as Hull and East Riding Organiser, Andrew Allison, is averaging a media hit every week in July and August 09.

## East

Barbara Lockwood continues to protest her council tax, achieving TV and press coverage of her days in court June 08.



## East Hertfordshire

TPA supporters came very close to being appointed to East Hertfordshire Council's Independent Remuneration Panel in June 09.



## South West

Bristol TPA came forward with a tax cutting budget for their council in February 09.

## Surrey

Our local activist Peter Webb has been keeping a close eye on taxpayers' money in Surrey with protests, meetings and media appearances covering issues such as council profligacy, police spending and town hall bonuses.

## London

TPA supporters demonstrated with Guide Dogs for the Blind and the West London Residents Association to campaign against the dangerous, expensive shared spaces scheme for Exhibition Road.



## Safer zones?

□ I COULDN'T agree more with Brian Potter and his objection to carpeting Islington with 20mph hour zones (Are 20mph bans really safer? July 17).

The arguments for such a measure are both environmentally and financially dubious. Islington does not need yet another forest of signs and enormous 20mph indicators painted across our streets. They are ugly and there are so many signs now that I am amazed drivers pay any attention to them at all. Advanced thinking now is that reducing road signage makes drivers more cautious. Added to this is the

enormous cost of installing these signs and zones, plus the costs of the required public consultations, just at a time when our council should be more prudent with taxpayers' money and not wasting it on such unwanted schemes. These zones should only be introduced outside buildings, such as schools, where there are large numbers of children, not imposed on us by Green councillors in search of headlining initiatives.

TIM NEWARK  
TaxPayers' Alliance, N5



2008

Aug

346 media hits  
182 new supporters

"The TaxPayers' Alliance has worked tirelessly to expose waste in the public sector...[they] should be presented with a campaign medal."  
- Daily Express Leader



4 : Sara Rainwater starts at the TPA as Operations Manager.

**GORDON'S £20bn GREEN TAX RIP-OFF**  
It's just big Labour con

**Families 'forking out £800 a year in unjust green taxes'**  
AND IT'LL TAKE A £50 RISE TO STOP US FLYING

**DAILY EXPRESS**  
Labour's green taxes is money going up in smoke  
Gordon Brown's green tax is a real disaster for the TaxPayers' Alliance. It's a real disaster for the TaxPayers' Alliance. It's a real disaster for the TaxPayers' Alliance.

**Green taxes cost families £800 a year more than necessary**

**WE PAY £800 TOO MUCH 'GREEN TAX'**  
£24bn bill is five times emission cost

**Green tax '£800 too high'**  
METRO

**DAILY STAR says**  
**Green tax is hot air**



28 : Basildon petition day.

**The Case For Abolishing RDAs**  
SEEDA EEDA LONDON

8 : The Case For Abolishing RDAs launched. It's now Tory policy to abolish them, as announced in Green Paper on 17 February 2009.

**The Cost of Crime**

15 : People in London become the first in the country to get detailed crime maps, an idea recommended in the TPA paper *The Cost of Crime*.



26 : Polly Toynbee accuses the TaxPayers' Alliance of "pumping out anti-tax paranoia" in the *Guardian*.



28 : The *Burden of Green Taxes* launched. Page 3 model Keeley asks *Sun* readers: "Why should Britain pay over the odds when our energy usage is lower than other countries?"

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13 : Birmingham City Council mistakenly put a picture of Birmingham Alabama on a recycling leaflet.

24 : Grassroots co-ordinator Tim Aker meets with local residents associations to explain the benefits of collaborating with the TPA to get their message across.





**Wasting Lives**  
A statistical analysis of NHS  
performance in a European  
context since 1981

[illegible]

**How cutting corporation tax would boost revenue**

Matthew Dixon, Matthew Dixon  
2 June 2010

# Tax rises on the cards



## TRY THE BROWN CALCULATOR

Prove Gordon just can't get his sums right. Try his calculator and see how hard things are...



Find out more 

Download now 



**Gordon Brown's Economic Failure**

**BROWN WILL PUT UP TAXES**



**2008**

# Sept

*370 media hits*  
*150 new supporters*



A decorative green wavy banner with white numbers 1 through 30.

TPA submits evidence to the Commons Business and Enterprise Committee, calling for RDAs to be abolished.



2008  
**Oct**  
462 media hits  
370 new supporters



"Another scandalous example of how your cash is being wasted has been unearthed by the excellent TaxPayers' Alliance"  
- Fergus Shanahan, The Sun



**BRUSSELS OR WHITEHALL: LOCATING THE SOURCE OF THE UK'S REGULATORY BURDEN**



30 : TPA - ComRes poll launched, showing that voters blame overspending for recession, and see tax cuts as the way out.

**TPA response to the £50bn bailout**

8 : Government announces bank bailout, costing £50 billion. TPA responds immediately, voicing concerns about the exposure of taxpayers' cash to great risk. Blanket media coverage results.

9 : The Icelandic banking crash. After key Icelandic banks fail, it is revealed that many councils and other public bodies stand to lose taxpayers' money. The TPA takes to the airwaves, and receives record coverage, including all major news networks, prime time news programmes, national and regional newspapers and radio stations.



27 : *Brussels or Whitehall: Locating the source of the UK's regulatory burden* is launched. This is the TPA's first major paper in partnership with Global Vision.



17 : 'Graffiti wall' built by a council is defaced by a graffiti artist who writes 'I paid my taxes and all I got was this lousy wall'.



30 : St. Albans petition day.

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8 : Wednesday meeting, with guest speaker Dr. Liam Fox, Shadow Secretary for Defence.

