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Welcome

The TaxPayers' Alliance is entering an unprecedented period in our history.

The government under Liz Truss openly committed to a pro-growth and low tax programme – though many of the positive policies announced in September's Growth Plan have now been chucked. As we warned, welcome tax changes had to be balanced with a plan for getting spending under control. We should always live within taxpayers' means.

The backdrop for the Prime Minister and Chancellor is challenging, to put it mildly. War in Europe, markets coming to terms with a post-covid world and central banks finally putting a stop to cheap money means that there are likely to be some tough choices ahead.

But it's vital that taxpayers' interests are placed at the heart of their decisions. After furlough and the energy bills plan, it will be all too easy for some to think that we can ignore reality – that the state can easily solve every single problem possible.

It's nonsense, of course. Taxpayers tend to pick up the tab somewhere along the line. It may not be right away; our children or grandchildren will likely pay later to keep us in the manner in which we are now accustomed.

Our work in 2022 was underpinned by that very message. Our research, communications and campaigning work shone a bright light on billions of pounds of wasted money.

The TPA team yet again excelled itself, producing hard-hitting analysis, taking to the airwaves and pounding the pavement all over the country.

It's a pleasure to take this opportunity to thank the TPA staff for all of their effort. We remain in admiration of their dedication to the campaign.

As well as leading the charge on the national insurance hike, we have produced a dynamic model of the tax system, which analyses the impact of tax changes on growth, investment and wages over 10 years.

That is the kind of thinking that we need to keep flying the flag for sensible tax cuts and pro-growth policies.

The ambition for 2023 has to be bigger. We need to sign up more supporters to the cause, spread the message even more widely and make sure that we, as Britain's Waste Watchdog, continue to have teeth. We have to keep making the case that politicians and bureaucrats have to live within taxpayers' means.

All of that crucial work will only be possible thanks to you and others like you. If you're already a supporter, then tell your friends about what we do. We're always delighted to welcome new people on board.

We are so grateful for your backing and our team will work even harder in 2023 to make the case for responsible spending and lower taxes.



Mike Senham

Mike Denham, Chairman



John O'Comel

John O'Connell, Chief Executive

Our team



Phil Basey Head of Research



Emma BennettFinance Director



Benjamin ElksFundraising, Operations and Events
Assistant



Dr Mike Jones Researcher



Elliot KeckInvestigations Campaign Manager



Sara RainwaterOperations Director



James RobertsManaging Director



Tom Ryan Researcher



Duncan SimpsonChief Economist



Joe VentreDigital Campaign Manager

New horizons ahead...

A few members of the team have taken up exciting new roles in government, in the City and beyond. We wish them well in their new adventures!



Danielle Boxall



Harry Fone



Darwin Friend



Scott Simmonds

Our model

Our tried-and-tested model of campaigning has delivered a number of policy victories over the years. It's a three-pronged approach which is unique and successful.

1. Solid research

Robust, easy to understand facts and figures – the foundation of all our campaigns and policy initiatives.

2. Strategic communications

Our team is available 24/7 – promoting our work and ideas in traditional media and online platforms is key.

3. Sustained campaigning

Combining work in Westminster with grassroots campaigning across the UK – this is what makes us stand out from the rest.





Print Broadcast Online 5,040 800 948 762 3,440 486 NEWS $\overline{\mathbf{M}}$ 2021 2022 2021 2022 2021 2022

Year in numbers

Research

Research papers 32

FOI requests sent 2,655

Communications

Op-eds published 42

Press releases sent out 74

Total media hits 5,656

People reached **322 million**

Ad value

£16 million

Campaigning

Blogs 51

Videos produced 116

Video views **566,000**+

Social media followers 47,162

People reached 3.6 million

Grassroots

Action days 15

Petition signatures 72,236

Our dynamic tax model

Our new dynamic tax model challenges the conventional wisdom that lower taxes mean lower revenues and makes the case for tax cuts in the media.

Analysing the NI hike

Working with leading econometricians, our model was completed in March and we wasted no time in putting it into action.

Ahead of the spring statement, we deployed the model to demonstrate just how badly the 1.25 per cent hike in national insurance would affect the economy.

As seen on the pages of the *Times* and *Daily Mail*, we predicted that the UK economy would lose £24 billion in 10 years.

Our figures also showed that the UK will lose £6 billion of investment and see wages £5 per week lower than they would have been without the hike. This means that two-thirds of the amount expected to be raised by the tax rise could be lost through lower growth.

What is a dynamic model?

