

The Conservatives are stonewalling any meaningful action to tackle tax avoidance – Peter Dowd

Peter Dowd MP, Labour's Shadow Chief

Secretary to the Treasury responding to the publishing of the EU Parliament's report on Money Laundering, Tax Avoidance and Tax Evasion and ahead of Labour's

attempt to block the Government's plans to protect offshore trusts from UK tax, said:

"The report from the EU Parliament reinforces once again the Conservative Government's stonewalling of any meaningful action to tackle tax avoidance and offshore trusts.

"The report's publication comes on the same day that the Conservative Government is trying to peddle a Finance Bill which is a charter for tax dodgers exempting their offshore trusts from UK tax.

"Labour has consistently demanded that the Government introduce a register for offshore trusts but we have found our attempts to amend the Finance Bill frustrated by a Government using arcane procedural tricks.

"Labour's Tax Transparency and Enforcement Programme will make Britain a leader in tackling global tax avoidance and ensuring that wealthy individuals and companies pay their fair share."