14 : Ministry of Defence loses soldiers' records. TPA hits back against central Government incompetence.

28 : *The case against an 80 per cent Mandatory Target for Emissions Cuts* launched, and is cited by Christopher Chope MP in the subsequent parliamentary vote.





**3 :** *The UK Pensions Crisis* launched, showing that Gordon Brown's pensions grab has cost pensioners £225 billion.



**8 :** Tynemouth petition day.

**18 :** Conservatives drop commitment to match Labour spending plans, major victory for the TPA.

**14 :** West Midlands TPA weekly bulletin launches the 'Insider blog' written by an activist working within a wasteful regional quango.



**23 :** *How inept regulations and poor policy decisions drove the financial crisis* is launched.



**24 :** The third annual *Public Sector Rich List* is launched, showing that 387 people in the Public Sector are on more than £150,000.

**24 :** Pre Budget Report, TPA same-day response receives blanket media coverage.



**28 :** Matthew Sinclair is promoted to Research Director, after his predecessor Corin Taylor moves to the Institute of Directors.

**11 :** TPA responds to the Conservative Tax Plan.

**12 :** Wednesday meeting with Lynton Crosby, Australian political strategist who has worked on both John Howard's campaign in Australia and Boris Johnson's mayoral campaign in London, as guest speaker.

**25 :** The TPA reveals that Brown's borrowing will be double the debt needed to win World War One.

**26 :** Hammersmith and Fulham council announce third year of 3% council tax cut.

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2008

Dec

407 media hits  
163 new supporters



11 : The EU's Renewables Policy: Official Cost Estimates to Britain launched.

8 : Bristol TPA branch launched.

10 : Wednesday meeting Christmas drinks with David Davis.

# PUBLIC SECTOR JOBS SCANDAL

More pay, crazy careers all funded by the taxpayer



12 : Council Spending Uncovered II No. 1: Publicity is launched, setting out the £430 million that councils are spending on publicity and communications every year.



12 : Manchester congestion charge is overturned, after energetic campaigning by groups including the West Midlands TPA.

## Tories plan purge of town hall 'fat cats'



## 'We only need half our civil servants'

Former trade minister calls for efficiency drive

### BY NUMBERS

521,620  
Civil servants in Britain  
£22,160  
Average pay for civil servant  
£20,715  
Average pay for private sector worker

30.5%

10% in private sector pay since 2000

9.3

Average UK days a year in civil service

5.8

Average UK days a year in private sector

## IT'S BONUS TIME AT THE ROCK!

Failed bank's staff share £9m pay day



31 : Annual Non-Job Report 2008 released, showing that despite worsening economic conditions, the public sector continues to hire jobsworths.

29 : Regional Development Agencies: Having a Ball at the 2008 Party Conferences is launched, showing how the RDAs spent £285,000 throwing champagne parties.



19 : The TPA exposes the £5.1 billion tax on Christmas.

17 : Susie Squire gives evidence to the Welsh Assembly's Independent Review Panel in Llandudno.

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Quangos 'spend more than £1bn on spin in a year'



Six-figure salaries for almost 400 London town hall workers

THE TOP SIX EARNERS ... AND HOW MUCH THE BOROUGH'S PAY

NAME	POST	SALARY
1	Chief Executive	£110,000
2	Deputy Chief Executive	£85,000
3	Finance Director	£75,000
4	Legal Director	£65,000
5	Human Resources Director	£60,000
6	IT Director	£55,000

Dying patients are denied drugs but the obese can get £425 from the NHS to diet

Pay rises for NHS bosses are up to seven times greater than for nurses

2009

Jan

537 media hits  
714 new supporters

Civil servants get £40,000 home perk



Fishing policy costing UK billions, says lobby group

FOOD BILLS BEING PUSHED UP, JOBS LOST AND MILLIONS OF FISH DUMPED, REPORT CLAIMS



5: Radio 4's You and Yours broadcast a special report on TPA, in which Labour MP John Cruddas admits that "many Labour MPs are now very concerned about the TaxPayers' Alliance."

PORTLAND



29 : Fish demonstration outside EU building.

1 : Dr Lee Rotherham comes back from Afghanistan and joins the TPA as EU Policy Analyst, having previously worked on *The Bumper Book of Government Waste* with Matthew Elliott.

11 : Portland PR carries out focus groups and polling for Global Vision and the TPA, showing overwhelming demand for radical change of our relationship with the EU.

16 : The TPA reveals that on average, quangos had increased their spending on communication year on year.

27 : Susie Squire gives evidence in Cardiff to Sir Roger Jones' Independent Review Panel on how to reform Assembly Members' pay and expenses.

5 : Conservatives announce plan for tax cuts for savers.

23 : Wednesday meeting workshop on fundraising, with guest speakers Patrick Barbour, Simon Richards, Oliver Hylton and Tim Evans.

30 : TPA and Global Vision launch *The Price of Fish: Costing the Common Fisheries Policy*.

