

# TAKE ACTION

The UK is at heart of the 'offshore' system that allows companies to dodge tax. It's time for the UK to stop fuelling tax dodging around the world.

## The UK must:

- **Abolish the UK's network of tax havens**, ending their secrecy that allows multinational companies to suck profits out of countries around the world.
- **Introduce a General Anti-Avoidance Principle to recover as much as £5.5 billion every year**, and give HMRC a powerful tool to take on tax avoiders like Amazon, Google and Starbucks.
- **Stop the cuts to HMRC** and invest in a strong and effective workforce to eliminate tax avoidance and tax evasion.

## What you can do:

- Email your MP, and ask them to write to George Osborne demanding the UK stops fuelling tax dodging – visit [waronwant.org/tax](http://waronwant.org/tax)
- Order more copies of this leaflet and other campaign materials for your events, stalls, student unions, union branches, local groups, family and friends – [waronwant.org/materials](http://waronwant.org/materials)
- If you've got more time, set up a meeting with your MP – meeting them face to face is one of the most powerful ways of influencing MPs

**Confused by tax, finance and austerity?  
Join a reading group and find out more.**

[EconoWhat.org.uk](http://EconoWhat.org.uk)



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# STOP THE UK FUELLING TAX DODGING

## In the UK...

The UK government is slashing spending on vital public services and welfare, increasing poverty and inequality. At a time when vulnerable people are bearing the brunt of the cuts, the UK government is making it easier for multinational companies to cut their tax bills.

Every year the UK government loses out on £25 billion in revenue to tax avoidance by large companies and rich individuals. These tax dodgers act as giant parasites, sucking profits out and leaving the rest of society paying the price.

Cameron and Osborne have been talking tough on tax. But rather than making it harder for companies to avoid tax, the government has already changed the UK's tax laws to make it easier for companies to shift profits through tax havens in an enormous tax giveaway to some of the UK's largest companies.

This year the government is introducing new changes which would give a green light to companies to avoid paying billions in tax. The government's plans wouldn't even stop high profile corporate tax dodgers like Amazon, Google and Starbucks.

The government claims they are making tackling tax avoidance one of their top priorities. Instead they are building a tax system where only the little people pay.

## ...and around the world

All countries need tax revenue to fund vital public services like healthcare and education, and to redistribute wealth to tackle poverty and inequality. One of the biggest barriers to doing this is tax dodging by multinational companies shifting their profits into tax havens.

A staggering £20 trillion is now held by rich individuals in 'secrecy jurisdictions,' better known as tax havens. This sum is equivalent to more than 13 times the annual output of the UK economy. If this money was taxed instead it could generate as much as £180 billion a year in tax revenue, more than twice the amount rich countries spend on overseas aid.

Multinational companies are only able to do this because they are allowed to – it is the tax rules of countries like the UK that allow them to dodge tax on such a massive scale. The UK plays a central role in this 'offshore' system, with its own network of island jurisdictions such as Jersey and the Cayman Islands ranking among some of the most significant tax havens in the world.

The UK's network of tax havens allows multinational companies to act as corporate parasites, sucking profits out of countries around the world.

# DEMAND TAX JUSTICE NOW!