Unlike a static model – which only focuses on changes to tax revenue for HM Treasury – a dynamic model takes into consideration how tax changes may affect behaviour and incentives.





The potential of tax cuts

As the cost of living crisis started to bite and Rishi Sunak introduced a windfall tax, we were quick to give him some low-tax alternatives to help families.

Using an op-ed in the *Daily Mail* in May, we highlighted findings from our model which showed that cutting the basic rate of income tax to 15p would **boost GDP by a massive 1.5 per cent**.

In June, we revealed new economic modelling, which suggested that – by cutting VAT and income tax, raising the national insurance threshold and scrapping the rise – GDP would increase by a whopping £56 billion by 2029.

In a major op-ed in *The Sun*, our Chief Executive John O'Connell highlighted our findings, which showed that cutting taxes would boost growth.

Modelling cuts in fuel duty

We also used the model to analyse how reducing fuel duty to the EU average would create £18 billion of additional GDP over 10 years.

Further use of the model showed that if the UK permanently cut fuel duty to the level of Hungary (which has the lowest level in the EU), **GDP would be £26 billion higher and investment £6 billion higher**.

We know that tax cuts encourage growth and we'll continue using the dynamic tax model to prove just that!

Fighting high taxes

With the tax burden at a 70 year high and a recession looming, we've had a lot of battles to fight this year. And whilst it's been challenging, we have produced important research and secured vital wins in our struggle against the high tax orthodoxy of the treasury.

Autumn Budget

At the end of last year, the then Chancellor, Rishi Sunak, laid out his Budget to the nation. We pored over the details and shockingly revealed that the tax burden was **due to reach a 73 year high**. The BBC led their Budget coverage with our analysis.

There were, though, some important wins for taxpayers. Cuts were announced to business rates and revaluations changed to every three years – something we've long called for. Simplification and cuts to alcohol duties were also welcome, coming off our Quids Inn campaign.

Lifetime tax bill hits £1.1 million

In January, we updated our popular research note on the "lifetime tax" – the combination of direct taxes, such as income tax, council tax and national insurance, and indirect taxes, like alcohol duties, insurance premium tax and VAT. Our analysis revealed that the lifetime tax bill for average households reached over £1.1 million in 2019-20, and that the lower 20 per cent of earners will now work for 23.5 years to pay off this bill.





We developed an online calculator which allowed people to estimate how much tax they would pay in their lifetime, and our message reached millions across print, broadcast and online news outlets. It was front page news and on ITV's popular political show, Peston. It's great to see that our message is reaching more and more people every day.

March madness

March was a busy month for us. Kicking it off, our Chief Executive appeared in front of the treasury select committee, which was examining the tax burden. John g ave a straight-talking assessment of the strain that taxes like business rates and employer national insurance place on firms small and large, and outlined the simple truth that any tax rises on businesses are inevitably paid by the people who work for, own or use them.

Later in the month, we were busy reacting to the Rishi's spring statement. Some of the measures announced were welcome – an increase in the national insurance threshold, a 5p drop in fuel duty, and 1p off the basic rate of income tax in a few years' time. We have long campaigned for the NI threshold increase in particular, and this is a big stride forward to simplifying our ridiculously complicated tax system.

Despite the positives, taxpayers were still getting a bad deal! Our rapid analysis found that existing tax rises announced before the spring statement would more than wipe out the cuts and see **the average worker lose £679 by 2025-26**.

We also immediately began calling for the income tax cut to be brought forward and doubled to help people with the cost of living crisis. We set up an online petition so taxpayers could back our call, which thousands of people signed!

Keeping up the pressure over the summer

Figures released from HMRC revealed it collected nearly **£720 billion in taxes** last year, an increase of 25 per cent on the previous year.

We didn't delay in issuing calls for Rishi Sunak to give taxpayers some much-needed respite. In our comments, which made the front pages of the *Daily Telegraph* and *Express*, we pointed out that the Chancellor's income tax threshold freeze is effectively a stealth tax dragging unsuspecting taxpayers into higher brackets.

Update: the Single Income Tax

In 2012, we launched our seminal report, *The Single Income Tax*. It called for fundamental reform of Britain's tax system, replacing a complex swathe of direct taxes with a single tax on all income charged at a single rate of 30 per cent.