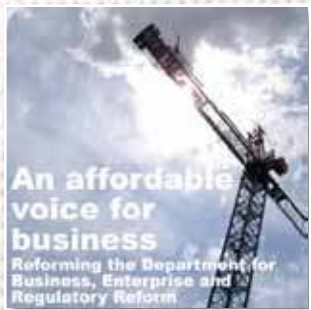
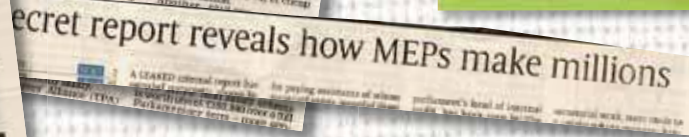
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2009  
**Feb**  
411 media hits  
650 new supporters



"The very savvy TaxPayers' Alliance will train an eagle eye on any examples of public sector profligacy, and there are bound to be plenty to choose from."  
- Matthew Taylor, former advisor to Tony Blair



**6 :** Departmental Use of Air Travel is launched.

**10 :** Polly Toynbee calls the TPA 'rottweilers' in her *Guardian* column and goes on to say that, "[the TPA] is a phenomenally successful lobby [at] softening up the electorate to believe that what the public sector really needs is pruning and squeezing."



**19 :** Shared surface protest in Sloane Square.



**18 :** Merton council tax protest.



**27 :** TPA releases *Council Spending Uncovered II No. 3: Pensions*, setting out how local councillors are feathering their nests by taking advantage of Local Government Pensions Scheme.

**27 :** Government accepts the need for transparency over council director's pay, a great policy victory for the TPA.

**23 :** The TPA reveals that many MEPs are becoming millionaires from their allowances, and leaks the *Galvin Report*, detailing high level corruption around MEPs expenses.

**27 :** Solihull Residents Association joins TPA.

**11 :** Eric Pickles, Shadow Minister for Local Government spoke at the Wednesday meeting.

**17 :** Conservatives produce Green Paper pledging to scrap RDAs, in line with TPA recommendations.

**24 :** Information Commissioner rules in favour of the TPA in our dispute with Kent County Council over senior executive remuneration transparency.

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## How the EU puts 20% on our food bills

EXCLUSIVE  
By Nick Feggs

BRITISH families pay more than twice as much for food as the European Council's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) would allow. The CAP would reduce the cost of food bills by a fifth, according to a report by the Centre for Policy Studies, a think-tank led by Conservative MP Nick Feggs. The CAP would also reduce the cost of food bills by a fifth, according to a report by the Centre for Policy Studies, a think-tank led by Conservative MP Nick Feggs.

## The council chiefs will retire on £100,000 a year

Anger over massive pensions gulf between local authority bosses and ordinary workers

"PENSIONS TIMEBOMB"



**5 :** *The Great European Rip-Off: How the Corrupt, Wasteful EU is Taking Control of Our Lives* is released.

## Ministers admit: we pay our husbands and wives

Millions in aid are being spent on promoting hatred

## THEY ARE ALL AT IT

Gravy train MPs rake in £144.776 expenses EACH

**8 :** *Paying for the Credit Crunch: Sharing the proceeds of thrift by William Norton is launched which is turned into a documentary presented by Sun journalist Jane Moore, Dispatches: How They Squander Our Billions.*



**17 :** EU book launch in Brussels.

## Town hall pay exposed

COUNCIL bosses in England will be forced to reveal their salaries, crack down on perks and 'fat cats' announced today

## Tax hike to fund council pay rises

By Adam Little

Local authorities in England will be forced to reveal their salaries, crack down on perks and 'fat cats' announced today

## l'Opinione

LA MARE GABE L'EDUCAZIONE PALESTINESE OGGI ANAPOLIS

Palestinian Hate Education since Annapolis



**18 :** *Palestinian Hate Education Since Annapolis* press launch and Hate Education event launch in Brussels, with pan-European coalition.

2009

# Mar

657 media hits  
4918 new supporters



**31 :** *Axe the Bike Tax* protest.

YouTube



**30 :** *Food for Thought: How the Common Agricultural Policy costs families nearly £400 a year* is launched, along with our spoof video *How to Make EU Agricultural Fudge*.

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**9 :** TPA delegation led by Andrew Allum meets Vernon Coaker, Policing Minister to put case for elected police authorities.

**9 :** Liberal Democrats become the third of the three main parties to pledge transparency in public sector pay.

**27 :** Conservatives announce plan to control pay for senior staff in public services.

**28 :** *Petition on Sloane Square* presented.



2009

Apr

636 media hits  
3496 new supporters

Scandal of £100k town hall fat cats

Council Spending Uncovered 4: Town Hall Rich List 2008

6 : The TPA releases *Council Spending Uncovered II No 4: Town Hall Rich List 2009*, detailing all those in local councils on more than £100,000. The report is covered in all national newspapers, including leaders in the *Independent*, the *Daily Mail* and the *Daily Express*.

1,000 town hall fat cats earning over £100,000



Revealed: the town hall who earn more than the



14 : Swanage Action Day.

13 : *Reforming EU Development Assistance* launched with an opinion piece in the *Independent* newspaper by Matthew Elliott, calling for greater transparency.

Western Morning News

EURO MPs SET TO GET 20% PAY RISE

'Snout the tro row er'



14 : The TaxPayers' Alliance Green Tax Calculator is launched, which has received 57,347 hits to date.



19 : TPA Campaign Manager Susie Squire is interviewed by Heather Brooke on MPs' expenses and predicts the coming storm in *Dispatches: The Westminster Gravy Train*.

Where exactly does the EU's development money go?



22 : Alistair Darling presents the 2009 Budget, announcing record levels of debt and borrowing.

22 : TPA issues its same day budget response, voicing concerns about the debt taxpayers will be saddled with, and the introduction of ever more stealth taxes. Broad spectrum media coverage with Edward Welsh, Local Government Association Programme Director writing in PR Week that the TPA is now "running neck-and-neck with Facebook and Twitter as a source of sexy news stories".



CABINET DUO IN EXPENSES ROW



30 : Ben Farrugia gives evidence on Public Sector Pay to Public Administration Select Committee, arguing for restraint in public sector remuneration and greater transparency.

