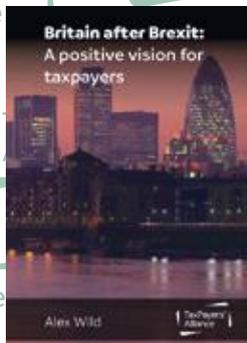


# TaxPayers' Alliance

Together we can fight for lower, simpler taxes by exposing waste and changing policy



Annual Report 2016

# Our five year vision...

The UK is still living beyond its means and must reduce spending to more responsible levels. That will leave the room for tax cuts that families and businesses across the country so badly need and deserve. Taxpayers are still fleeced when they go to the shops, fill up the car, take a flight, buy a home, go for a drink with a friend and pay their energy bills. If that's not demoralising enough, the taxman comes back for more when you have the temerity to die.

We need to make that case right across the UK. Our tens of thousands of supporters tell us every day about the wasteful spending in their patch and are exercised about the goings on in their council or local hospital – and we need to harness that energy and mobilise dozens of targeted campaigns across the country.

We plan to launch a whole host of new TPA branches in towns and cities across the UK. We have already begun that process and we want you to get involved and lead the fight for taxpayers in your local area.

We want to mobilise the biggest taxpayer army the UK has ever seen. Then we can make an even stronger case to politicians in Westminster that spending should be reduced and the public finances restored to health. That we are sick of wasteful spending and high taxes.

**It's your money – let's fight for it together.**



## Contents

page	
3	Messages from our leadership team
4-5	Our methods deliver results...
6	Solid research
7	Strategic communications
8-9	Sustained campaigning
10-11	Campaign case study: <i>The Public Sector Rich List</i>
12-13	Campaign case study: Cutting taxpayer subsidies to trade unions
14-15	Research highlights 2016
16	Media highlights 2016
17	YourTPA app
18	Challenges ahead: Balancing the books
19	Lower, simpler taxes
20	What others say about us...
21	Meet the team to deliver our plans
22-23	Support us and Ways to give to the TaxPayers' Alliance

# Messages from our leadership team

Welcome to our 2016 Annual Report. In the 12 years since Matthew Elliott and I founded the TPA, the organisation has become a prominent and authoritative part of the political landscape. The Prime Minister's commendation (see page 20) is a great credit to all the work of our staff, activists and supporters past and present.

Over those 12 years, we have fought for and achieved many important tax cuts, spending reductions and policy changes. Importantly, we played a role in overturning a claimed consensus that the state was underfunded and helped build a new consensus that the state is wasteful and we are better than bureaucrats at spending our own money.

The Big Picture has re-entered politics in 2016, after a few years of absence. Our campaigning this year will focus on big questions about the role of the state, taxation and fairness in our changing world.

John O'Connell, our new Chief Executive, is making the most of his new tenure to refresh the brand of the TPA and introduce new working practices to ensure we are always on topic.

Working together with supporters and activists, John and the team will endeavour to make 2017 our best year for changes to government policy, spending and tax cuts.

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More British people voted in the EU referendum than had ever voted for anything else in our history. There was a real sense that people could change things – and they were right. The TaxPayers' Alliance has a unique opportunity to harness that feeling and grow our army of 80,000 supporters. We have launched a significant refresh of our grassroots campaign and we encourage you all to take part.

That campaign will complement a dynamic research output, which saw 26 papers released in 2016; a market-leading media operation, with our spokespeople appearing on everything from local radio to BBC *Question Time*; and an influential programme of briefings for the parliamentarians making the big decisions.

There is an old saying that all politics is local – and the TPA is the country's leading campaign fighting for taxpayers on the big national issues, but also challenging what is happening on your doorstep. I am proud to lead an organisation that speaks to tens of thousands of people outside Westminster – and I want that number to multiply.

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Andrew Allum, Chairman



John O'Connell, Chief Executive



Launched in 2004 by Matthew Elliott and Andrew Allum, the TaxPayers' Alliance is Britain's independent grassroots campaign for lower taxes, responsible spending and protecting taxpayers.

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## Solid research

Our skilled research team – assisted by our bank of Research Fellows – trawl through thousands of lines of data and distil that into solid figures that capture attention. The TPA is somewhat unique in that we produce robust data on local issues – meaning we can also engage with taxpayers on issues that matter to them.

Take our *Mash Beer Tax* campaign – that was underpinned by our finding that 1/3 of the price of a pint of beer was tax. Or our *Town Hall Rich List* – that arms local people with the relevant numbers to hold their local council to account.

Cited in national media and parliamentary reports, our research carries weight and is well respected.



## Strategic communications

We work with journalists to spread our message in local and national papers, as well as on local and national broadcast. It is an effective way of reaching many people very quickly – whether they catch us on TV as they get ready for work, or on the radio during the drive home.

People trust local media far more than they do national media. It is important therefore that local data we produce is communicated through local media to reach people through a trusted medium.

The big national debates are of course important too. In 2016 we appeared on the main national broadcasters hundreds of times, including two outings on *BBC Question Time*, the *Andrew Marr Show* and ITV's *Agenda*.