This year, we revisited the seven principles which form its basis and explored the policy reforms on each tax area which could take the UK tax system towards a Single Income Tax.





ves fear disaster at the polls over high



Responding to the announcement that the government will scrap the Health and Social Care Levy, John O'Connell, chief executive of the TaxPayers' Alliance, said:

"It's long past time that the government abandoned this punishing tax hike on working people

"It never made any sense to introduce a law which and decombine to jobs and growth, just





National insurance rise

TaxPayers' Alliance

PRESS RELEASE

TaxPayers' Alliance responds to chancellor's emergency statement

Responding to the emergency statement by the new chancellor, John O'Connell, chief executive of the TaxPayers' Alliance, said

The light at the end of the economic tunnel has now been extinguished by this chancellor.

"Millions of hard-hit households who were desperate for an income tax cut are now facing many more months of financial misery.

"To get a grip on this crisis, the government needs to lay out a serious plan for necessary spending reductions, including means-testing energy support measures."

Truss's tax cut turmoil

Tax cuts came thick and fast in the new government's fiscal event at the end of September, part of their "Growth Plan 2022".

We welcomed a number of wins on issues we have long campaigned for and responded to major new policies:

- Celebrated the cut in the basic rate of income tax to 19p
- Relieved to see the health and social care levy scrapped
- Welcomed the increase to the stamp duty threshold
- Analysed the impact of the reversal of the corporation tax rise
- Warned that more commitments were needed to control spending
- Slammed the outrageously expensive energy support scheme

We knew that – despite our calls for lower taxes – the government couldn't do it all without looking at the other side of the ledger – spending.

After the budget, we delivered a live briefing to the media, attended by journalists from a host of major news organisations. At the event, we warned that spending would have to come under control for it to work, mirroring what our press release from earlier in the day said.

Lacking a credible plan to get the cost of government crisis under control, market turmoil prompted drastic rowing back. And by mid-October, a new chancellor, with a new – remarkably different – approach, which included scrapping the 1p cut to income tax.

Ahead of the Medium-Term Fiscal Plan, Jeremy Hunt shredded the mini-budget, the government lay in disarray and tax rises were being threatened. We once again warned that the government needs to lay out a serious plan for necessary spending reductions.

Online sales tax

In the middle of a cost of living crisis, the last thing people need is another tax!

In February, the government launched a consultation on an online sales tax. We immediately warned against yet another tax being introduced in the midst of a cost of living crisis.

This new tax – potentially covering all online purchases from shopping to takeaways – would add an extra burden to households' online bills. The poorest and most vulnerable would be most affected, adding £151 to shopping bills.

Using all possible avenues, including getting out on the ground and speaking to local street food stalls in Shoreditch, we spread the word about this damaging tax rise.

Our digital team leapt into action, making a quick and easy-to-use tool which allowed people to send a lightning-fast response to the government, telling them what a terrible idea the levy is. Over **3,000** people used our tool to help oppose a **£2.3 billion tax hike** on household shopping.

Whilst the jury's still out on an online sales tax, the TPA will never give up the fight against the introduction of yet another tax!





Axe the Tax

Our Axe the Tax campaign on the BBC licence fee launched in 2020, and it seems the government is finally listening!

Last October we released a landmark blueprint for scrapping the licence fee and privatising Channel 4. It really made a splash and our team took to the airwaves to hammer the message home.

In January, the government announced a two year freeze in the licence fee – welcome relief for taxpayers facing the cost of living crisis. This was followed by a pledge to scrap the TV tax altogether in 2028.

Whilst this was certainly welcome news, our quick fire research found **742,518 people could be prosecuted** for not paying the licence fee before it gets abolished. Richard Holden MP used our number to challenge BBC execs during a public accounts committee hearing. We also descended on Broadcasting House in protest!

But there was more good news to come. With our relentless campaigning for Channel 4 to be privatised, in April the government confirmed it would do just that. Our team was out providing expert analysis and highlighting the many benefits of privatisation, notably revenues of £5 billion.

We won't rest until these plans are actually delivered.

War on Waste

Rooting out wasteful government spending – it's what we do best. Whether it's trawling Whitehall accounts, poring over councillors' allowances, or sending freedom of information requests, we never leave a stone unturned. Britain has a cost of government crisis, and – with the TPA as the UK's waste watchdog – there's nowhere for wasteful spenders to hide.

Over the next few pages, you will see just a fraction of the waste we have found so far this year.

