

Data in investigative journalism

How tackling data can advance accountability and public interest reporting

data journalism is nothing new

THE TIMES

THE GENERAL FLECTION IN GREAT BRITAIN, JULY, 1895.

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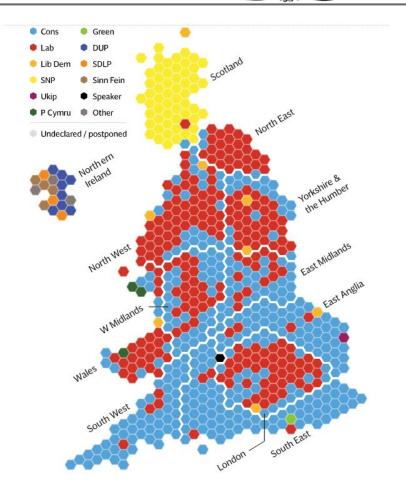
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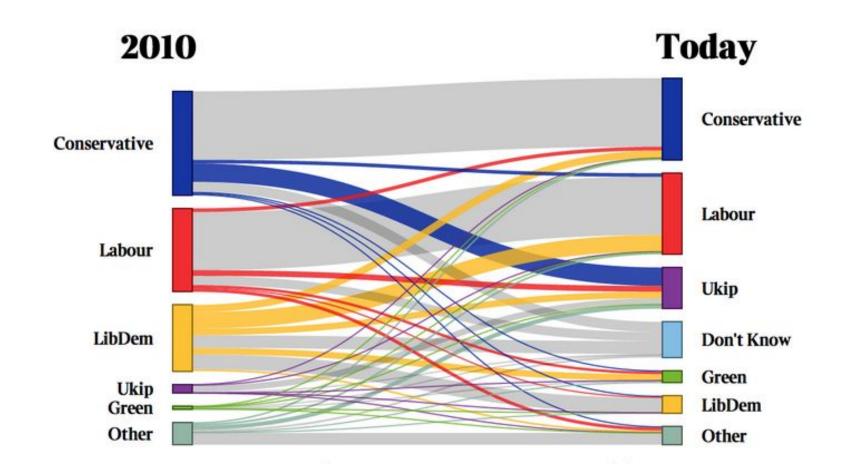
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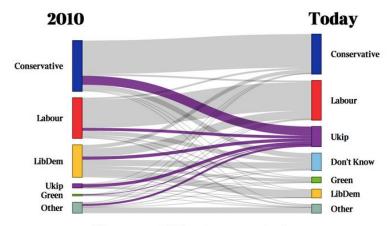




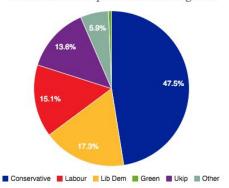


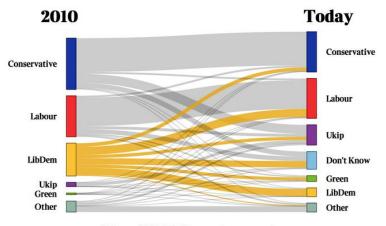
making the complex simple



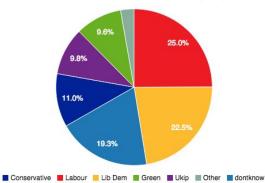


Where current Ukip voters are coming from





Where 2010 Lib Dem voters are going

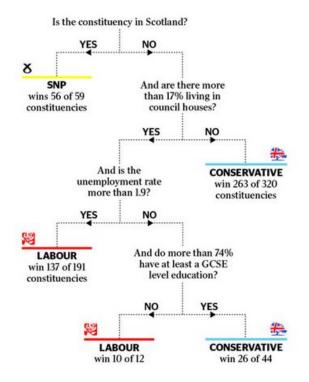


'of-the-web' not 'on-the-web'



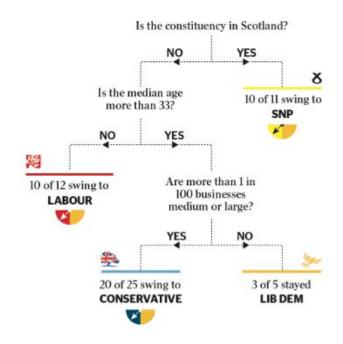
The UK divided

Housing was the most important factor in this election. The vast majority of constituencies with low levels of council housing went to the Conservatives. In the remaining constituencies, Labour won seats in areas of high unemployment and lower education levels. Conservatives took what's left - except in Scotland where the SNP now dominates.