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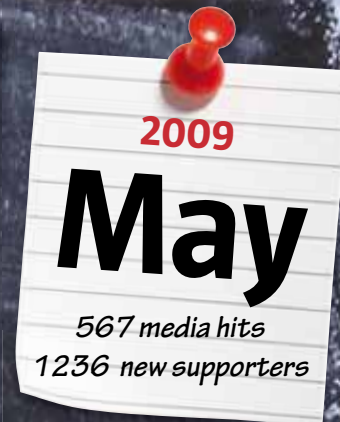
3 : G20 Communiqué released.

8 : Fraser Nelson and Daniel Hannan MEP are guest speakers at the Wednesday meeting, discussing: *Is it all over for Gordon Brown?*

16 : Haywards Heath council tax protest.

23 : West Midlands TPA reveals that the Advantage West Midlands Annual conference cost taxpayers £113,600.





4 : Matthew Sinclair speaks at the Heritage Foundation in Washington, D. C. on increasing transparency of aid donations.

3 : West Midlands TPA exposes the expenses of Birmingham City Council's Head of Communications, Debra Davis, in collaboration with the Sunday Mercury.

5 : From *Thesians to Death Rays: Funding surprises from the EU grants list* is launched, setting out many of the crazy projects that receive taxpayers' money through EU grants.

5 : Response 2 Route and Save Bathampton Meadows campaign join TPA.



7 : EU Action Day. TPA staff hand out leaflets and bumper stickers around London, encouraging people to stop the EU rip-off.



12 : The TPA launches its petition for full transparency on MPs' expenses, in conjunction with campaigner Heather Brooke, which has received over 6,000 signatures.

15 : In the wake of scandalous and potentially criminal expenses claims by MPs, the TPA launches the *Bring them to Justice* campaign, in conjunction with the *Daily Mail*.



19 : Michael Martin steps down as Speaker of the House. The TPA was among the first to call for his resignation, and is praised by Kate Hoey, among others, for being "brilliant".



The TPA uses revolutionary street advertising in its Stop the EU Rip-Off campaign.

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Matthew Elliott spoke on growing think tank influence at the Koch Foundation in DC.

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8 : The *Daily Telegraph* breaks the MPs' expenses story, with the TPA leading reaction.

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13 : Guido Fawkes, Tim Montgomerie and James Forsyth speak at a Wednesday meeting focussed on the rise of blogging.

14

15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

ICM

22 : A TPA/ICM landscape poll shows that the public are ready for an EU revolt.



2009

Jun

534 media hits  
664 new supporters

The TPA moves office to 83 Victoria Street, after a kind donation of office space by Avanta Chief Executive David Alberto.



"The TaxPayers' Alliance operates as a David against the Goliath of the state machine. Their latest efforts will enrage the Quangocracy for exposing the self perpetuating, self serving way in which it functions."  
- Daily Mail



Having settled into his role at the IoD, Corin Taylor rejoins the TPA as a Research Fellow, and begins work on a joint IoD/TPA paper on how to cut public spending.



1 : John O'Connell and Katherine Andrew start at the TPA after completing a successful internship.



3 : The TPA conducts a ranking of MEPs showing that many MEPs, despite their sky-high allowances and fine rhetoric, are not performing the most basic of duties.



15 : The TPA launches its groundbreaking paper: *Solve the Second Homes Crisis*, arguing that MPs should be housed in the Olympic Village.



22 : *Speaking volumes: the European Commission's Libraries* is launched.



23 : Matthew Elliott and Mark Wallace give evidence to Sir Christopher Kelly's Committee on Standards in Public Life on MPs' expenses.



David Cameron praised the TPA saying, "I think the TaxPayers' Alliance has never been more necessary in our country".

Gordon Brown experiences that biggest crisis of confidence in his premiership, with Cabinet Ministers and other MPs openly rebelling.

4 : EU and local elections

10 : Douglas Carswell MP and Ben Leapman from *The Daily Telegraph* discuss the MPs' expenses scandal at the Wednesday meeting

At the Public Affairs News Awards Ceremony, the TPA is shortlisted in the Think Tank of the Year category.

PublicAffairs  
NEWS





**6 :** Sir Roger Jones' Independent Review Panel reports back, recommending reforms to the AMs' expenses system. Almost all TPA recommendations have been adopted, including greater transparency and reforms to the Additional Cost Allowance.

**6 :** David Cameron commits to a quango cull, citing TPA research.



**6 :** A Newsnight quango special uses TPA figures, and features Susie Squire, Mark Wallace and Matthew Sinclair talking on this issue.



**14 :** Matthew Elliott addresses students at Freedom Week, held at Cambridge University.



**22 :** TPA Research Director Matthew Sinclair talks to the One Show about the level of Government spending on advertising, saying it's going beyond public information and into the realm of propaganda.



**28 :** The TPA launches *Tax and Entrepreneurship*, showing that the top marginal rate of tax is now 92%.

**8 :** Dom Cummings, James Frayne and Stephan Shakespeare speak at the Wednesday meeting, entitled *The Westminster crisis: the perfect opportunity for conservative progress?*

**11 :** Action Day in Birmingham with petitioning and leafleting.

**29 :** In collaboration with the *Sun*, the TPA reveals that the head of the National Police Improvement Authority has claimed £46k on expenses.

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## Policy influence Better Government

The TPA believes that radical reform of the public sector is necessary to achieve better services and lower taxes.