Woeful waste in the NHS

- In an exclusive with the *Daily Telegraph*, we revealed that NHS trusts spent **more than £3.3 million** on 762 expenses-paid trips abroad for employees and there were 239 overseas recruitment drives targeting 15 countries.
- As part of an exclusive with the *Daily Mail* our research found that NHS trusts in England waste nearly £220 million a year on overpriced gas and electricity. We also discovered that disparities in laundry costs between hospitals leave room for millions more in potential savings.
- ▶ In another exclusive with the Daily Telegraph, we exposed £740,000 of taxpayer cash that was spent on printing staff magazines, which included articles on things totally unrelated to healthcare – like one on Islamic art!

The Daily Telegraph

NHS spent over £700,000 in taxpayer cash on 'virtue-signalling' staff magazines

Investigation finds 69 NHS trusts produced stylish human resources-themed pamphlets, with vast sections unrelated to health or patients

The Daily Telegraph

NHS hospitals spending more on spin doctors despite record-high waiting lists

Investigation reveals £57 million spent last year on communications including 1,000 officers - amid mounting crisis on the front line



Civil servants spend £8m paying interest on invoices that they failed to settle on time

Public bodies are supposed to pay all bills within 30 days of receipt and are liable to interest charges when they fail

Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

Belfast Telegraph

Revealed: NI council spent almost £15,000 on refreshments for members in one year







THE PRICE OF PANIC

SENEWS U





Did you know that councils spent almost £15 MILLION on public artwork since 2019?

We've selected some of the most questionable displays for this competition to decide Britain's worst council art. 2

Cast your vote here!

taxpayersalliance.com/councilart





Canterbury street art at Kingsmead Field development shortlisted in worst piece of council-funded artwork competition

The Telegraph

Benefit overpayments cost taxpayer £300m last year

The annual total is up a third, and cannot be recovered, leading to calls for the Government to get the problem under control

By Daniel Martin, DEPUTY POLITICAL EDITOR

In my new role as Investigations Campaign Manager, I've helped uncover at least £626 million in wasteful spending. Every little helps.



Elliot Keck Investigations Campaign Manager

Councils squandering your cash

- As well as waste, we uncover hypocrisy. In an exclusive with the i newspaper, we revealed that **more than** £5 million was spent by local authorities converting grass verges into parking spaces in the past two years, despite 23 of the 39 councils in question declaring a "climate emergency".
- We found that Bristol city council staff racked up enough air miles over the past three years to fly to the moon, and Coventry council spent more than £12,000 on "twinning" with a Russian city.
- And we obtained figures which showed that councils in Northern Ireland spent more than £30,000 on refreshments for council meetings in 2021-22.

Wall-to-wall waste in Westminster

- We revealed that the number of civil servants on special 'home-working' contracts has almost tripled, from 183 in 2019-20 to **530 in 2021-22**.
- Dur research found that the civil service lost £348.5 **million** worth of working time due to sickness absence in 2019-20, and the Ministry of Defence lost **100,000 working days** from staff who refused to produce a sick note.
- During the past three years, we found that the total amount of interest accrued by Whitehall departments, executive agencies and non-ministerial departments was at least £8,135,000 for simply not paying their bills on time.

Wasteful wokery

- In addition to general wasteful spending in the NHS, we uncovered multiple stories of money spent on "wokery", including **over £800,000** on "gender-neutral" toilets (*Daily Mail*) and **£46,000** on LGBT rainbow crossings. We also uncovered at least 17 open jobs for diversity and inclusion roles in the NHS alone, adding up to almost **£1 million in annual salaries**.
- The NHS also blew **over £1 million on "woke groups"** for staff. This made the front page of the *Daily Mail*, and we had our investigation lead hitting the airwaves to discuss the story with two GB News appearances.
- We discovered that Network Rail's Director of Diversity & Inclusion rakes in £164,000 a year − that's more than the Prime Minister! HMRC was recently also on the hunt to hire 3 new diversity & inclusion managers on salaries up to £50,000 each.
- We also found that woke Whitehall has spent more than £200,000 on gender-neutral toilets since 2018.
- ▶ And we found that councils has spent more than £200,000 on "woke" pedestrian crossings since 2019. Bristol city council spent £7,161 repainting a crossing in rainbow colours of the LGBT+ movement and Transport for London spent £13,700 on a crossing in Regent Street that was there for only two months.





Quids in at the quangos

- Our analysis found that quangos have ploughed more than £31 million of taxpayers' cash into social media advertising since 2019.
- We found that the Arts Council doled out over £284,000 to a group called the Bureau of Silly Ideas in two years.

