



**People for Proper Policing in North Wales**

## **Quangos: The Unseen Government of the UK**

**The most comprehensive picture ever of the UK's 1,162 Quangos**

In today's Sunday Times, the TPA launched the full list of the UK's vast quango industry, a detailed run-down of the staff and cost of the 1,162 bodies, boards and agencies that make up Britain's Unseen Government. It is now five years since the Parliamentary Select Committee on Public Administration recommended that the Government publish such a list, a recommendation that the Government has failed to fulfil. In the absence of an official list, the TPA has compiled one instead, providing the public with the most comprehensive information available on the organisations that increasingly spend their money and influence their lives without democratic oversight.

The report is the first in a series of papers on the Structure of British Government and the problems caused by its bewildering scale, staggering range of activities and chaotic duplication.

The full TPA report and the Sunday Times coverage go to the TPA website via our Links

The key findings of the report are:

**There are 1,162 quangos in the UK, running at a total cost to the taxpayer of £64 billion, equivalent to £2,550 per household.**

Even under the Cabinet Office's restrictive definition of quangos, the cost of these bodies has risen 50% in the last ten years.

UK quangos now employ an army of almost 700,000 bureaucrats.

Even the Government itself does not know the full extent of the unaccountable quango industry, which ranges from the massive e.g. Job Centre Plus (Staff: 70,042, Cost: £3.5 billion) the Courts Service (Staff: 19,986, Cost: £704.8 million); to the bizarre e.g. the British Potato Council (Staff: 49); the West Northants Development Corporation (Staff: 34, Cost: £15.3 million)

When the total number of quangos is added to the other government subsidiaries such as local authorities and NHS trusts, the total **number of organisations controlled by the UK Government rises to 2,063, costing the taxpayer £257 billion and employing over 5.1 million people.**

Ben Farrugia, author of the report and Policy Analyst at the TaxPayers' Alliance, said:

*"Government in the UK is now so large, diverse and complex that it is impossible for anyone to manage effectively, let alone Ministers with no prior experience of management and little in-depth understanding of the work carried out by their departments. Government today tries to do too much, and consequently fails; the structure of government needs to change if we hope to see better value and significant improvements in our public services."*