## Sustained campaigning

What makes the TPA truly unique is stage three – taking our message out to town squares and high streets across the UK. We have 80,000 supporters and many of those are keen to help us out as activists.

They help us with protests and action days on national issues, as well as the vital local issues. That means our campaigns work to change policy in Westminster but also save money at town halls.



## POLICY CHANGE ✓

We argued relentlessly for over 12 years about the subsidising of trade unions which resulted in more transparency and better accountability in the **Trade Union Act in May 2016**

## TAX CUT ✓

Our **Inheritance Tax campaign** in 2007 called for the doubling of the threshold for married couples - and helped to halt Gordon Brown's ambitions for an early General Election

## POLICY CHANGE ✓

We first raised the alarm bell about **taxpayer-funded lobbying** with a research paper in 2009; the Government has now announced a ban on charities using our cash for campaigning

## POLICY CHANGE ✓

Our **Council Spending Uncovered** included agenda-setting research on the issue which was transformed into government policy in 2014

## POLICY CHANGE ✓

**2009 Public Sector Rich List** the government announced that any new public sector contract with a salary above £150,000 has to be approved by the Treasury

## SPENDING CUT ✓

We were first to call for a **two-year public sector pay freeze**, in September 2009, enacted by the Coalition Government on taking office

## POLICY CHANGE ✓

The TPA pushed for more transparency and local authorities now have to **publish all spending over £500**

## POLICY CHANGE ✓

Our **Freeze Fuel Tax** campaign, launched in 2012, played a major role in securing freezes in Fuel Duty. The tax has been frozen ever since

## SPENDING CUT ✓

In 2010 we called for a 50 per cent **cut in public sector advertising spending**, which was subsequently delivered by the Coalition government

## TAX CUT ✓

After our **MashBeerTax** campaign in the run-up to the 2013 Budget, the Chancellor scrapped the Beer Duty Escalator and cut the duty for the first time since 1959

## POLICY CHANGE ✓

Our **Public Sector and Town Hall Rich List** series forced the Government to ensure the annual publication of all senior public sector salaries – a major win for public sector pay transparency

## TAX CUT ✓

Our **Stamp Out Stamp Duty** Campaign was the first dedicated campaign on this pernicious tax. Reform has meant the abolition of the slab rate and introduction of 0% duty for the first £125,000. However, we will continue to campaign as this duty is causing serious damage to the housing market

## POLICY CHANGE ✓

A new law enshrining the **public's right to record and blog council meetings** was introduced in 2014 as a direct result of our campaigning

## POLICY CHANGE ✓

Our research was instrumental in the shaping of the **Enterprise Act, which received Royal Assent in May 2016**. The Act legally ended the controversial six figure pay-offs the TPA regularly exposed in our research, with the new law putting a cap of £95,000 to any person leaving the public sector



# Strategic communications



**Dia Chakravarty**, Political Director, leads our campaign team, appearing regularly in the national media including on BBC flagship programmes such as *Question Time*, *Newsnight*, *The Andrew Marr Show*, *Daily Politics* as well as on ITV *Tonight*, Channel 4 and Sky News.

The media plays a crucial role in helping us draw attention to our own research and also provides taxpayers with a voice on crucial policy matters affecting us all.

The TPA is mentioned daily, several times, in the top ten national newspapers as well as on local and national broadcast media. We often join forces with newspapers to run big campaigns, offering ground breaking research. For example, we worked with the *Daily Mail* on the *Public Sector Rich List*.

Political journalists are keen to get a lead on stories affecting taxpayers and our media team respond 24/7 to their calls for reaction. Our press releases often set the agenda for the day.



Alex Wild, appearing on Radio 5 Live

The TaxPayers' Alliance was mentioned in Parliament 12 times during 2016. We also distributed 17 briefings to Members of Parliament and members of Select Committees. Among them; The case for scrapping HS2, Holiday Taxes, Foreign Aid spending and Scotland's overspending problem.



Harry Davis, appearing on BBC North West



Harry Fairhead, Policy Analyst, appearing on BBC The Big Questions



# Sustained campaigning



**Tom Banks**, our new Campaign Manager, is working to build upon our strong record of action this year. We held “blitz days” right across the country that helped us reach more people in the same region at the same time. We also sent out a survey to all our supporters, for which we received thousands of responses, telling us they would like to get involved. Keep your eyes peeled in 2017 for more as we endeavour to make sure we’re listening to our supporters and making sure they’re at the front and centre of our campaign.

Our Action Days and Blitz Days have taken us across the UK bringing our work to the attention of taxpayers.



*Wales coordinator and activist, Lee Canning in Cardiff, distributing leaflets with local residents who are supporters of the TPA*



*John O'Connell addressing TV at our student protest*



*Activists taking our War on Waste to Tower Hamlets*

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

## Taking our message around the country

It is vital that we have a strong grassroots operation that can campaign effectively on our media and research work. We are now in the process of helping Local Action Teams launch right across the country, with regular action days and campaigning that holds government on all levels to account. Tom will be heading across the country as part of that process.

