

# 'Name and shame' tax havens under fire

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[ePolitix.com](https://www.epolitix.com) reports on yesterdays debate at Westminster on the British Overseas Territories:

*During a debate on the foreign affairs committee's report on overseas territories, Andrew MacKinlay (Lab, Thurrock) accused the government of attempting to distance itself from its responsibilities.*

*"Ministers can't pretend it's a remote problem they are trying to get their hands on, they are to blame," he said.*

whilst, pleasingly a Tory joined in:

*John Stanley (Con, Tonbridge and Malling), questioned why the chancellor had dodged the question when asked directly about the number by Liberal Democrat Treasury spokesman Vince Cable.*

*The Conservative member of the foreign affairs committee suggested that perhaps this was because the chancellor judged the answer might be an embarrassment to the Foreign Office.*

*"It is somewhere towards shocking that we have half the overseas territories on the name and shame list," he added.*

and the Lib Dems too:

*Noting that the UK is directly responsible for financial regulation in many of the territories, Jo Swinson (Lib Dem, East Dunbartonshire) said there should be therefore "no barrier" to reform.*

*The Liberal Democrat foreign affairs spokesperson said help needed to be given to the territories to re-adjust their economies.*

*"We do need to recognise that the revenue they receive for financial services form a*

*large part of their economy," she said.*

*"Support will need to be given to develop other economic avenues that are less shady or internationally embarrassing."*

That is right: it will be necessary.

In response the governemnt said it had written to the Territories in question. True, [it has](#). But it's not clear what the Foot Commission is doing. The government has a lot of work to do.