



● THE
RESPONSIBLE TAX LAB
Our work in 2017

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WITH THANKS...

To the members, supporters and partners of the Responsible Tax Lab in 2017



● ABOUT THE RESPONSIBLE TAX LAB

○ The Responsible Tax Lab is an ambitious programme focusing on how businesses and civil society can work together to design and encourage a responsible tax system.

Through the Lab we convene people and organisations who want to be proactive and aspirational in developing and providing the practical ideas, tools and resources that would make our future tax system fit-for-purpose.

● AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE LAB

○ **INDEPENDENT ANALYSIS**

We bring together specialists to develop practical ideas and recommendations to taxpayers, government and tax authorities.

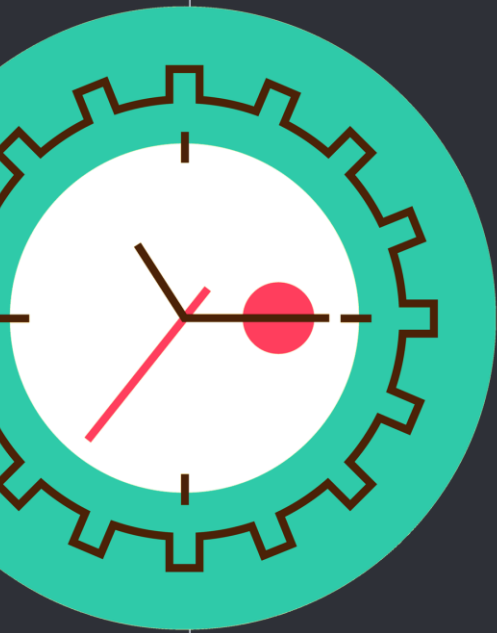
PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING

We seek to provide a balance between the complexity of some issues with discussion that is engaging and accessible.

BUILDING BRIDGES

We value different perspectives and experiences and seek to build relationships between people who may not always agree.

THE LAB'S FIRST YEAR



Common Vision initiated the Responsible Tax Lab in December 2016 drawing on over two years' of previous insights into the most effective and appropriate ways to convene conversations and broker relationships between different stakeholders.

Our work over the past year has encompassed working groups, research activities, public discussions, online publications and audio-visual content, covering a range of topics relating to responsible tax.

● DECEMBER 2016 LAUNCH EVENT

○ In December we brought together a range of tax professionals, academics, civil society representatives and policy makers for the launch of the Responsible Tax Lab.

We heard reflections from FT Columnist Vanessa Houlder; Kate Bell, Head of Economic and Social Affairs at the TUC; Jonathan Riley, Head of Tax at Grant Thornton and Paul Morton, incoming Tax Director of the Office of Tax Simplification, who spoke on what they think are the key challenges and opportunities for the tax system.

This event was kindly hosted by Cicero.



● DESIGNING RESPONSIBLE TAX POLICY IN BREXIT BRITAIN

○ Over the course of 2017 we hosted a series of working groups to identify and review the conditions and criteria for the responsible design and implementation of tax policies, and how these principles apply to the future design and implementation of UK industrial strategy in a post-Brexit world.

This consultation process has involved a range of stakeholders including businesses, trade unions, investors, academics, NGOs and civil servants, and drawing on national and international examples. Insights will help inform a blueprint for effective and responsible tax policy making. The full report will be published in early 2018.

With thanks to the TUC for supporting this workstream.

● QUANTIFYING THE BUSINESS CASE FOR RESPONSIBLE TAX

○ In partnership with Ipsos MORI, we conducted a study in May 2017 to explore how positive and negative perceptions of a company's tax behaviour affects consumer behaviour.

Findings were discussed at a panel event with Rachel McEwen, SSE; Diane Hay, PwC; Jon Alexander, New Citizenship Project; and Mark Bevington, Principal Tax Advisor, Baker McKenzie responding to a presentation from Bobby Duffy, Ipsos MORI Social Research Institute.

Moving forward, we want to examine how tax reputation affects employee satisfaction and retention and investor perceptions.

With thanks to Ipsos MORI, and the Barrow Cadbury Trust and Baker McKenzie for supporting the event.

TAX AND THE TAYLOR REVIEW ON MODERN WORK

In July, we welcomed Matthew Taylor to lead a Responsible Tax Lab roundtable discussion considering how to address the inconsistencies between the definitions of the self-employed, contractors and consultants in employment law and practice, and the tax system.

