

# My New year wish - from the Ripped Of Britain blog

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The [Ripped Off Britain blog](#) asked me what my New year wish was. This is what I wrote:

*Can I shock the world and say what I'd really like someone to do in the New Year has something to do with tax?*

*I believe in tax. I think it's the price we pay for living in a decent, democratic, wealth generating and wealth sharing democracy. I don't think we'd have any of those things without a strong tax system. So I don't like tax cheats.*

*They abuse the system, undermine democracy, increase inequality and leave decent people to pick up the bill — except that their capacity to do so is now at its limit. So what would I like someone to do? I'd like a General Anti-Tax Avoidance Principle to be included in UK law. Not the nonsensical apology of a general anti-abuse rule that the government is proposing but something like the [Bill Michael Meacher put to the House of Commons](#) in September this year.*

*Now, I am biased: I wrote [this Bill](#). But it would stop tax avoidance in its tracks, make using tax havens hard, let H M Revenue & Customs tackle companies like Google and rebalance the tax equation in favour of the honest and the poor. It could be done. That's why I have picked this option of the many available to me. The Bill is still waiting for its second reading in the Commons. The option of passing it is available.*

*It's my New Year's wish that it reaches the statute book.*