An authoritative pamphlet on *Better Government* by Patrick Barbour and Corin Taylor launched a campaign which now plays an important part in the public policy debate.

Our thesis that Ministers lack the subject knowledge, management experience or length of tenure necessary to effectively improve public services was confirmed by Lord Digby Jones and Lord Malloch Brown when they left the 'Government of all the talents' earlier this year.

*The Unseen Government of the UK*, published in August 2008, confirmed the TPA as the leading authority on quangos, and detailed policy papers have offered bold alternatives to this undemocratic approach to government. The team have also been vocal in the media. A recent BBC *Newsnight* quango special featured the TPA heavily, with our research figures widely used and



**Daily Mail**



three TPA staff filmed to discuss the problem – a huge achievement, and a first for a UK think tank. We have also worked extensively with several national newspapers including the *Daily Mirror* and *The Sun*, to expose the profligacy and inefficiency of quangocrats.

David Cameron's speech on quangos in July 2008 prominently quoted TPA research, and his pledge

"I think the TaxPayers' Alliance has never been more necessary in our country."  
- David Cameron MP

to carry out a detailed audit and rationalisation of public bodies (including abolitions and budget cuts) echoed TPA demands. In the question and answer session, the Leader of the Opposition applauded the TPA's work and praised the transparency we have promoted.

Elsewhere, we have led calls for the abolition of the Regional Development Agencies, using government statistics to expose them as nothing more than an expensive mistake. Our research was submitted to the House of Commons Business and Enterprise Committee, and it is now Conservative Party policy to strip the RDAs of much of their power, as outlined in their Green Paper on localism, *Control Shift*.







The TPA has also been instrumental in encouraging local councils to be more accountable. Windsor and Maidenhead Council passed legislation in April 2009 to publish all expenditure over £500. **Mark Wallace** was invited to meet with their Cabinet and welcomed this major improvement in the relationship between taxpayers and their local council.

The bug appears to be catching on elsewhere too – Councillors in Bedford have launched a campaign to follow Maidenhead's example. We will continue to fight hard to change the cavalier attitude of local authorities' towards our hard-earned cash, and crusade for total transparency.

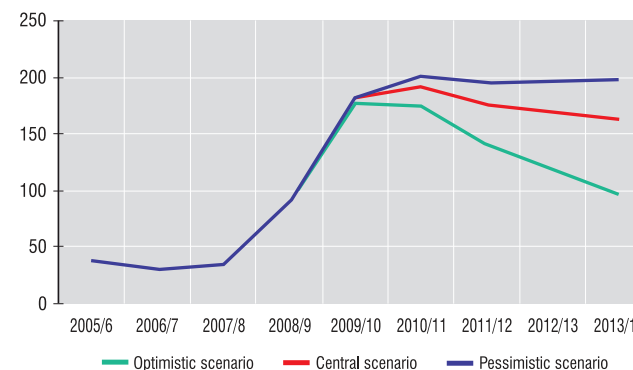
This applies to central government too. The TPA has long advocated the '*Google your money*' approach to public finances, so all taxpayers can see how their money is being spent by government departments, and decide for themselves if they are getting value for money. We believe that 60 million pairs of eyes is better than those of a few Whitehall mandarins, and the only way we can get true accountability is if taxpayers know where every penny is being spent. Shadow Chancellor George Osborne has publicly expressed the need for greater transparency and endorsed this approach.



"Tax and Entrepreneurship is a must read as it fleshes out the cause and unintended effects of current tax policy on the 'goose that lays the golden eggs' for society - entrepreneurship." – Julie Meyer, Chief Executive of Ariadne Capital



Public sector net borrowing, £ billion, nominal terms



Sources: Her Majesty's Treasury, cebr analysis

With the public finances in crisis and record levels of borrowing, the spectre of high taxes and crippling debt looms over taxpayers. The TPA has produced numerous papers outlining why the current Government's approach will lead to a less competitive economy and greater unemployment in the future. Our Pre Budget and Budget responses were produced within hours of Alistair Darling's speech, ensuring that the implications for taxpayers were widely voiced in the media.

In our new Public Finance series, *Tax and Entrepreneurship* explored how the top marginal rate of tax of 92% will deter entrepreneurs and hamper Britain's recovery. In conjunction with the respected CEPR, who built our dynamic tax model for us in 2006, we have also modelled the prospects for the British economy if we don't get the trampoline bounce the Government is predicting. This series is the start of a greater focus on economics and fiscal policy going forward, as we try to find ways to combat the recession.



## Policy influence Transparency

Over the past year the TPA's campaign for full transparency and reform of MPs' expenses became front-page news, increasing pressure for transparency elsewhere.

Proceeding on a number of fronts – including extensive grassroots activity, media work and direct political pressure – the TPA's campaign has kept us at the centre of this major political storm.

We were the first to attack the extravagant use of expenses by the then Speaker Michael Martin, with a complaint to the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards. Our petition calling for the complete release of the details of all MPs' expenses – launched with our associate **Heather Brooke**, whose original Freedom of Information requests forced the official release of the details – attracted thousands of signatures.

As details of potentially fraudulent claims came to light, and it appeared likely that MPs who may have broken the law might escape prosecution, the TPA teamed up with the *Daily Mail* to launch the *Bring Them To Justice* campaign. This prepared private prosecutions that could be used



against MPs if the authorities failed to act. The TPA has also played a central role in the debate over how Parliament can be rebuilt to restore public trust. A detailed written submission to Sir Christopher Kelly's enquiry into MP's expenses was followed by an oral evidence session. In both, **Matthew Elliott** put forward a comprehensive set of reforms, including housing MPs in the Olympic Village, and laid out why MPs are far from underpaid.

