



# Richard Murphy

Richard Murphy is a tax accountant, but one who is also a leading researcher on tax justice and how to stop corporations and rich people dodging paying tax.

He founded the Tax Justice Network (funded by Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust), and is a director of Tax Research LLP – which utilises forensic analysis to examine tax arrangements.

**Occupation (and why)?**

Chartered accountant. Because, despite everything that people say to the contrary about it, I think it is fun.

**Which person (living or dead) has most influenced your opinions. Why?**

JK Galbraith. He proved to me that economics was about the human condition when I was a teenager.

**Which brands (if any) are you currently boycotting? Why?**

U2. Because of Bono's tax avoidance. Play.com and Amazon, because they tax avoid through Jersey. Tesco whenever possible – because of their tax avoidance. Battery chickens – I guess that's obvious.

**Anarchism/Socialism/ Capitalism/Other**

That's a 19th century question and we're in the 21st century. We must provide enough for everyone. That is possible but only in a mixed economy. I'm a Green Social Democrat.

**What do you currently do to reduce your impact on the world?**

Holiday near home. Our summer holiday destination is just 70 miles away.

**Meat eater/Vegetarian/Vegan/ Fruitarian?**

Meat eater. Never likely to change. 90% or more is poultry.

**Favourite dish using a local vegetable?**

I am writing in March. Local free range chicken, Lincolnshire curly kale, East Anglian potatoes. That's a great simple supper. It works for my family.

**Most difficult ethical purchasing decision?**

Cars. In a rural area we need two. I am not a petrol head. I accept the reality of this decision. I'm never sure I like it.

**Favourite local destination to holiday in?**

Orford, Suffolk  
Southwold, Suffolk  
Blakeney, Norfolk  
Wells-next-the-Sea, Norfolk  
Been to them all in the last year. Fantastic.

**If you could come up with one piece of legislation (national or international) that would be implemented tomorrow, what law would you pass?**

I would require mandatory country by country reporting by all multinational corporations so that we knew where

they were, what they were called in every place that they worked, and what their profit and loss account was in each place that they work. Then we would know who is abusing tax, tax havens, regulation, employment rights, and much more, and we could hold them to account as good corporate citizens in every location that they work. We can do none of this now. I am biased: I invented country-by-country reporting.

**Who would you like to win an award for 'worst corporation of the year'? Why?**

Tesco because of their dispute with the Guardian over tax avoidance

**Who would win 'best'? Why?**

The Co-operative Bank because they try hard in a market where it is almost impossible to stand out against the crowd.

**What might improve the life of an ethical consumer?**

Information. We do not know nearly enough about the world's corporations.

**How do you feel about the future? Are you optimistic?**

Optimistic. I frequently wonder why, but I have two young sons and I work for their future, which I believe in.

**What are your own energy saving tips?**

Use the train. I do as often as possible. I love it.

**What issues make you want to get out of your armchair and onto the streets to protest?**

Tax injustice. Tax havens. The cost that accountants, lawyers and bankers have imposed upon the world at large and the developing world in particular through these two.

**If you had to give up all your technological and electrical appliances bar one, which one would you keep and why?**

My computer with an Internet connection. I cannot imagine not blogging.

**In an ideal world, which product/brand or item would you like to be 'ethical' that currently isn't?!**

Accountancy.

**Tell us a joke!**

Why does a golfer wear two pairs of pants? In case he gets a hole in one.

More information, and Richard's Blog, is available at [www.taxresearch.org.uk](http://www.taxresearch.org.uk)