Worst of the rest

- In an exclusive with the Daily Express, we discovered that more than £112 million was spent on overseas aid projects in India and Pakistan last year − including almost £12 million to promote contraception.
- We found that the Scottish government spent nearly 50 per cent more on the 2021 census than England or Wales – 41p per person compared to 28p. Around £2.3 million had been spent on advertising the census in Scotland. Our findings made the front page of The Times.
- We discovered that almost half a million pounds had been spent by the Home Office to help make convicted criminals feel at home after they are deported back to Jamaica.
- Our FOI request found that police forces across the UK investigated 133 cases of offensive social media posts.
- ➤ Another one of our FOI requests found that Transport for London spent nearly £45,000 on commemorative merchandise ahead of the opening of the Elizabeth Line, most of which was doled out free to volunteers.

Grassroots

With the easing of covid restrictions our team was raring to go and get back out across the country.

Challenging Havering council

We kicked things off in Havering in February, when word reached us that the council was planning to hike council tax despite having created two additional cabinet positions at a cost of £58,712. Our own research also found that the council was paying an eye-watering £452,000 a year to councillors for Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs).

Our team took to the streets delivering leaflets and securing signatures to try and put a stop to this wanton spending and excessive tax rise.

Thanks to TPA pressure, the council agreed to cut SRAs by 15%, saving local taxpayers £77,000. The council is now on notice that wasteful spending will not go down well with residents!





Town Hall Rich List Roadshow

In April, we published the 15th edition of our **Town Hall Rich List**. Sadly, the report made grim reading for local taxpayers. Our research revealed that in 2020-21, **2,921** local council bosses received more than **£100,000** in total remuneration and **739** received more than **£150,000**!

Topping our rich list was Jo Negrini, the former chief executive of Croydon council. Jo received a whopping £613,895, despite the fact that Croydon council went bankrupt on her watch!

The shocking figures featured far and wide in the media, in local newspapers from Cornwall to Clackmannanshire, across the national newspaper front pages, and with an op-ed in the *Daily Express*.

We were also heard loud and clear on the airwaves across Britain. Our research featured around-the-clock on radio news bulletins across all regions.

Our team hit the road, taking our findings directly to the high streets of Britain. We visited Kent, Northumberland, Lincolnshire, Dorset, Cardiff, the West Midlands, and Croydon, gathering nearly 10,000 signatures for our **Stop Council Tax Rises** petition.

Everywhere we went, local ratepayers all had the same message, **'enough is enough'**. Taxpayers are sick and tired of paying through the nose for senior council bosses and not getting value for money.

We will continue to hold councils all across the nation accountable.

Fighting a golden goodbye in Northumberland

We were keeping a very close eye on Northumberland county council after its finance officer ruled that the chief executive, Daljit Lally, had received unlawful payments. Having repeatedly called for the money to be repaid, we were shocked to hear that Ms. Lally was in line for a £209,000 golden goodbye!

Naturally, we didn't delay in putting together a campaign.

Ahead of an extraordinary general meeting, we called on all councillors to sign our No Payout Pledge and block excessive payouts to council officers who have let down local taxpayers. Just two (out of 67) signed the pledge!

We held a protest outside Northumberland county council's offices on the day of the meeting. Officials wanted to approve the payout behind closed doors but thanks to pressure from the TPA this decision was reversed and the meeting was open to the public.

Our campaign was covered extensively in the local press and was even picked up by the Daily Mail, pushing the outrageous story to the nation.

Sadly, the council approved the massive payout, but we sent a clear message to councils that we will fight them every step of the way if they're wasting taxpayer's money.

We also won't stand for a lack of transparency in local government. Excluding the press and public from council meetings is shameful. Other local authorities have been put on notice!



executive Daljit Lally ahead of a crunch meeting at Northumberland County Hall.



Updates from around the country

We're not only reaching hundreds of people on the ground through our grassroots outreach, but tens of thousands of people online, too.

We produce regular grassroots video updates highlighting some egregious wasteful spending stories across the country. This means we're able to reach new audiences like never before.

But we also give credit where it's due. If a council is doing good work, then we shout about that, too. Like Harlow council, who bucked the trend and cut council tax this year, without any cuts to frontline services!



Getting out across the country, talking to taxpayers about local and national issues. That's what really sets us apart from other groups.



Sara Rainwater Operations Director

Striking back

Our award-winning campaign on the taxpayer funding of trade unions 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.

