

CITY COUNCIL

23 MARCH 2015

MOTION ON NOTICE



PLYMOUTH
CITY COUNCIL

TOWNS AGAINST TAX DODGING

The council notes:

- (a) It has been estimated that the UK Treasury loses as much as £12 billion to tax dodging by multinational companies every year. Developing countries lose three times more to tax havens than they receive in aid each year - enough to give a basic education to the 57 million children currently missing out.
- (b) The UK has a particular responsibility to end tax dodging, as it is responsible for 1 in 5 of the world's tax havens in the British Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies.
- (c) The use of tax havens by UK companies is rife, with 98 of the FTSE 100 companies routinely using tax havens.
- (d) Large multinational companies pay as little as 5% in corporate taxes globally, while smaller businesses pay up to 30%.

This council believes:

- (1) As a local authority we have a duty to provide the best possible public services.
- (2) Our ability to provide quality local services would be significantly enhanced by the increased revenues from the government tackling tax dodging.
- (3) All who benefit from public spending should contribute their fair share.
- (4) The UK must take a lead role in creating a fairer tax system and combatting tax dodging.

This council resolves:

a) To support the campaign for tax justice, supporting the motion:

“While many ordinary people face falling household income and rising costs of living, some multinational companies are avoiding billions of pounds of tax from a tax system that fails to make them pay their fair share. Local governments in developing countries and the UK alike would benefit from a fairer tax system where multinational companies pay their fair share, enabling authorities around the world to provide quality public services. The UK government must listen to the strength of public feeling and act to end the injustice of tax dodging by large multinational companies, in developing countries and the UK. This Council resolves to write to the political party leaders to call on them to pledge support for a Tax Dodging Bill in the first 100 days of parliament after the general election.”

Proposed by Councillor Mark Lowry

Seconded by Councillor Philippa Davey

Dated 12 March 2015