If you'd like to see one in your area, send an email to [grassroots@taxpayersalliance.com](mailto:grassroots@taxpayersalliance.com)



*Tom Banks with Richard Riddle, one of our first Local Action Team leaders in Suffolk*



*Student activists, helping to deliver leaflets door to door in London*



*A TPA activist handing out leaflets to residents and shoppers in Bournemouth town centre*

In York our team and activists spoke to hundreds of residents and shoppers. We gave them leaflets showing that taxpayers' money was being wasted. York residents were astonished to discover that their council tax has risen by 72% in real terms in the last 19 years.

A team of activists went to Woking and set up a stall in the town centre. They explained to residents the importance of what the TPA does and encouraged them to take part in our fight against government waste. On our action days, we sign up even more supporters for our cause.



*An activist discussing local issues with a York resident*



*David Williams, President of the Taxpayers' Protection Alliance in the USA, paid a visit to our office in December.*

*We have a special relationship with our friends overseas. Cutting taxes, making savings and protecting taxpayers is our joint goal.*

## Campaign case study:

# The Public Sector Rich List



## Solid research

The TaxPayers' Alliance's **Public Sector Rich List** is the largest project of its type ever undertaken.

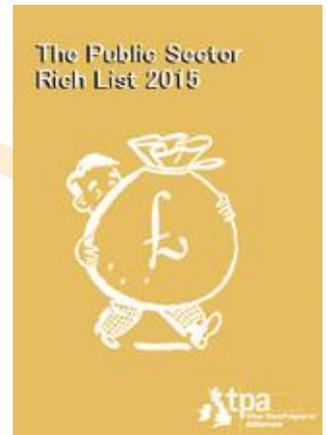
Through the Freedom of Information Act we obtained details of tens of thousands of public sector workers receiving more than £100,000 a year. We revealed the job titles and full remuneration of thousands of public sector workers taking home more than the prime minister.

Most taxpayers don't have a problem with, for example, brain or cardiac surgeons receiving more than £100,000. What they do mind is paying over the odds for excessive bureaucracy and rewarding failure.

For the first time, we produced a full picture of just how much of your money was being spent on a truly massive public sector.

- **Town Hall Rich List - the highest earners in the UK's councils**
- **NHS - includes NHS trusts, quangos, clinical commissioning groups, ambulance trusts, GPs and dentists**
- **Education - includes schools, universities, and multi academy trusts**
- **Police - includes police forces and the offices of police and crime commissioners**
- **Whitehall - government departments spent up to £1.3 billion of taxpayers' money on consultants in 2014-15**

This gave us the platform to:



## Strategic Communications

Mind-boggling numbers that sum up a scandal	
<b>£1.26m</b> Package earned last year by Tricia Hart, chief executive at South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	<b>£822m</b> losses declared this year by NHS hospital trusts
<b>£1.40</b> Cost of bus fare claimed on expenses by NHS executive who earned £94,794 last year	<b>£5.19m</b> pay rises taken this year by NHS hospital board directors
<b>£411,025</b> Pay deal taken last year by Cumbria County Council chief Jill Stannard, 16 times the average wage in her area	<b>31</b> Staff who have been gagged as part of exit deals since the Baby P scandal at Harrogate Council, where 68 employees took home more than £100,000 last year
<b>50,084</b> NHS staff who earned more than £100,000 last year during the worst financial crisis in a generation	<b>£260,290</b> average pay package earned by a university head
<b>23.4%</b> Cut in local authority spending per person over past five years	<b>£2,000</b> Payment taken each year by Fenland council chief Paul Medd to procure medical insurance for himself, but the council will not disclose the receipts
<b>£2,368</b> Claimed per month by former Pembrokeshire council chief to drive a Porsche to work	<b>£259,000</b> Payoff for council chief Joanna Simons after a major grooming scandal on her watch
<b>£737,500</b> Pay package earned last year by Steve Allan, Deputy Chief Constable major events at Police Scotland	<b>£690,200</b> Earned by an unnamed Oxford University academic in the biggest individual deal in 2013-14
<b>3,483</b> Council staff earning more than £100,000, with 537 taking home more than £150,000	<b>7,554</b> University staff earning more than £100,000 a year
<b>£874,640</b> Spent by Essex County Council on private medical insurance for its bosses over the past three years	<b>22,000</b> Number of police officers that chief constables warn need to be axed to save money
<b>6,000</b> Freedom of information requests made by Mail Investigations Unit and the TPA to uncover public pay	<b>£690,572</b> Annual pay package earned by five NHS dentists

The *Public Sector Rich List* was covered for three consecutive days on the front page of the *Daily Mail*, with whom we partnered on the project to make a big impact. Many local newspapers and radio stations broadcast the news about their local 'public sector fat cats' to the astonishment of readers and listeners.



Harry Fairhead, our Policy Analyst, appeared on *London Live* after the publication of our *Public Sector Rich List*. We also had a broadcast on *Sky News*.



Our research also scored hundreds of hits on other national newspapers and media.



## Sustained campaigning

When we spoke to people about this on action days, many did not realise that they paid such big bills for executive salaries – and for pay outs at local hospitals or councils where they know things are not being run well. That’s the power of taking our campaign on the road – we can reach busy people who might not otherwise engage with politics with our message.



