



The Councils for Fair Tax Declaration

Mary Patel, The Fair Tax Mark



Fair Tax

Further information at:

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About the Fair Tax Mark

- Launched February 2014
- Established as a not-for-profit social enterprise
- “Tax” UK public’s number 1 corporate concern since 2013
- Everyone not ‘at it’ – how identify the good guys?
- Three accreditation standards now, and soon to go ‘international’
- Relationship with church groups v. important



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ACCREDITED COMPANIES

						
						
						
						
						
						
						



The problem...

- **Tax avoidance at an epic scale**
 - IMF: costing developing world \$100-\$300bn a year
 - Between 2014-19, 17.5% of UK public procurement by value – combined value of £37.5bn - won by businesses with connections to tax havens
- **Some positive change**
 - The 100yr consensus has broken down: current international and national tax rules mostly conceived in early 20th century
 - Global framework on digital taxation of multinationals
 - UK govt closed some loopholes & clamping down
- **Still rampant**
 - £7bn p.a. lost corporation tax due to profit shifting – UK
- **How change?**
 - No one solution: individuals, groups, business, govt, international collaboration all plays a part
 - Recognise & celebrate the good conduct



Fair Tax: broader influencing

- Councils for Fair Tax Declaration launched July '19
- 'Fair Tax Lockdown' – lock in responsible tax conduct as condition of Govt financial support. More effective than the weak 'tax haven ban' route used by e.g. Scotland, Denmark.
- 'Tax' becoming an important corporate social responsibility issue
- Investor engagement - SRI managers inc. churches in dialogue about meaningful engagement criteria
- Going international end 2020 – consulting now, all information on our website <https://fairtaxmark.net/consultation-on-global-corporate-standards-for-responsible-tax-conduct/>



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Why local action matters

- **Brings individuals together:** Fairtrade Towns, Living Wage Places
- **Global to local:** complex problems to local level
- **£ & influence:** councils spend more than £45bn per year with third party suppliers in England alone
- **Councils want to do more. ‘Sourced’ campaign**
 - With Christian Aid (& Joffe Trust support)
 - Success: new legislation requiring local councils to scrutinise tax affairs of companies doing business with
 - But: only ask whether a company has been involved in illegal tax practices





Councils for Fair Tax Declaration



Councils standing up for responsible tax practices – commit to:

- ✓ good tax conduct in own affairs
- ✓ demand greater transparency of suppliers
- ✓ support Fair Tax Week
- ✓ certify own businesses to FTM
- ✓ join calls for reform of procurement rules

How? Pass a motion (sample one on our website) & ideally report on activity annually



“Just as we pay a real Living Wage and champion Fair Trade, shining a light on Fair Tax is a responsibility I’m pleased to take on.”

Labour & Co-operative
Councillor Tom Hayes, Oxford



“By signing up to this initiative we are leading by example and demonstrating good practice.”

Conservative Councillor John
Holdich OBE, Leader of
Peterborough City Council



What individuals & groups can do



Ideas

- ✓ Find out more on our website – download short Councils guide
- ✓ Write to your local councillors – template email & letter on our website
- ✓ Get local businesses to pursue Fair Tax Mark
- ✓ Support Tax Justice Sunday & Fair Tax Week 2021 (June)
- ✓ Creative campaigning – craftivism?



<https://www.fairtaxmark.net/councils>



Contact details

Email local@fairtaxmark.net

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Thank you!



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