

[Tax Freedom Day has finally arrived](#) [1]

Written by [Ben Southwood](#) [2] | Thursday 30 May 2013

Tax Freedom Day?the day when the average UK resident finishes paying George Osborne and begins putting money in her own pocket?is finally upon us.

After 150 days of sending all our money to the Treasury, we can earn for ourselves over the rest of the year.

The ASI's Director, Dr Eamonn Butler, says ?Tax Freedom Day, which the Adam Smith Institute has been calculating for 25 years, is the plainest way to show what the tax burden really is. That is why the Treasury hates it. They of course want to conceal how much tax we pay, which is why they are so keen on stealth taxes.?

?But we put in every tax, including stealth taxes ? income tax, national insurance, council tax, excise duties, air passenger taxes, fuel and vehicle taxes and all the rest ? and show just how long the average person has to work to pay their share of them all. The stark truth is that this burden costs us all 150 days of hard labour every year. That's not how long a rich person has to work ? it is the time the average person must labour for the tax collectors.?

?In the Middle Ages a serf only had to work four months of the year for the feudal landlord, whereas in modern Britain people have to toil five months for Osborne?s tax gatherers.?

?An increasing number of economists believe that Britain's taxes are too high and are choking off recovery. Some politicians say they need to keep taxes high in order to balance the government's books. But the trouble with governments is that they always spend everything they raise in tax ? and then as much more as they can get away with through borrowing. Just as the rest of us have had to cut back, so should the government. The UK economy would be a lot healthier for it.?

Steve Baker, Conservative MP and member of the executive of the 1922 committee, adds: ?Many congratulations to the Adam Smith Institute for once again revealing the shocking truth about taxes and overspending. This doomsday machine of deficit spending, debt and currency debasement will eventually blow up and there is no kindness in pretending otherwise. Politicians who are serious about the prosperity of our country and the wellbeing of the poorest within it should take note.?

For more information see our [press release](#) [3] or our [Tax Freedom Day page](#) [4].

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