## RESULT

A victory for the TPA as a cap of £95,000 was placed on exit payments in the public sector.

**The Enterprise Bill** was introduced to Parliament in September 2015 and following our report the Chancellor applied a cap on exit payments.

The Bill received Royal Assent in 2016.



The extent of the media coverage allowed us to launch our campaign:



Chief Executive, John O'Connell and Research Director, Alex Wild met with Rt Hon Dame Margaret Hodge MP to discuss her new book 'Called to Account: How Corporate Bad Behaviour and Government Waste Combine to Cost us Millions'

## Campaign case study:

# Cutting taxpayer subsidies to trade unions



**Solid research**



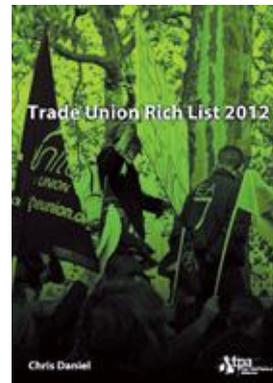
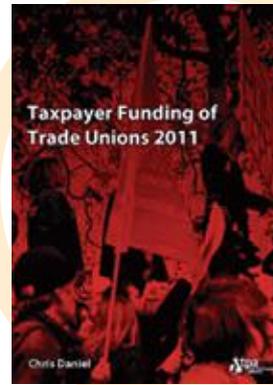
Over the last 12 years, the TaxPayers' Alliance has argued that taxpayers' money should not be used to subsidise trade unions.

Huge amounts of our cash is given to unions, either directly through funding or paid staff time at public sector bodies.

A number of bodies also automatically deduct trade union subscriptions through the payroll, often without charging the union for that process. It is wrong that taxpayers have seen their money used to subsidise trade unions, who organise strikes that disrupt services for which taxpayers already pay handsomely.

Our *Taxpayer Funding of Trade Unions* campaign was started in 2010 to expose taxpayers' subsidy of influential public sector trade unions, who are powerful advocates for higher public spending, higher taxes and burdensome regulation on business.

Our research has shown how trade unions received subsidies of over £100 million from taxpayers. This was made up of paid staff time, plus other direct payments.



There has been a great deal of strike activity just recently. London's tube network, Southern Rail and junior doctors have all been using heavy-handed tactics to get what they want.

But you often see banners against "the cuts" at such strikes, which suggests they may be trying to make broader political points by punishing taxpayers who use public services.

Not only has spending only come down by much smaller amounts than unions say, but our body of research – and the campaigns launched as a result – show that such action has been taken while unions have been subsidised by the very taxpayers from whom they withdraw services.



## Strategic communications



*The TaxPayers' Alliance was called to give evidence to the Trade Union Bill Committee*

Our reports were covered in almost every national newspaper as well as scoring hundreds of broadcast hits at a national and local level. That really helped to kick-start the debate – it was the first time these figures had been compiled so it moved many listeners to call in to their local stations to discuss it.



## RESULT

The Trade Union Bill received Royal Assent and became

### **The Trade Union Act in May 2016**

This is the culmination of years of campaigning and hard work by our campaign and research teams, as well as numerous letters, phone-calls and messages of support from our supporters.

The Trade Union Bill was introduced to Parliament in September 2015. In 2016 the Trade Union Act was published and included the following provisions:

- **Payroll deductions for trade union subscriptions will only be administered where the cost is not funded by the public**
- **Public sector employers will be required to publish facility time information detailing how many employees are union officials and how much time they spend on union duties.**
- **Industrial action can only go ahead when there has been a ballot turnout of at least 50%**



## Sustained campaigning

We then took our campaign out on the road, with action days in local areas such as Tameside, Greater Manchester.

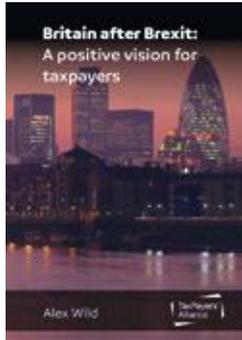
Local residents had no idea that their taxes were subsidising people to work for unions instead of delivering services and our campaigning helped to spread the message far and wide.





# Research highlights 2016

During 2016 the Research team produced 26 research papers including those shown below.



## Britain after Brexit

The United Kingdom has voted to leave the European Union so it is essential that politicians put together a plan for growth that ensures the security and stability of the economy. It should also be seen as an exciting opportunity to demonstrate that the UK is ready to do business in the booming global economy.



## Compensation claims made against Local Authorities

This research paper looks at compensation claims made against local authorities in England, Scotland and Wales in 2013-14 and 2014-15. It gives details of payments made by the authority or its insurers (including outstanding estimates) as well as details of the claim.

## Sugar Tax

Even though the government has called it the "Soft Drinks Industry Levy", the small print of the 2016 Budget concedes the cost will fall on consumers. We've produced research exposing the poor design of the tax, showing how international experience proves it won't work and explaining the folly of hypothecating the revenues.