Late in 2008 and early in 2009, **Susie Squire** gave evidence to the Welsh Assembly's Independent Review Panel on AM's expenses, recommending a move towards full transparency, drastic reforms to the additional costs allowance and an end to the employment of family members. The panel, headed by Sir Roger Jones, released its report *Getting it Right for Wales* in July 2009, which adopted nearly all of the TPA's recommendations.

The *Daily Telegraph's* revelations about MPs' abuses of allowances and expenses has encouraged a new transparency across the public sector, the central objective of our campaign. This trend towards greater transparency is likely to filter down further, and will play a key part in



"I'd like to pay tribute to the TaxPayers' Alliance who've been brilliant." – Kate Hoey, Labour MP, on Michael Martin's resignation.





# Policy influence | Transparency

opening up the public sector to greater taxpayer scrutiny. For example, this year senior BBC executives have released detailed expense claims for the first time.

The MPs' expenses scandal was merely a glimpse into the culture of profligacy, waste and personal aggrandisement that occurs across the public sector. Nowhere is such behaviour more evident than local government, where despite council tax doubling in the last decade and little if any corresponding improvement in the services they provide, salaries have soared and



expense claims ballooned. As part of our annual Council Spending Uncovered series, we released reports on council spending in crucial areas such as pensions, middle management and executive pay. Our paper on publicity spending highlighted just how much councils are spending on snazzy advertising and marketing, and this years *Town Hall Rich List* revealed a huge jump in the number of council staff earning over £100,000.

The series continues to enjoy a strong reception in both national and regional media, including news stories, leaders, opinion pieces and broadcast. But this year the campaign also won concrete political success, with all parties now pledged to greater public sector transparency, particularly in the area of pay. Indeed, following David Cameron's announcement that the Conservatives publish the salaries of all public sector



"It looks as though the TaxPayers' Alliance is now writing Conservative Party policy."  
- The Guardian

workers over £150,000, the *Guardian* newspaper wrote that "It looks as though the TaxPayers' Alliance is now writing Conservative Party policy."

The Government itself has taken steps to curb local government excess, drawing up laws which would mandate full disclosure of remuneration details. The House of Commons too have responded to our campaign, inviting our Deputy Research Director **Ben Farrugia** to give evidence before the Public Administration Select Committee's enquiry into executive pay in the public sector. Ben called for restraint on in remuneration packages and criticised the lack of transparency in many public sector bodies.

As we move forward our campaign will continue to press the case for thorough reform, and take the fight to other public sector organisations that don't respect our right to know how our money is spent.

By uncovering waste through transparency, we will achieve lower taxes.





## Policy influence European Union



[www.taxpayersalliance.com/eu](http://www.taxpayersalliance.com/eu)

In the past year the TPA has turned its sights on the huge cost of the European Union to ordinary taxpayers. Our 'Stop the EU Rip-Off' campaign, launched in partnership with Global Vision.

The campaign is based on solid market research. We commissioned Portland PR to undertake a series of focus groups so we fully understood the concerns people have about the EU. This research was then supplemented by polls at key moments of the campaign from ComRes, ICM and YouGov, which attracted considerable publicity and debate in Westminster.

The campaign launched with the publication of **Matthew Elliott's** *The Great European Rip-Off*. This book charted some of shocking abuses of taxpayers money by the EU, and established its true cost – £2,000 a year for every man, woman and child. Following the success of the book, TPA research has established that the Common Agricultural Policy is costing British families nearly £400 a year, that the Common Fisheries Policy is now costing us over £2.81 billion a year and that EU funds have been wasted on everything from political spin courses for EU officials (£460,000) to academic programmes to define God (£1.4 million).



[www.taxpayersalliance.com](http://www.taxpayersalliance.com)

We also produced a pioneering ranking of the UK's MEPs, confirming most of our worst suspicions about how little they do for their generous salaries and expenses. It was also the TPA that made public the highly controversial *Galvin Report*, an internal EU investigation which documented the extent to which MEPs have been milking the Brussels cash cow. Some have become millionaires within just a few years of being elected. As well as generating a media storm, our research figures have been quoted widely by MPs, columnists and other participants in the EU debate, both in the UK and overseas.



**Fishing policy costing UK billions, says lobby group**

FOOD BILLS BEING PUSHED UP, JOBS LO...  
MILLIONS OF FISH DUMPED, REPORT CI...

The Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) is costing the UK billions of pounds a year, according to a report by the TaxPayers' Alliance (TPA). The report, titled 'The Great European Rip-Off', claims that the CFP is costing the UK £2.81 billion a year. It also claims that the CFP is responsible for the dumping of millions of fish.

**How MEPs can fiddle a million in five years**

The TaxPayers' Alliance (TPA) has produced a report titled 'How MEPs can fiddle a million in five years'. The report claims that MEPs are able to fiddle a million in five years through various means, including salaries, expenses, and other benefits. The report also claims that MEPs are able to fiddle a million in five years through various means, including salaries, expenses, and other benefits.

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On the ground, the research has been combined with an energetic and imaginative campaign. A series of speaker meetings, protests, videos and stunts have successfully raised the profile of these issues. Protests linked to specific reports – such as





## Policy influence | European Union

our 'For Cods Sake' rally, which brought conservationist David Bellamy and a substantial pile of fish to the steps of the EU Parliament's London office – generated considerable public debate. Our "Jamie Oliveoil recipe for EU agriculture fudge" video has now been watched over 20,000 times on *YouTube*, and a cinema advert is currently being produced to spread the message about the EU's corruption and waste to an even greater audience. Innovative advertising techniques – such as using high pressure water jets to 'clean' our 'Stop the EU Rip-Off' message onto urban pavements, or air borne banners above the M25 – have ensured maximum impact for the campaign. Local protests have also brought together our grassroots activists to get the message out to neighbourhoods across the country.