A timely event, held just two days after the publication of *Good work: the Taylor review of modern working practices*, we welcomed a number of tax experts and trade body representatives.

With thanks to the ICAEW for supporting this discussion.



RESPONSIBLE TAX AT THE UNITED NATIONS

In November, Common Vision's Director Caroline Macfarland spoke at the Tax CO-OP Conference, held at the United Nations in Geneva in advance of the 15th session of the UN Tax Committee. The event brought together international experts on tax to reflect on tax competition in the era of trade globalization and digital economies.

Caroline spoke about the expectations of the younger generation of tax behaviour and whether an international code of ethics for tax is necessary or helpful to restore trust in the social contract on tax.



TAX COLLECTION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

At the end of November we co-hosted a major international event to discuss what measures can be taken to build robust domestic resource bases in developing countries.

Delegates from over 20 countries explored new innovative approaches to support the ability of tax authorities to collect revenue from domestic sources, including capacity building and use of new technologies. Further work on these issues will be published in 2018.

With thanks to our partners Wilton Park, DFID, the OECD, KPMG and the Joffe Charitable Trust.



● TAXATION: STATE, SOCIETY OR CITIZENSHIP?

○ Our end of year event in December reflected on developments in 2017 and discussed the implications for public expectations and understanding of the tax system.

George Turner, Researcher, Tax Justice Network; economist Vicky Pryce; Dan Neidle, Partner, Clifford Chance; and Vicky Johnson, President, ARC joined us to respond to questions crowdsourced from tax experts and the wider public.

With thanks to the Association of Revenue and Customs (ARC) for supporting this discussion.

● OTHER COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

○ The Responsible Tax Lab has hosted reflections on wider developments in domestic and international tax policy, including:

- **TAX IN THE TRUMP ERA** – In May, to coincide with President Donald Trump's 100 days in office, we released a podcast which analysed two key reforms that were proposed in the U.S. and their implications for the global tax system.
- **TAXING THE GIG ECONOMY** – This podcast features a number of commentators responding to the Taylor Review on modern employment.
- **RESPONDING TO THE PARADISE PAPERS** - Following the leaked Paradise papers in November, we published a series of blogs and a podcast reflecting on why people and organisations use tax havens, and what sort of future reforms could prevent illegal and harmful behaviour.



NEXT STEPS IN 2018...

We are in the process of developing several new workstreams from the Lab, each focusing on a distinct topic, challenge or issue and potential practical recommendations.

Activities will be bespoke to the topic and may include research, working group meetings, public seminars, video interviews and podcasts, and written publications or toolkits.



JOIN US...

- Join our community of experts who are leading from the front on a range of important issues around responsible tax behaviour, policy and practice.

CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP

Corporate members of the Lab benefit from:

- Opportunities to contribute commentary and editorial insights online and in person
- Invitations to feature in video interviews and act as a spokesperson for the Lab
- Opportunities to co-host public discussions or private roundtables
- First refusal to partner on or participate in future research and events

We are also developing individual membership packages for those with a personal interest in responsible tax issues.

● BESPOKE SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

○ We offer partnership and sponsorship opportunities on specific workstreams and activities of the Lab. Future topics include:

- **RESPONSIBLE TAX DEVOLUTION** – How can local government and companies respond to new tax powers in a responsible way?
- **THE FUTURE OF TAX HYPOTHECATION** – Can a tax-paying culture be encouraged and enhanced through tax hypothecation and other participatory models?
- **A USEFUL TAX STRATEGY?** - What useful information should businesses include in their disclosures, and how can these help restore public confidence?
- **THE ROLE OF INVESTORS** – How have the investor view of responsible tax behaviour changed and what does this mean for corporations and policymakers?

For blogs, podcasts and videos on these topics and more:

WWW.RESPONSIBLETAX.ORG.UK

Or get in touch:

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Vicky Johnson, ARC
Vicky Pryce



IN MEMORY

We would like to pay tribute to the inspirational life of Joel Joffe.



ABOUT COMMON VISION

Common Vision (CoVi) is an independent, not-for-profit think tank. We curate and develop research and discussion which aligns the behaviours, expectations and values of the millennials with long-term intergenerational goals around the common good. We use creative and crowdsourced methods to promote civic engagement beyond a politically active minority.