## NHS Clinical Excellence Awards

This research compares the number and level of awards made to consultants employed by trusts given "outstanding" and "good" ratings by the Care Quality Commission in 2014 with the number and level of awards given to consultants at trusts deemed "inadequate".

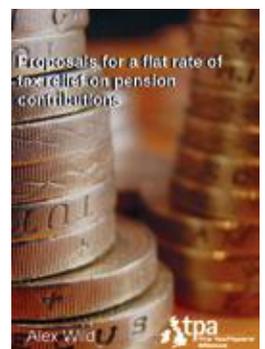
## Taxing tenants

Successive governments have not allowed enough houses to be built. But rather than addressing what is now a major crisis, the government has tried to pass the blame for their failure to landlords with a increases in stamp duty and restrictions on finance cost relief for individual landlords. Our research shows how these changes will advantage richer prospective buyers at the expense of poorer tenants.



## Proposals for a flat rate tax relief on pensions contributions

Switching to a flat rate of relief would further exacerbate the unfairness of a progressive tax system that sees those on volatile incomes taxed more heavily than those on steady incomes. The biggest losers would most likely be the 4 million self-employed who are older and closer to retirement than employees.



## Defence procurement

With the Ministry of Defence about to embark on its most expensive acquisition programme for decades our research reminded the MoD of its previous procurement debacles, most recently with the QE II aircraft carriers.

Read these and other research papers at  
[www.taxpayersalliance.com/research](http://www.taxpayersalliance.com/research)



## Nanny State Rich List

Our first ever *Nanny State Rich List* lifted the lid on the busybodies being paid huge sums of taxpayers' money to state the obvious. While there is a role for officials in delivering guidance on matters of public health, all too often these bureaucrats overstep the mark and patronise the people who pay their huge salaries.

## Working for the taxman

This paper shows how much longer someone on average earnings has to work to pay for an everyday purchase and how much of that time is spent working for the government to pay taxes – or at least the taxes that can be easily identified.



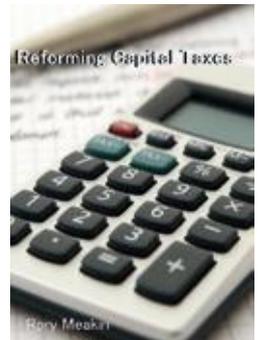
## Councillors' Allowances

Few would begrudge councillors receiving modest allowances appropriate for the work they do, but how can increases be justified at a time when services are being cut and bills are going up. Our research revealed a shocking disparity between the amounts councillors are paying themselves with some pocketing more than £16,000 a year plus expenses.



## Reforming capital taxes

Taxes on capital income are poorly designed. In particular, the UK corporate tax system is a mess, fundamentally designed for another age. It's in desperate need of comprehensive reform. Capital gains tax and corporation tax are taxes on income streams which are particularly harmful to economic performance. They should be abolished in their current form and replaced with an income tax that captures distributions, not profits.



## Scotland's overspending problem

With the Scottish Government trying to capitalise on the Brexit vote to secure a second independence referendum, we had a look at their public finances. The picture was not a pretty one with Scotland's deficit more than double that of the UK as a whole and even higher than that of Greece.



## Tax Gap

How cracking down on illicit trade could fund a 1p cut in the basic rate of Income Tax. *Measuring Tax Gaps* is an annual report looking at ways in which HMRC loses out on revenue from a range of direct and indirect taxes.

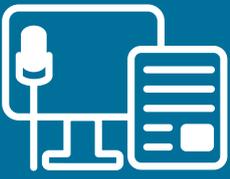


## Per person spending Factbook

Looking at Treasury documents detailing the billions the government spends can be baffling. Our per person spending factbook boils down some big fiscal numbers down to a level that people can understand.

Read our booklet here: [www.taxpayersalliance.com/factbook2016](http://www.taxpayersalliance.com/factbook2016)  
To request a Factbook call 020 7340 6021 or email [milly@taxpayersalliance.com](mailto:milly@taxpayersalliance.com)





