



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

**Response to Tax Avoidance**

Thank you for contacting me about tax avoidance and crown dependencies.

I would like to assure you that the Government is committed to a proportionate, tailored response to improve global tax transparency, including in tax havens. It is wrong to suggest that the UK is anything other than at the global forefront of tackling tax avoidance.

The Government is committed to low taxes to support business. But of course, these low taxes must be paid; tax avoidance and aggressive tax planning by multinationals is clearly unacceptable. Significant action has been taken to tackle offshore tax avoidance by multinational companies, especially through working with international partners to modernise international tax rules. I am pleased that, following developments in the level of tax transparency in the Crown Dependencies and Overseas Territories it is much harder to escape paying taxes by hiding money overseas.

The European Commission is due to publish an Impact Assessment on Public Country by Country Reporting shortly, and I will be interested to read the results of its analysis. Further to this, Ministers have indicated they will carefully consider any proposals put forward by the Commission. I am glad the UK played a leading role in encouraging other countries and jurisdictions to sign up to international tax transparency agreements during its G8 presidency in 2013.

I am pleased the Government has indicated it wants to see significant progress ahead of the May Anti-Corruption Summit on criminal financing. Ministers have already had productive discussions with the Overseas Territories where they agreed to hold beneficial ownership information in their respective jurisdictions.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Edward Timpson".

**Edward Timpson MP**

EDWARD TIMPSON  
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR CREWE & NANTWICH  
30 VICTORIA STREET, CREWE CW1 2JE  
[www.edwardtimpson.com](http://www.edwardtimpson.com) | 01270 501 725