

## **Say No To Tax Avoiders For Public Service Providers**

*"It is completely unacceptable that the government is paying no regard to the social and environmental records of the companies who are being awarded contracts to run our public services.*

*The fact that the majority of those surveyed appear to be implicated in tax avoidance adds insult to injury." Green Party MP Caroline Lucas*

Ethical Consumer is now campaigning to stop companies that are using tax havens from receiving public service contracts.

Find out why and what you can do about this below:

### **1. What we've done**

Ethical Consumer has recently surveyed 20 of the biggest companies now profiting from the privatisation of our public services. The results show that some of these companies including Capita, G4S, Serco and Sodexo are amongst the least ethical in the UK.

One of the most disturbing findings of our survey is that 13 of the 20 biggest private companies now being awarded public service contracts by the government have subsidiaries in tax havens, places usually used by companies to avoid paying tax.

According to HM Revenue and Customs corporate tax avoidance, which is perfectly legal, now costs the UK around £5 billion every year.

### **2. What this means**

As the government makes the most savage cuts to public spending in living memory, big companies that are now making huge profits from running our public services may not be paying their fair share of tax.

We believe that this is wrong - and so do growing numbers of people as shown by the snowballing national and international campaign against tax avoidance.

### **3. What's happening about it**

Following the publication of Ethical Consumer's research, an Early Day Motion was put before the House Of Commons asking the government to exclude companies with operations in tax havens from bidding for public service contracts.

An Early Day Motion, or EDM, is in effect a parliamentary petition and is used to show the level of support that MPs have for a particular issue.

## **As of 28<sup>th</sup> February 2012 the EDM had 49 supporters.**

You can find the EDM here: <http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2010-12/2399>

### **4. What you can do**

Get your MP to sign the Early Day Motion number 2399.

With the next round of drastic spending cuts being announced in the Budget on March 21st we want as many MPs as possible to have signed up to the EDM.

MPs are your representatives in Parliament. Having a large number of MPs signing up to our EDM will send a strong message to the government that you want to put a stop to big companies dodging their tax responsibilities.

Getting in touch with your MP is simple. Just fill in the postcode box on the following website and you'll be taken to a web page from where you can email your MP:

[www.theyworkforyou.com](http://www.theyworkforyou.com)

When writing your letter please feel free to use some of the text on this page, or from other pages on Ethical Consumer's website. So long as you mention the Early Day Motion 2399 your MP will know what you mean.

Please encourage your friends to write to their MP and share this document with your friends and work colleagues.

### **5. Keeping in touch**

We would be very interested in hearing from you especially if you get any feedback from your MP. Go to our contact page ([www.ethicalconsumer.org/contactus.aspx](http://www.ethicalconsumer.org/contactus.aspx)) and send us an email if you've taken action.

Or you can write to us at: Unit 21, 41 Old Birley Street, Manchester, M15 5RF, UK

If you have any questions about the EDM please call Simon Birch at the Ethical Consumer office: 0161 226 2929