# Media highlights 2016

Our media team excelled during 2016 with 119 National TV hits



Political Director Dia Chakravarty appearing on the Marr Show



Political Director, Dia Chakravarty, on BBC Question Time

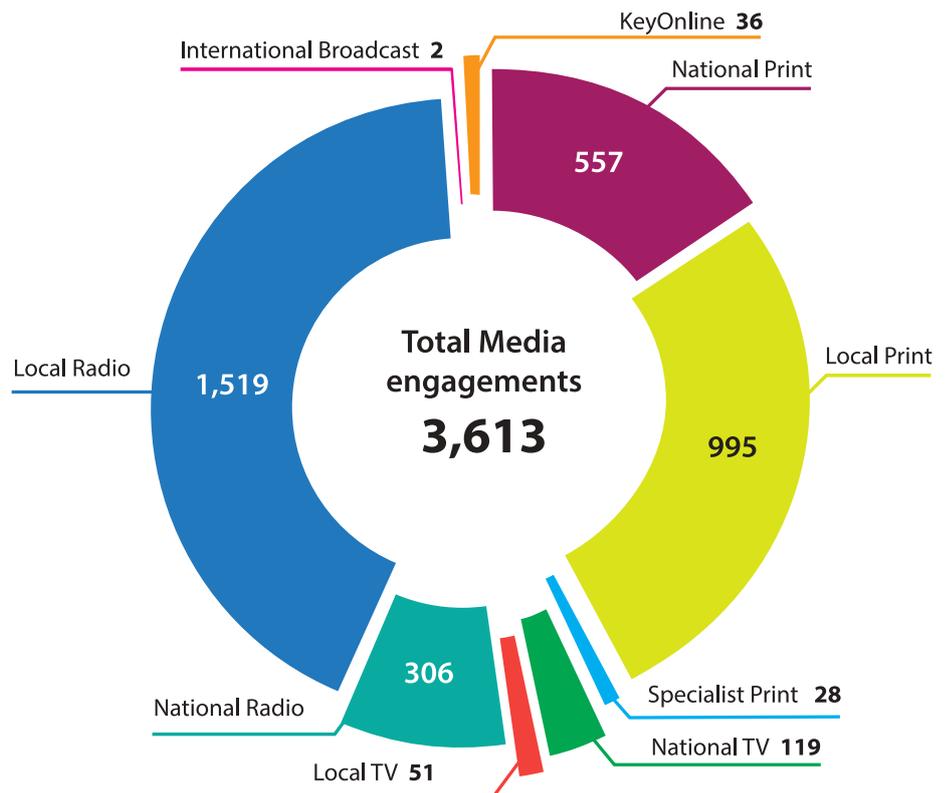


The TPA continues to receive an extraordinary amount of media coverage.

This chart shows the number of high quality media hits we scored in 2016 – we received countless more online hits, but this shows just how influential our research and campaigning is.

Our exposure in the media was during a very competitive year, what with Brexit and the US elections, so our staff really are delivering bang for the buck.

It also goes to show just how important the issues on which we campaign are and how much they matter to taxpayers in the UK.

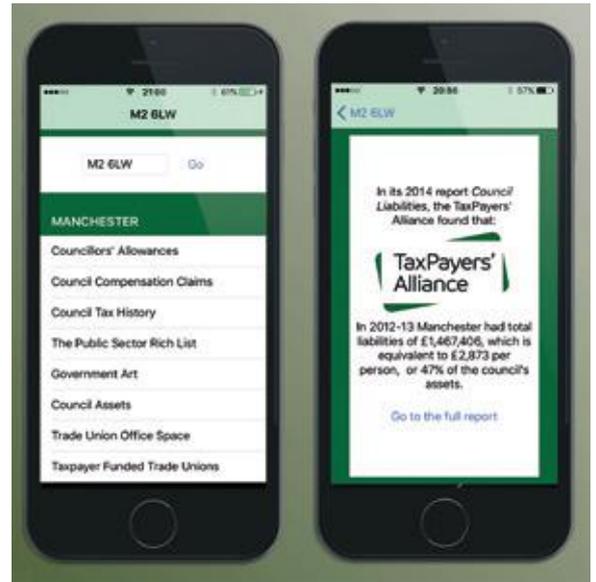


# YourTPA app

With technology playing an ever more important role in our lives, we wanted to make it easy for taxpayers to hold their local government to account. Transparency and public scrutiny is crucial for cutting out waste, so our brand new app 'YourTPA' allows anyone with a smartphone or tablet to examine the performance of their own council and find out if they are delivering value for taxpayers' hard earned money. The app was downloaded by thousands in a matter of days, and continues to be a success!

## 2016 *Daily Politics* app launch

Tom Banks, Campaign Manager, appeared on the *Daily Politics* show to exclusively launch the YourTPA app to the nation. Tom explained how the app works and gave a demonstration. Meanwhile, our Politics Director, Dia Chakravarty appeared live in the studio to discuss how the app brings transparency and accountability of councils to the taxpayer. Dia was joined by Martin Lewis, the Money Saving Expert, and Labour MP, Tristram Hunt.



- over 2,000 downloads on launch day
- to download YourTPA app email [grassroots@taxpayersalliance.com](mailto:grassroots@taxpayersalliance.com) or call Tom on 020 7998 1450



**Want to see where your tax goes?**



**Download YourTPA today to find out how your local council is spending your money.**




# Challenges ahead

Despite the numerous successes detailed in this report, there are still some big challenges ahead.

The vote to leave the EU must be seen as a golden opportunity to seize rather than something to fear – it is a chance to mend the public finances, streamline the state and reform taxes so that they are simpler and less burdensome.

That would make the UK's economy fit for the 21st century and in shape to compete in an increasingly globalised economy.

As we know, these are long term aims of the TPA anyway – so our message doesn't change, even if global circumstances do.



The Spending Plan was published in March 2015 after ten months of painstaking research

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

## Balancing the books

The TaxPayers' Alliance has the only fully costed plan to bring down public spending to levels that are sustainable and more conducive to economic growth. Again, *The Spending Plan* will form the basis of our campaign for more responsible government spending.

