

# The World's Longest Tax Code

*A letter to the Herald, Jan 2008*

Sir,

Approaching the tax self-assessment deadline on 31st January, I am sure many Herald readers will regret how complex our tax system has become.

Labour Britain can now claim another unfortunate record: the longest tax code in the world. The 2007 Budget brought the UK tax code close to 10,000 pages, overtaking the previous record holder, India, with its 9,000 pages of tax legislation.

That may be good news for tax accountants, but it is hard lines for the rest of us. For businesses, the Byzantine system of taxes, credits and exemptions can take up time and effort that would otherwise be devoted to real enterprise.

Our tax code does need to be fair and equitable, but it also needs to raise revenue in a much clearer, simpler way.

Sincerely,

Damian Hinds  
Parliamentary candidate (Conservative) – East Hants  
damian@damianhinds.info