

The Tax Justice Network is an unreliable source of data

Published: January 13, 2026, 8:02 am

I am loathe to mention the Tax Justice Network again but as one of its co-founders who too many still think closely associated with it, I think that I have to report, once again, that it is these days a profoundly unreliable reporter on almost any issue.

I [take its year-end review](#) as my example on this occasion. In this it says:

John Christensen stepped down as Tax Justice Network chair

Our founding director John Christensen retired as an executive director this year, and stepped down from our board which he had chaired. When he had passed on the chief executive role in 2016, his successor and our current chief executive Alex Cobham [wrote of John's successes](#): "In changing the political weather on these issues, those achievements are nothing short of extraordinary." We thank John for his powerful contribution to tax justice, and wish him all the best.

To describe this as misleading is to be kind. John resigned from TJN in August 2021 in [a letter published on this blog](#) in which he accused its current management of serial strategic, management, campaigning and governance failings.

The TJN's response in 2016 might have been what was noted in their blog post but in 2021 the response was quite different. They issued statements accusing John of suffering from 'founder's syndrome'. This is a condition unknown in medical literature. What is more, this claim, which [was repeated in The Times newspaper](#), cannot be [supported by facts](#). Their blog post is deeply misleading as a result.

However, [these days things like being in possession of reasoned argument](#) is no obstacle to the Tax Justice Network making a claim that suits its purposes. The media really does need to know that they are now a very unreliable source of information on tax justice, which is why I have to continue to make comments like this.