This review shows that many of the policies within it have been adopted but there are still many more to go. There are some 'big ticket' items that must be brought under control – and the TPA will be focusing our campaigning efforts on them in the years ahead:

- **Public sector pensions:** They are unsustainable in their current form. What's more, they are ensuring that our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren will be saddled with sky high taxes to pay for our bills
- **NHS:** It has become increasingly clear that simply throwing more taxpayers' money at the NHS is not the answer. To ensure universal healthcare, we need to enact reforms
- **Welfare:** One of the biggest items of government spending. The welfare system is still far too complicated, meaning taxpayers' money is wasted and some of the most vulnerable people in society do not get the support they need
- **Overseas aid:** The ludicrous spending target of 0.7% of GDP must be abolished. It is absurd to focus on inputs and not outcomes. With a new Secretary of State in place, we will aim to uncover areas of wasteful spending to help bring down the bills.

Of course, alongside a planned reduction in state activity politicians must also pursue a relentless **War on Waste**. While billions are still being squandered, the TPA will be turning up the pressure on government at all levels to remind them they have a duty of care with taxpayers' money:

- Our daily programme of unearthing items of wasteful spending and publicising them in the media will continue apace
- New local branches of the TPA will work with staff at our HQ to uncover wasteful spending in the regions, whether it is local councils, quangos or NHS Trusts.

### By how much did the last government actually cut spending?

	2010-11 (£bn)	2015-16 (£bn)	Percentage change
Public Sector current expenditure	683.9	682.7	- 0.2
Public Sector gross investment	82.1	73.1	- 11.0
Total managed expenditure	766.0	755.8	- 1.3

*The Spending Plan* policies achieved:

Policy 4: **abolish free TV licences**

Policy 6: **reduce the welfare cap to £20,000**

Policy 25: **scrap operating subsidies to TfL**

Policy 28: **abolish BIS and reassign necessary functions**

Policy 38: **reform patient list auditing to NHS "ghost patients"**

# Lower, simpler taxes

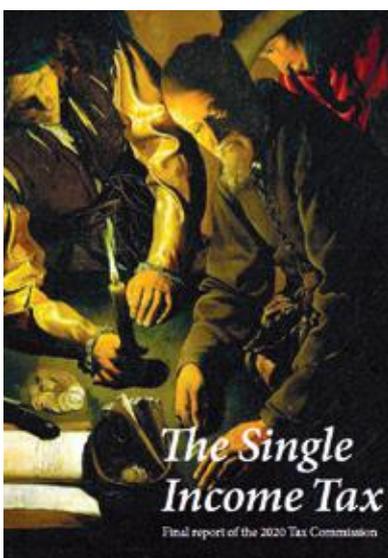


Many of our supporters run small businesses. They tell us that simpler taxes are just as important as lower taxes and that is part of the reason we undertook a comprehensive review of the tax system in 2012. *The Single Income Tax*, the final report of the 2020 Tax Commission, remains our intellectual platform upon which our campaign for tax reform is based.

The truth is that small businesses often don't have the resources to navigate the tax system. Bureaucrats are needed to monitor the rules which diverts taxpayers' money from other purposes and entrepreneurs with new commercial ideas are discouraged from starting new businesses.

So as well as pushing for the reforms we proposed in *The Single Income Tax*, we must be aware of new challenges ahead, such as:

- **Quarterly reporting:** Companies of all sizes may soon be asked to file tax returns four times a year instead of just once – adding huge costs for entrepreneurs who want to spend time innovating, not filling in forms
- **Business rates:** There have been enormous hikes in rates in London – we must remember that while it is a major global city, there are still thousands of independent businesses struggling to pay the bills
- **Apprenticeship levy:** Many companies offer excellent apprenticeship programmes without government interference. Proposals to tax companies with a pay bill over a certain size to fund mandated apprenticeships are misguided and burdensome
- **Corporation tax:** This is a tax no longer fit for the 21st century. If we want to put an end to the show trials of company executives we need to treat the disease, not the symptoms, and reform capital taxes
- **Stamp duty:** There are significant problems with Stamp Duty. Its structure and punitive rates mean that people choose not to move house when they otherwise might – when starting a family, downsizing or moving for work. This wildly distorts the housing market. We need to continue to make the case for cutting, and then abolishing, this pernicious tax.



The Single Income Tax was the award-winning final report of the 2020 Tax Commission

As a country our tax legislation is vast, complicated and growing; with each successive government the size of the UK tax code grows. A simpler, clearer and lighter tax system which is more understandable would close loopholes, encourage business growth and be easier to implement.

The 2016-17 edition of Tolley's Tax Guide comes in at a record 23,946 pages, making it one of the longest of tax legislation in the world.