Standing up to the unions

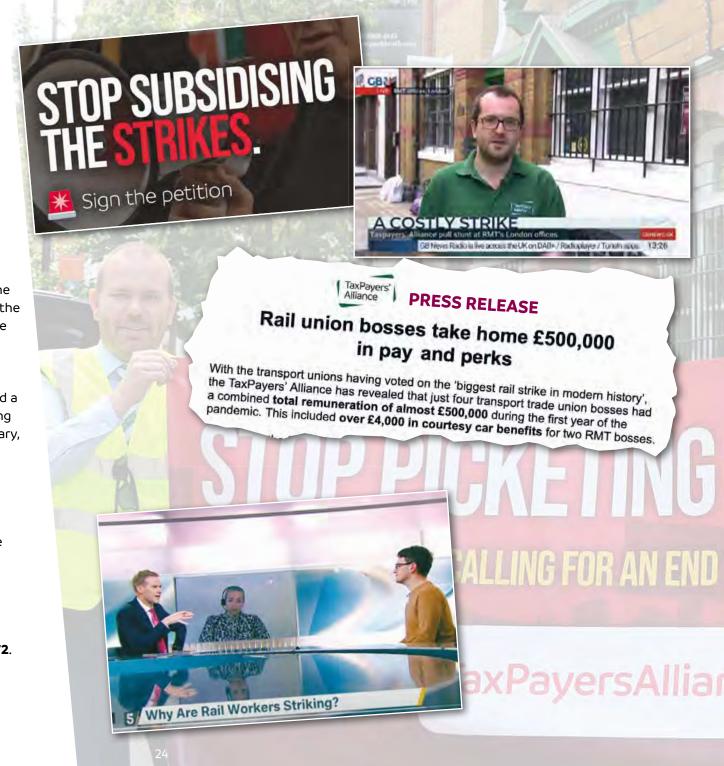
The UK has been plagued by strike action throughout the year. And through it all, we have been busy highlighting the costs of these disruptive strikes and the hypocrisy of the union barons calling them.

In the run-up to the first round of rail strikes, our team revealed that just **four transport trade union bosses** had a combined total remuneration of almost **£500,000** during the first year of the pandemic. The RMT's general secretary, Mick Lynch, had total remuneration of **£118,450** in 2020.

In June, with teaching unions threatening strike action over pay, we showed that nine union leaders received a combined remuneration of £1,397,042 across 2020-21. In July, our further research showed that two Aslef trade union bosses had a combined total remuneration of £281,601 in 2021.

In October, during the TUC congress, our annual Trade Union Rich List named and shamed the 30 senior union roles who had an average total remuneration of £152,272. This prompted predictable fury from the union reps.

The TPA will always stand up for taxpayers in the face of militant union bosses!





Putting a stop to "facility time"

"Facility time" is paid time-off taken by trade union officials to carry out union duties. In June, we released our latest round of research showing that **24,000 public sector workers** were moonlighting as trade union reps.

Over 1,000 of those were doing so full-time! This cost taxpayers £100 million in 2020-21 – a 31% increase on the year before.

With the research coinciding with 'the biggest rail strike in modern history' we took our campaign directly to the streets with a public petition.

As the strikes began, we gave the unions a taste of their own medicine – and **picketed the RMT headquarters!** TPA staff were also all over the airwaves spreading our message.

In parliament, the campaign to cut the facility time bill and bring in much needed restrictions was supported by over 60 MPs. We took our petition directly to the minister responsible, Rt Hon Jacob Rees-Mogg MP.

And at the end of July, the government finally listened! Public bodies would now be required to reduce their facility time bill to the current civil service average, or face the threat of it being capped.

It's high time that trade union support is phased out altogether.

While the unions are out striking, we will always be working for taxpayers!

Clean Up the State

This important campaign seeks greater transparency in all levels of government, an end to taxpayer funded lobbying, political balance in public appointments, and holds quangos and public bodies to account.

Battling the Blob

At the end of 2021, our research director had an important, full page opinion piece in the *Daily Mail* calling for fundamental reform of the civil service.

He lambasted the Whitehall groupthink that has been holding Britain back and reiterated our calls for a points-based system of public appointments. This really set the right tone for us to continue this campaign in 2022.

Civil service cuts

In May, we backed the government's plan to cut 90,000 civil service roles – something we have long campaigned for.

The Westminster bubble was predictably outraged by the announcement, but we were quick to point out the true scale of the civil service problem.

There are simply too many civil servants, racking up a huge remuneration bill that taxpayers must pay.

The Cabinet Office alone had a core wage bill of £452 million in 2021, and the combined value of all public sector pension liabilities **reached £2.19 trillion** in 2019-20.





