

## More moves to force companies to say where they are - w...

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The [Financial Mail](#) is continuing its campaign on tax haven activity by major companies:

*Hundreds of secret tax haven subsidiaries belonging to major companies have been revealed after Financial Mail exposed widespread failures of disclosure in Companies House filings.*

*Fifteen companies - including Marks & Spencer and insurance giant Legal & General - have admitted that they control a total of 568 subsidiaries in secretive locations such as the Cayman Islands and Jersey.*

*The details emerged after the firms resubmitted a list of their subsidiaries to Companies House. The firms acted after being contacted by Financial Mail following a complaint by charity ActionAid and after receiving letters from Companies House.*

This is, of course, the continuation of work I began with the Tax Justice Network [two years ago](#) - and good for all who have taken it forward.

As the Mail reports:

*A spokeswoman for Companies House confirmed that it had contacted-49 firms in the FTSE 100 to warn that failing to disclose makes directors liable for steep fines.*

*Minor Anglo American is revealed as having 30 offshore subsidiaries in the British Virgin Islands (BVI) - including Ambase Exploration ( Tanzania) Limited - and the same number in Luxembourg, including Anglo American Exploration Columbia Sarl. Anglo South American Investments Limited is based in Mauritius.*

*Retailer Burberry admits to having seven subsidiaries in Luxembourg, while technology giant Smiths Group has a subsidiary called John Crane Ireland Limited, based in the Cayman Islands.*

*Media giant BSkyB's subsidiary Oddschecker (Jersey) Limited is registered in the BVI.*

*A further 14 companies - including British Airways, cruise giant Carnival and supermarket group Morrisons - were in the process of filing disclosure of their subsidiaries or were at least looking into the issue.*

Of course, this disclosure would be a routine part of country-by-country reporting.

The [case for country-by-country reporting is becoming unassailable.](#)