# TaxPayers' Alliance

## What others say about us...



**Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP,  
Secretary of State for Communities  
and Local Government**

*"Since its inception, the TaxPayers' Alliance has made an important contribution to public debate and national campaigning."*

**Trevor Kavanagh,  
Political Columnist,  
The Sun**

*"The TaxPayers' Alliance is to public spending what Dyno-Rod is to the public drains – it probes the spent and occasionally corrupt waste of elected and unelected government officials. Its great service is to dig out the most shocking nuggets and, to the enormous gratitude of journalists, deliver them pristine and polished on a plate."*



**Tom Harris,  
Former Labour  
Minister**

*"The TaxPayers' Alliance has spent the last decade making life pretty uncomfortable for politicians and mandarins who like spending the public's money. We owe them a debt of gratitude for that."*

**Rt Hon Theresa May MP,  
Prime Minister**

*"It is vital that taxpayers have the necessary information to hold the Government to account, and over the years the TPA's efforts have helped to drive transparency. That means those who spend taxpayers' money will do so more carefully than ever before and for that I applaud the team at TPA for their efforts."*



**Rt Hon David Gauke MP,  
Chief Secretary to the Treasury**

*"At a time when there is no shortage of lobby groups calling for more public spending in particular areas, the TaxPayers' Alliance has been an invaluable corrective in defending the interests of taxpayers."*



**Rt Hon Michael Gove MP**

*"There is no doubt that the public purse is more carefully spent thanks to the TPA's work."*



# Meet the team to deliver our plans



*Tom Banks  
Campaign Manager*



*Emma Bennett  
Finance Director*



*Dia Chakravarty  
Political Director*



*Harry Davis  
Campaign Manager*



*Harry Fairhead  
Policy Analyst*



*Meg Hanks  
Operations Manager*



*James Price  
Policy Analyst*



*Sara Rainwater  
Operations Director*



*Milly Skriczka  
Development Manager*



*Alex Wild  
Research Director*

**Support  
us**



## Help us implement our plans

Our Research Director, Alex Wild, stays up through the night with his team after every Budget and Autumn Statement to produce instant analysis of the Chancellor's announcements. Dia Chakravarty, our Political Director, rose with the lark when we published our *Town Hall Rich List* in 2015 to take on 12 consecutive radio interviews while listeners enjoyed their breakfast. Tom Banks, our new Campaign Manager, has already hit the road, making several overnight stops, as he builds more local branches. We're so proud of what our team at the TPA has achieved on a modest budget. They are an extremely dedicated and hard-working group of people.

At the TPA, we hold ourselves to the same standards as we do the politicians and officials in the public sector. We rigorously monitor our budgeting and expenditure, always seeking a better deal. We have no debts and only spend what we raise from our supporters.

Many of you reading this review will be long-term financial supporters of ours. We hope this document shows that we deliver bang for the buck, as we fight the War on Waste and push for lower, simpler taxes.

Some of you may never have donated before. In which case, we hope you will consider joining our growing number of supporters who help keep up the fight for more responsible spending and lower, simpler taxes.

There are details of how you can help support the campaign on the page opposite – as ever, one of our dedicated team is on hand to help if you have any questions.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Allum".

*Andrew Allum, Chairman*

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John O'Connell".

*John O'Connell, Chief Executive*

**DONATE**

# Ways to give to the TaxPayers' Alliance

There are several ways in which you can make a donation to the TaxPayers' Alliance:

- 1.** Send a cheque made payable to **"The TaxPayers' Alliance"** to 55 Tufton Street, London, SW1P 3QL
- 2.** Call us on **020 7340 6021** to make a debit or credit card payment
- 3.** A Standing Order can be obtained from our Development Manager, Milly Skriczka, on **020 7340 6021** or **milly@taxpayersalliance.com**
- 4.** Via our website at **[www.taxpayersalliance.com/donate](http://www.taxpayersalliance.com/donate)**

Whatever you can afford, it will help us make a real difference – thank you!



## How your donation can help us make an impact

- £10,000** Supports a major research project investigating government waste
- £5,000** Sponsors our student volunteer programme
- £2,500** Helps us produce a hard-hitting online video to promote our plan
- £1,000** Covers the cost of a regional War on Waste tour
- £500** Funds a briefing event for opinion formers, journalists and politicians
- £250** Allows us to distribute a major report to 100 MPs
- £100** Provides leaflets for a local Action Day

**TaxPayers' Alliance**

Think tanks hit out over latest sugar tax plans

LAISE COOPER If tax doesn't have to be taxing, why is the system so insanely complex?

FURY AS FOREIGN AID TO HIT £1bn Warning on disaster help

Axed staff rehired by councils in £5bn spree

BENEFITS BILL MADNESS TAX CREDIT SAVING = £4.4BN HANDOUTS WASTE = £4.6BN

Teaching union boss threatens joint strike with junior doctors

Victims of the TV licence bully boys

BARONESS SCUPPER HOUSE

Banks face a new £5bn bill for PPI claims

Don't be fooled: the mansion tax will clobber most of us Alex Wild

Victory for the Mail as huge payoffs for public sector fat cats are banned

McFLOOD SCANDAL

Daily Mail COMMENT

PAYOUTS SO FAR

Public sector bosses demand huge pay rises

Scottish victims get triple the compo of the English

SUGAR TAX 'USELESS' CLAIM FAT LOT OF GOOD

EXPENSES MOCHA-RY

Fraudsters hacking online tax returns steal thousands

MILKING IT MP's are still claiming for luxuries Kinnock bought coffee milk frother

How I fell victim...

NEWLY ELECTED MP's have been blasted for milking the expenses systems yet again... STEPHEN KINNOCK £39 Milk frother