Since we started our EU work, our reports have reached millions of people across the country. We have handed out 75,000 EU leaflets and a similar number of 'Stop the



EU Rip-Off' bumper and van stickers. Through our bold campaigning methods, we have brought the message home to people at every level of the political debate. There has been positive reaction to the campaign from MPs, too. After releasing our CAP report, then Europe Minister Caroline Flint agreed that "the CAP does not serve the best interests of farmers or consumers across Europe. We will use the opportunity of the EU budget review,

starting later in the year, to argue for the long-term reform that is needed."

The EU campaign continues apace. We are already rallying support in the City against the EU's proposed financial directives, which seriously endanger the hedge fund industry. Later in the year we will publish an exciting short book exploring the opportunities for Britain in a new relationship with our fellow European countries.



"The TaxPayers' Alliance is more likely to deliver Eurosceptic change than UKIP."  
– Tim Montgomerie,  
Editor of *ConservativeHome*



## Policy influence Hate Education

This has been a fruitful year for the TPA's campaign against Hate Education, with a number of reports and high profile events driving serious progress in the debate, both in Britain and abroad.

Two major reports underpin the campaign: the first, *Palestinian Hate Education since Annapolis*, explored how UK and Western taxpayers' money is supporting hate education in the Palestinian Territories, radicalising young Palestinians and prolonging the middle east conflict. Working with sister groups from Germany, Italy, France, Sweden and Slovakia, the report was launched in six languages at an event in Brussels, attended by MEPs from key committees and chaired by Timothy Kirkhope MEP, leader of the Conservative group in the European Parliament. The second report, *Reforming European Development Assistance*, emphasised the need for greater transparency, scrutiny and accountability in how EU aid policy is formed, so that scandals such as the funding of hate education can be avoided in the future.

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."



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." A spokesman for the Department of International Development said the department would look into our report's claims. After our 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.



We have also taken our message to the USA, where our Research Director **Matthew Sinclair** spoke at the Heritage Foundation about our work, arguing that all Western countries had a responsibility to ensure their aid was being channelled to projects that are conducive to economic and political development, not damaging to it. Perhaps the biggest recent advance for our campaign was President Obama's comments in July:

**"[The Palestinians] have to deal with incitement issues. It is clear that senior leaders in Western countries can wake up to the importance of this issue. We just need to make it clear that action is needed, and that Western taxpayers' money cannot continue to fund hate education that poisons the minds of young Palestinians and prolongs conflict in the Middle East."**



Going forward, the TPA plans to build up evidence using the Freedom of Information Act to show how counter-extremism spending in the UK has in fact funded radical groups, inciting domestic hatred here in the UK.





## Going forward | Meeting targets, pushing boundaries

The past few years have seen unprecedented growth in all areas of our work at the TPA.

In order to achieve our five year mission, we have monthly targets to meet. As you can see from these graphs used by the Board to track our progress, it's been a busy year! The reason why monitoring these statistics is so important is that these processes drive the policy changes outlined in the previous pages.

### Supporters (Top left)

We wanted to break the 20,000 barrier, have done so, and have seen a big surge in support since the MPs' expenses saga broke.

### Media hits (Bottom left)

The TPA has become a dominant presence across national, regional and broadcast media. Our target in 2008 was to achieve an average of 400 high quality media hits per month.

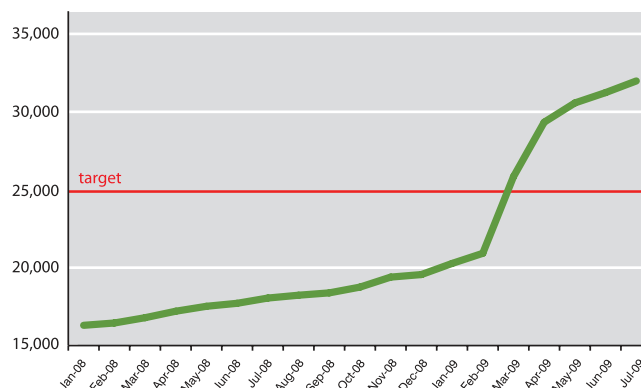
### Website (Top right)

In March 2009, we passed the 45,000 unique visitors mark, making [www.taxpayersalliance.com](http://www.taxpayersalliance.com) Britain's number one think tank or campaign group website.

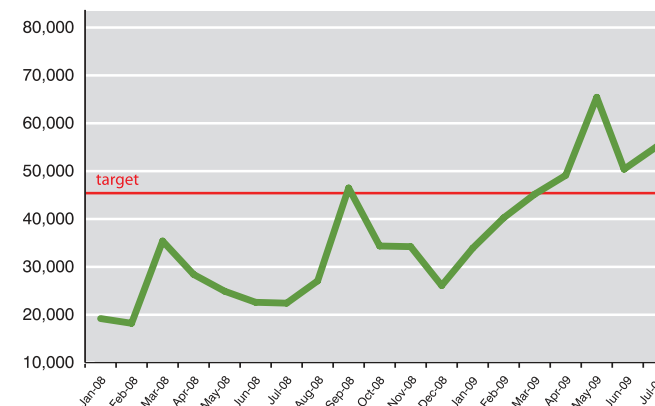
### Comparative print media statistics (Bottom right)

As the annualised statistics illustrate, compared to organisations with hundreds of staff we punch massively above our weight across the media.

