

## **Contemporary Motion: Tax justice**

Conference notes that in his speech of 17 August George Osborne, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said "Anyone who is serious about tackling the nation's debts needs to come forward with an alternative plan".

Conference believes there is an alternative based upon public investment and tackling the tax gap – estimated to be in excess of £120 billion per year – comprising of £25 billion in tax avoidance, £70 billion in tax evasion, and £26 billion of tax going uncollected by HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC).

Conference therefore condemns the Coalition Government's appointment of Sir Philip Green, a billionaire whose companies are owned by his tax exile wife, on 13 August to investigate public spending.

Conference further notes that it was revealed on 22 August that HMRC was cutting 20% of its staff from the High Net Worth Unit – created in 2009 by a Labour government to achieve greater tax enforcement from the wealthy.

Conference condemns the Coalition government's lax attitude towards collecting tax revenue from big business and wealthy individuals, and therefore resolves to:

- Campaign for tax justice as part of the alternative to the government's cuts
- Campaign for extra resources, including more HMRC staff, to help tackle tax going uncollected and those who evade their responsibilities
- Campaign for legislation to close the loopholes that allow wealthy individuals and big business to avoid tax

(225 words)