



House of Commons
Public Accounts Committee

**GLOBAL TAX
TRANSPARENCY
SUMMIT**

The London Summit 2016

In partnership with the

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION UK



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1 Aims and Objectives

The Global Tax Transparency Summit

The United Kingdom House of Commons Committee of Public Accounts (PAC) has strong interest in promoting tax transparency and the prevention of aggressive tax avoidance by multinationals and we are organised the first global summit for Parliamentarians from across the world, in order to bring together colleagues to address how Governments can be held to account on this vital issue.

As you may be aware, the House of Commons Public Accounts Committee have taken a keen interest in promoting fair and efficient tax systems, with Members recently promoting an amendment to the United Kingdom's Finance Bill, which gives Government the power to introduce public Country-by-Country reporting (CbCR). We have also made progress with recommendations to HMRC about how it can collect taxes more efficiently and effectively in the UK, with our work also highlighting harmful tax practices, which has contributed to the reforms to the international tax system.



We are holding this global summit in London, for the first time, to continue the momentum on fair taxation. We want to hear the views of fellow parliamentarians, business, academics, campaigners and tax experts on how to achieve transparent taxation. We want to increase our understanding of the complex issues involved and provide an opportunity for key stakeholders to contribute to the debate beyond the constraints of our traditional Committee settings. The summit will influence the work that we will do for the remainder of the Parliament.

What we hope to achieve

The overriding purpose of the Global Tax Transparency Summit is to bring together Parliamentarians from across the world to demonstrate a commitment to holding governments to account on tackling tax avoidance and promoting tax transparency. We aim to stimulate discussion on the main issues facing governments and tax administrations and consider 'where next?' for tax transparency.

- We will be working towards agreement on a *concordat* which will outline how Parliamentarians will hold Governments to account on this issue.
- We will work together to promote these issues both domestically and internationally, and use the discussions to bring together a summary report of discussions to hold governments and tax administrations to account on tax transparency.

Who we are

The Committee of Public Accounts (PAC) is the oldest select committee of the House of Commons.

Expectations about the proper stewardship and accountability for public money go back many centuries. Generations of politicians and public officials have recognised the significance of the proper handling of public funds, the need to combat fraud and corruption and the importance of getting the most from tax revenue. Such themes have been at the heart of relations between the Crown and Parliament.

The Committee of Public Accounts is a key part of the United Kingdom's accountability arrangements to safeguard public money. One hundred and fifty-five years ago this year – in 1861 – a select committee of the House of Commons recommended the creation of a committee to oversee government accounts. Over time, the role of the Committee has changed in line with the needs of the day but the **administration of tax revenue remains a key area of enquiry for Committee of Public Accounts**, as it has a role in scrutinising value for money - the economy, efficiency and effectiveness - of public spending and holds the government and its civil servants to account for public services.



Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs' (HMRC) mission is to collect the money that pays for the United Kingdom's public services. HMRC aims to administer the tax system in an efficient way and the Committee of Public Accounts has a vital role in ensuring that HMRC is doing its utmost to achieve this effectively and to the benefit of all taxpayers.

The Committee of Public Accounts has therefore routinely scrutinised HMRC's ability to collect taxes fairly and efficiently, exposed concerns about the tax planning industry, and contributed to the debate on the way in which multinational organisations arrange their tax affairs.

In 2016, the Committee of Public Accounts is, for the first time, hosting the **first Global Tax Transparency Summit** in London, in response to calls to bring together Parliaments from across the world to promote tax transparency and prevent tax avoidance.

Practicalities: Timings and rooms

The conference will begin with a Parliamentary reception for delegates at **6pm on Thursday 8th December** in Westminster Hall, followed by a high-level breakfast meeting for Parliamentarians on **Friday 9th December in the Speaker's Private Apartments** and the main plenary sessions in Portcullis House.

Useful contact numbers

All enquiries about the conference should be route through our dedicated email channel at globaltaxsummit@parliament.uk but staff of the Committee of Public Accounts are available for further information

Dr Mark Ewbank, Second Clerk of the Committee of Public Accounts

020 7219 0336

Mr George James, Senior Committee Assistant, Committee of Public Accounts

020 7219 4099

Ms Ruby Radley, Committee Assistant, Committee of Public Accounts

020 7219 6593

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2 Programme

Thursday 8th December

5pm *Parliamentary Reception – registration for delegates*

6pm *Parliamentary Reception, hosted by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in Westminster Hall, Houses of Parliament*

The conference will begin with a reception hosted by the Committee of Public Accounts.

Speakers: **Meg Hillier MP**, Chair, Committee of Public Account
tbc,

7.30pm *Optional Tour of the Palace of Westminster*

Friday 9th December

8.30am *Breakfast for Parliamentarians in the Right Hon. Speaker of the House of Commons' Apartment*

Roundtable discussion for Parliamentarians to discuss the aims and objectives for the conference.

8.30am *Summit Registration (for officials and stakeholders)*

9.30am *Plenary One: Global Tax Transparency*

Speakers: **Meg Hillier MP**, Chair of the Committee of Public Accounts, House of Commons, United Kingdom

Pascal Saint-Amans, Director, Centre for Tax Policy and Administration, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Alain Lamassoure, Chair, TAXE2 Committee, European Parliament

Luigi di Maio, Vice President, Camera dei Deputati, Italy

10.30am Plenary Two: Global Action to Combat Tax Avoidance

Speakers: Edward Troup, Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs (HMRC), United Kingdom

Hans Christian Holte, Director General, Skatteetaten, Norway

tbc

11.30am Plenary Three: Beyond BEPs – Driving Change in the World

Speakers: Professor Rita de la Feria, University of Leeds

Professor Michael Devereux, University of Oxford

tbc

tbc

12.30pm Lunch for Parliamentarians (Macmillan Room)

12.30pm Lunch for Officials (Atlee Suite)

13.30pm Parliamentarians only - Signing of the summit concordat in the office of the Chair of the Committee of Public Accounts, Palace of Westminster

13.30pm In-Depth: Looking at Beneficial Ownership

Speakers: Colin Powell, Chief Minister's Dept, Government of Jersey

tbc

tbc

14:30pm Parliamentarians and officials - Opportunities for bilateral & multilateral co-operation

15:30pm Summit close