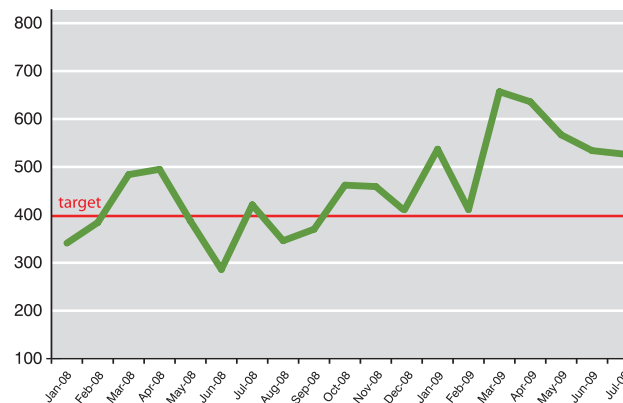
Total number of Supporters Jan 08 to Jul 09



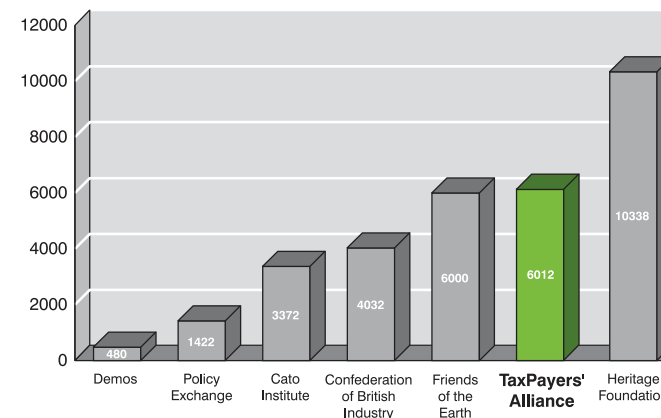
Total numbers of Website Visitors Jan 08 to Jul 09



Total number of Media Hits Jan 08 to Jul 09



Comparative Print Media Statistics



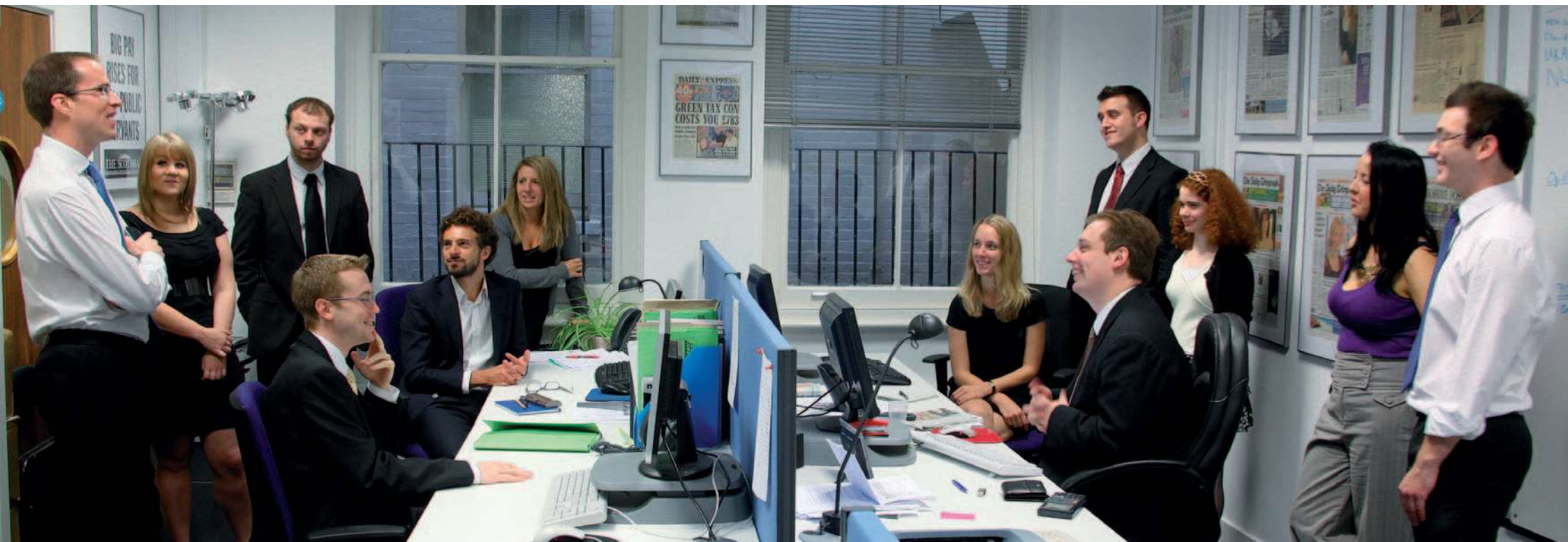
## Five Year Mission

To achieve a Britain where individuals have far greater control over their own lives; where the government only does what civil society cannot do; and where everyone enjoys better services and lower taxes.

In the Autumn, we will be launching *Big Brother Watch*, to fight injustice and to protect personal liberties. Running it will be two experienced campaigners: Alex Deane, who was David Cameron's first Chief of Staff before becoming a barrister; and Dylan Sharpe, who cut his political teeth on Boris Johnson's successful mayoral campaign. Watch this space!







“Not only does the TaxPayers’ Alliance create first class public policy, we create the climate of opinion for that policy to be implemented.”