Taxpayer funded lobbying and political campaigning

In May, we released new, hard-hitting research which revealed that almost **£50 million** of taxpayer money had been doled out to organisations that lobby for changes in public policy since 2018.

Nearly £7.7 million was given to groups actively fighting the government's scheme to resettle migrants in Rwanda, including Migrant Help, Stonewall, Refugee Action, Hope Not Hate and Instalaw.

Ministers were in touch right away, pledging to cut the funding. The public purse should not be paying out to pressure groups who use that cash to push for policy changes.

An important victory for transparency

In June, the government set out proposals for a new regime to replace state aid schemes that supported specific sectors of the economy when the UK was in the EU. Initially, the proposal included a transparency threshold of £500,000, which meant that fewer subsidies would have been reported than under EU regulations.

Transparency is the best tool we have for making sure public money is well spent, and we thought this threshold was far too high. So we set out to fix it. We talked to politicians from all sides of both houses, telling them to lower the threshold, and worked with John Penrose MP to push for an amendment to the bill.

After exhaustive work by our team, we were delighted when the government announced the **threshold would be lowered to £100,000.**

Regional pay bargaining

In the wake of the public sector pay review bodies recommending pay rises which would **cost taxpayers £21 billion**, we revealed that the disparity between public and private sector pay across the regions equates to £20 billion.

Our research argued that adopting a regional approach to public sector pay would save a whopping £8.8 billion, enough to raise the **personal allowance by** £600 and cut income tax by 1p, without cutting the pay of existing public servants.

While our proposals initially received lots of support and attention in the Conservative leadership contest, in the midst of a media storm and baffling row about what the policy actually said, it was dropped after pressure from those seeking to maintain the unsustainable status quo in the public sector.

It did receive wall-to-wall coverage across the airwaves, newspapers, and online. But it was a real shame to see a genuine debate over the facts of this policy drowned out by a political row!

Mandarin millionaires

In August, we revealed that 38 top civil servants enjoyed pension pots worth more than £1 million. In the first year of the covid pandemic, 187 of the most senior civil servants had a cumulative pension pot of £123 million, worth an average of £657,128 each. This was enough to pay for the annual state pension for around 13,464 pensioners. Our research made a big splash in the media with coverage in the Express, The Sun and The Daily Telegraph.





Come Clean on Green

Energy is one of the hottest topics in the cost of living crisis. We're calling on the government to Come Clean on Green!

A number of punishing green levies are paid by households through their energy bills, which adds to the pain being felt by consumers.

In January, our research revealed that these green taxes cost the UK taxpayer £11.5 billion in 2020-21. And this was before any of the recent drastic energy price hikes!

With such pressure on household budgets, our team put together an online tool showing people just how much green levies were adding to their bills. It was widely shared by politicians and broadcasters.

In April, we also revealed the astronomical cost of upgrading existing gas boilers with air source heat pumps, part of the government's net zero strategy. This could lumber households with **bills of up to £18,000 each!**

The government introduced grants to some households as part of a £450 million upgrade scheme, but – in an exclusive with the *Sunday Telegraph* – we revealed that if that grant were offered to the 23 million households currently lacking a heat pump, **the cost would be** £115 billion.

Straight after she was elected, Liz Truss took our advice and scrapped green levies for two years, though the energy reforms were later revisited by new Chancellor Jeremy Hunt.

ThinkTent

The 9th annual ThinkTent in Birmingham was a roaring success!

Each year, we aim to put together the most interesting, thought-provoking line-up on the fringe scene and – with your help – we achieved that yet again this year.

We had over 2,500 guests come through the doors and over 15,000 viewers online for what was by far the best fringe schedule at Conservative conference.

We were joined by prominent politicians, economists, business people and commentators covering a wide range of important topics.

We were also delighted that, once again this year, the then Chancellor, Kwasi Kwarteng, made his only fringe event appearance in a one-to-one chat with our Chief Executive. John grilled him on everything from income tax to spending cuts.

Head to thinktent.co.uk to watch the sessions.

I very much enjoyed speaking to a packed out crowd at ThinkTent. Coming together to discuss and debate free market ideas is the lifeblood of Conservative conference.

Lord Frost of Allenton, former Minister of State and Chief Negotiator for EU Exit TaxPayers' Alliance and Institute of Economic Affairs

In conversation with... Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng MP Chancellor of the Exchequer



with John O'Connell and Mark Littlewood

TaxPayers' Alliance and Institute of Economic Affairs Is the UK a safe place for free speech?



