# UK’s public sector quangos under scrutiny for inefficiency and political bias



A significant critique of the United Kingdom’s public sector and its extensive network of quasi-autonomous non-governmental organisations (quangos) and state-funded charities has been outlined in a recent article featured in Country Squire Magazine on 28 April 2025. The piece, republished by conservativewoman.co.uk, highlights concerns regarding government efficiency, public expenditure, and the political influence of these organisations.

The article opens by referencing ongoing efforts within the United States government, led by Elon Musk’s Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), to address large national deficits by targeting governmental fraud and inefficiencies. The author credits Musk with the potential to halve US deficits through these reforms and speculates that similar measures may be necessary—and possible—in the UK.

According to data cited from the TaxPayers’ Alliance, the UK hosts more than 300 quangos that operate independently of ministerial control but have considerable influence over regulation, public services, and policy implementation. Collectively, these bodies employ nearly 400,000 staff with a combined budget of approximately £390 billion annually. This figure is striking when compared to the UK government’s total yearly expenditure of £1.3 trillion and the country’s fiscal deficit. The report highlights that in 2023-24, at least 1,472 quango employees earned total remuneration exceeding £100,000, with 315 staff members receiving more than the Prime Minister’s salary of £172,153.

In addition to quangos, the article critiques the state-funded charitable sector, describing it as a substantial and partially government-financed extension of this unaccountable network. Nearly a third of the £100 billion allocated annually to UK charities comes from government sources, amounting to around £30 billion. By comparison, other major government spending allocations for the fiscal year 2024-2025 included £5 billion for housing, £14 billion for the Department of Energy and Net Zero, and £18 billion for policing.

The author alleges that many individuals employed within these entities tend to hold progressive political views, characterised here as anti-business and anti-Western, and asserts that these bodies exert undue influence on government policy while remaining largely unanswerable to the electorate. The article implies that this situation undermines democratic control and accountability.

Specific policy criticisms are directed at the UK’s energy industry, which reportedly now pays some of the highest electricity prices in the world—up to four times higher than those in the US—attributed to Net Zero policies. Concerns are also raised regarding the UK government’s move to take control of British Steel amid fears of closure at its Chinese-owned facility in Scunthorpe, with the sidelining of domestic industrial interests in favour of environmental objectives described as a “stay of execution.” The piece further notes the high salary offered to the prospective CEO of Great British Energy, a government-backed organisation, listing compensation at £525,000.

The article concludes by framing the relationship between taxpayers and the state as fractured, portraying the public as powerless participants in a system dominated by unelected officials who prioritise political activism over transparent governance. It calls for significant cuts to the £400 billion budget allocated to this sector to restore accountability and suggests that without such reforms, the UK’s prospects for prosperity and renewed national stature remain bleak.

These views present a critical perspective on government expenditure and institutional influence within the UK public sector as of early 2025, reflecting ongoing debates about public administration and fiscal responsibility.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://civitas.org.uk/content/files/PDF-version.pdf> - This URL provides context on critiques of the 'quango state,' highlighting issues with quangos and their potential for causing problems within the UK's public sector.
2. <https://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/comment/pat-mcfadden-not-another-bonfire-quangos> - This piece discusses previous efforts to reduce quangos in the UK, which have resulted in minimal savings, and argues against further reform as a simple solution.
3. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2025/04/10/britains-quango-state-laid-bare-labour/> - This article highlights concerns with UK quangos, specifically criticizing the allocation of funds to what some view as unnecessary projects, and suggests reforms are needed.
4. <https://iea.org.uk/blog/why-quangos-need-to-be-reined-in/> - This blog explains why quangos need to be reined in, discussing potential issues such as excessive costs and regulatory burdens on charitable bodies.
5. <https://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/publications/brexit-and-bureaucracy> - This publication discusses broader issues with the UK's governance structure, including quangos and their role in policy implementation.
6. <https://taxpayersalliance.com/> - The TaxPayers' Alliance consistently criticizes government spending and quangos, which aligns with concerns raised about the influence and cost of these bodies.
7. <https://news.google.com/rss/articles/CBMihwFBVV95cUxOZnlQZ1BhLTdVXzZ0NU1pdUhYenFOcWpaYWo4bk9rajdDNm1jSkdRTVp3a3MzaTFuaDJNM2pnODRzZUdCdTJCZU5vREpCcHEzQnJ5NGduUzRjMGRVNE9MVE1KRHJVZXdfNVo4cjRYV0pKUHN6M0NhM1JpYk5fQnZsbnRUVWNvd1U?oc=5&hl=en-US&gl=US&ceid=US:en> - Please view link - unable to able to access data