



Craig Whittaker MP

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Response to Income Tax Military Opt-Out - (Taxes for Peace Bill) – February 2017

Thank you for contacting me about income tax and military activity.

With respect to the suggestion to introduce an opt-out from income tax, this is not current Government policy and there are no plans to change the UK tax system to enable an opt-out of paying for military activity and direct funds to a non-military security fund.

If allowed, an opt-out from military activity would establish a precedent for taxpayers to opt-out of any tax-funded activity which they do not wish to support, undermining the tax system and the functions of Government.

I appreciate the importance of soft power and I am pleased that in April 2015 the Government created the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF). Like the Conflict Pool which preceded it, the CSSF will help prevent conflict that affects vulnerable people in the world's poorest countries and tackle threats to UK interests from instability overseas.

The CSSF will fund a broad range of activities that will include actions the UK delivers directly or through third parties, as well its contribution to multilateral interventions overseas aimed at helping prevent conflict and instability, and supporting post-conflict stabilisation. The funding will also ensure that the UK can both respond quickly to crises and provide longer-term conflict prevention work aimed at tackling the root causes of conflict abroad.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Kind regards,

Craig Whittaker MP