Marc Glendening, Eric Kaufmann, Winston Marshall, & Mercy Muroki

TaxPayers' Alliance and Mitie Is the UK's approach to apprenticeships failing the levelling up agenda?



Chris Clarkson MP, Rt Hon Robert Halfon MP, Jasmine Hudson, Rt Hon Lord Willetts FRS & Rob Wilson

Heritage Foundation

In conversation with... **Lord Frost of Allenton**

Former Minister of State and Chief Negotiator for EU Exit



with Dr. Nile Gardiner

TaxPayers' Alliance

The TPA's Great Council Tax Debate



Cllr Ben Bradley MP, Cllr Charles Fifield, Cllr Joanne Laban & Paul Scully MP

TaxPayers' Alliance and Institute of Economic Affairs The cost of living crisis: is the worst yet to come?



Stephen Bush, Miriam Cates MP, Alex Morton & John O'Connell

TaxPayers' Alliance and Institute of Economic Affairs How to build a more pro-enterprise economy



Andrew Allum, Paul Faulkner, Gerard Lyons & Chris Philp MP

TaxPayers' Alliance

Blue with envy: have the Tories turned their back on success?



Dr. Ted R. Bromund, Dehenna Davison MP, Lance Forman, Richard Holden MP & Nick Timothy

TaxPayers' Alliance

Servant or Master? Who's really running Whitehall?



Lord Agnew of Oulton DL, Nikki da Costa, Dr. Catherine Haddon OBE & Rt Hon Lord Maude of Horsham



Upcoming

Over the coming months, we have a lot to think about, and even more to campaign on.

Broadening the tax debate

For the TPA, simpler taxes are as important as lower taxes! We have some heavyweight research outlining how that could be done, alongside a new paper on the future of the tax system – for instance, with electric cars on the horizon, what happens to fuel duty? And we will explore further the relationship between tax and economic growth.

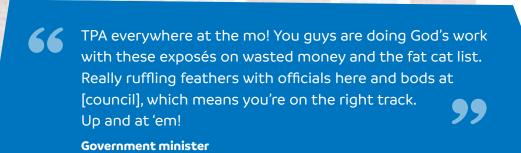
Talking about spending

For too long, politicians including Liz Truss have been unwilling to address realities around excessive public spending. Easing the burden on families is great, and welcome – but the sums have to add up. A proper debate on spending is needed. That will range from hard-hitting research to campaigning on single issues. As Britain's waste watchdog, we're not letting up in our fight for fiscal restraint.

More special investigations

After a successful year of exposing all types of wasteful spending, we will continue to build on that in 2023 at both the national and local level.





Endorsements

We're clearly making an impact, but don't just take our word for it.

Your side of the argument, representing people like us who pay taxes, is marginal. And the people who want my cash, your cash, taxpayers cash, have very strong booming voices. So please, let's hear a bit more from the TaxPayers' Alliance. Let's hear a bit more from those tribunes of those of us who work hard and pay in, and don't get the chance very often to complain about where the money goes. So please, become a regular face here.

Colin Brazier, journalist

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rT-9jHd7b24





We received an endorsement of our campaigning model from the BBC of all places! In a Radio 4 documentary entitled *The Other Black Door*, our team are credited with "setting the narrative on issues such as austerity", attempting to explain how TPA "ideas become government policy".

Get involved

There are loads of ways you can get involved with our campaign.

Follow us on social media and share our content.



@taxpayersalliance



@the_tpa



the-tpa-uk

Tell your friends about us

It's always the best way to spread the word!

Become a local activist or tell us about wasteful spending

Drop us an email at **grassroots@taxpayersalliance.com** if you're interested in helping out in your community, or want to tell us about examples of wasteful spending you've uncovered.



Sign up to our weekly bulletin to follow all our latest news

urcouncil bosses received!

taxpayersalliance.com/join





Donating

Thank you for your support!

By bank transfer to: TaxPayers Alliance

Account no: **40922257**

Sort code: **09-06-66**

Cheque made payable to "The TaxPayers' Alliance" and posted to 55 Tufton Street, London SW1P 3QL

By phoning us on **020 7340 6020**

Set up a standing orderGet in touch and we can send you a form.

Via our website at www.taxpayersalliance.com/donate

lt's my job to ensure we get bang for our buck from every pound of our modest annual budget. Making a donation today means we can keep up the pressure on policymakers to cut and simplify taxes and curb wasteful public spending.



Emma BennettFinance Director



Cut waste. Reform taxes & public services.