

VOTE TO

LEAVE

THE EU

The Cost to Britain of the EU



INFOGRAPHIC 1

Let us turn to the thorny – and let's face it – controversial issue of how much membership of the EU actually costs Britain.

The one thing that you can be assured of is that, whichever source or sources are quoted, their figures will be disputed and substituted with others supplied by either side of the EU in/out debate. This, of course, is due to the complex nature of working out such figures.

INFOGRAPHIC 2

One thing that we do know is that successive British Governments have consistently refused to instigate a comprehensive costs and benefits study in financial terms of our membership of the EU, despite motions being laid down in the Lords requesting just such a study.

One would think it ludicrous that such a financial costs and benefits analysis has never been commissioned by the British government, given the importance of this subject.

Even the smallest of local businesses carries out such research each year as its returns and performance are calculated for tax purposes, and yet the country with the fifth largest trading economy in the World has failed to investigate and publish the benefit or otherwise of EU membership to Britain year after year after year.

We can attempt to calculate the cost of both the direct cost to Britain due to our direct contributions, less the amount that we receive back through various grant and Regional development fund payments, but to that we must also add the massive cost of complying with EU generated regulations and directives.

INFOGRAPHIC 3

In simple terms, the latest figures from 2014 released by the OBR (Office for Budget Responsibility) show that Britain's contributions increased by £2.7bn between 2012 and 2013 alone, and had quadrupled since 2008.

Our net contributions after all sums received back through the schemes, such as the Single farm payment to farmers or the Regional development fund for the year 2013 to 2014, was £10.4bn. a figure estimated to rise to over £12bn this year

To put this figure into perspective, £10.4bn would build thirty-four 600 bed hospitals per year, or pay the wages of over 250,000 nurses or police officers during the same period.

There are those who would argue that membership of the EU brings with it financial benefits through participation in the single trading market, and no doubt it does, bearing in mind, of course, that this trading market would still be there if Britain left the EU and we continue to trade with the remaining EU countries, as of course we will, to the mutual benefit of those countries and ourselves.

One very important fact never mentioned by those advocating Britain's continued membership of the EU is the added indirect cost to our industry, trade, commerce and, of course, domestic household bills in addition to the direct net current fee of £10.4bn p.a.

It is estimated by sources including the UK government and the Financial Conduct Authority that just the top 100 regulations imposed on member countries by the EU are currently costing Britain £33.3bn pa through such legislation as the Renewable Energy Strategy, the EU Climate and Energy package and the Working Time Directive.

The massive yearly cost of EU regulation on the 95% of British businesses that do not even export to other EU countries is incalculable.

INFOGRAPHIC 4 (SHOPPING BILL)

Let's not also, forget to add the cost to each individual household in Britain through increased grocery bills, estimated to be over £400 a year, caused by the Common Agricultural Policy blocking the import of cheaper imported food to these shores – yet another consequence of EU membership.

We have become accustomed to hearing David Cameron and his coterie telling us how he will be renegotiating a better deal with the EU before holding the in/out referendum.

Well, let's just remind ourselves about Cameron's previous record in standing up for this country's interests with regard to the ever-increasing financial demands of the EU on the British taxpayer, you and I.

I'm sure that we all remember in February 2013 one David Cameron returning from Brussels in almost Chamberlain-like fashion shouting from the rooftops that he had engineered the first cut in the EU's budget in it's 56 year history.

"I wonderful," I'm sure that we all thought at the time, as the Conservative party went into overdrive shouting their David's wonderful achievement from the rooftops: less money to hand over and more of our own money to spend at home.

Well, I'm afraid that, as with any Europhiles claims, there is, and of course there was, the inevitable catch, the sting in the tail, you might say. What our prime Minister had omitted to tell us was that he did indeed negotiate a cut in the EU's budget. Unfortunately, he did forget to mention that this new budget deal cost Britain an extra £700m whilst reducing the bill for virtually every other EU country.

And as we now know the much vaunted budget cut has since been overturned anyway.

What a result!

INFOGRAPHIC 6

Who can forget, in October of 2014, the EU demanding off Britain a surcharge of £1.7bn after recalculating our gross national income, including ludicrously taking into account estimates of turnover of the prostitution and illicit drug dealing industry in this country. How one can actually calculate these figures is anyones guess.

If you recall, our prime minister responded with an outburst of "over my dead body". Our chancellor followed up with claims of negotiating a 50% cut in this surcharge and, of course, as we now know both chancellor and Prime Minister remained uncharacteristically quiet as they handed over the full £1.7bn to the ever-grasping coffers of the EU in the Summer of 2015.

I think it's worth remembering that the EU's justification of this extra £1.7bn surcharge was that Britain's economy was doing much better than other EU countries. We are, of course, currently running a £90 billion annual deficit.

The Germans and French? They both received £780m and £800m rebates respectively, while Britain was handing over our extra £1.7bn.

And so it goes on, another extra demand for £384m has just dropped on the mat for a contribution towards helping the EU deal with the migrant crisis, in the same week that it was revealed that the UK has already contributed £1.1bn in one year alone towards those affected by the Syrian civil war.

Where will it all end?

INFOGRAPHIC 7

Only when the majority of British voters realise that getting only 50% of your contributions handed back to you is not actually an EU grant but an EU tax and a large tax at that

It's time we left!

ENDS