Liberal Democrat seats held and lost

The only party with an interesting swing dynamic is the Liberal Democrats. While Labour lost Scotland to the SNP and the Conservatives barely moved, the Lib Dems took a hit. They lost their Scotlish seats to the SNP, their younger constituencies to Labour and their older seats with more big business to the Conservatives.





The Revenue say they cost the UK £4.5bn a year. The Chancellor says the most aggressive of them are 'morally repugnant'. The Times reveals the secrets of ...

The tax avoiders

Alexi Mostrous Special Correspondent

Thousands of wealthy people in Britain pay as little as I per cent income tax using "below the radar" accounting methods, part of a tax avoidance industry that costs the country billions of pounds.

An investigation by *The Times* into tax avoidance begins today with the exposure of a single Jersey-based scheme that shelters £168 million a year from the taxman.

Jimmy Carr, the comedian who performed for the Queen at the Diamond Jubilee celebrations this month, is understood to be the largest beneficiary of the K2 tax scheme.

Mr Carr shelters £3.3 million a year through K2, which is used by 1,100 tax avoiders, according to an accountant selling the scheme.

When The Times approached Mr Carr, his lawyers confirmed his membership of K2. They denied any wrongdoing and said that the scheme had been disclosed to the relevant bodies in



delighted to inform you that most of the powerful tax-saving opportunities survived unscathed."

Posing as an IT consultant earning £280,000 a year, a Times reporter contacted a number of avoidance specialists offering schemes to people on salaries above £100,000. Mr Lyness promised that K2 could slash a hypothetical tax bill of £127,000 to only £3500, equivalent to a personal income tax rate of 1.25 per cent.

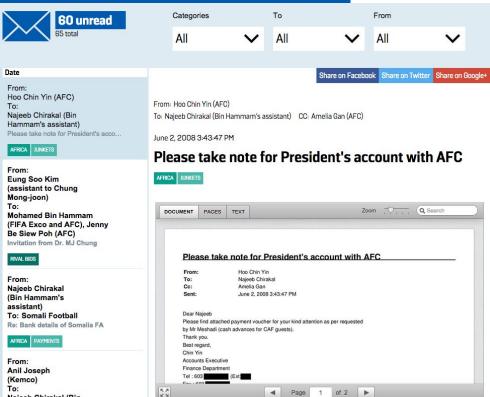
"It's a game of cat and mouse," he said. "The Revenue closes one scheme, we find another way round it.

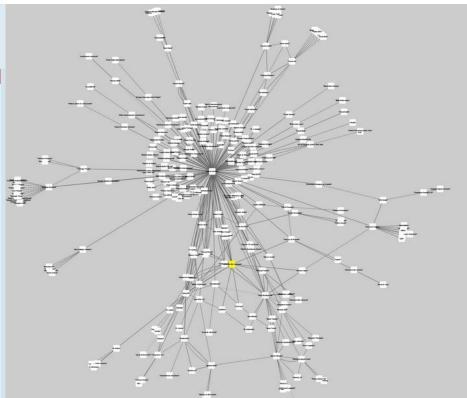
"It's like a sat-nav. I'm driving to Manchester, get a message saying there's a smash at Stoke, press this button to re-route. That's all we do with tax avoidance. The Revenue puts ablock in, we just go round the block." K2 works by transferring salaries

'It's just like a sat-nav. They put a block in



THE FIFA FILES











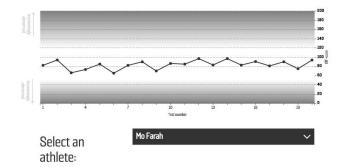


accountability through transparency



Mo Farah Olympic Medalist (GB)

"I'm happy to do what it takes to prove I'm a clean athlete."



Abderrahim Goumri







London Olympics were 'sabotaged' by Russians

Huge state-sponsored doping programme revealed

Matt Dickinson Geneva

Russia faces being banned from the Olympics in Rio next year after investigators found that it "sabotaged" the

service, infiltrated anti-doping work by posing as engineers at the Sochi Winter Olympics. Laboratories are thought to have been bugged as part of a wider

be a residue of the old Soviet system." Mr Pound said. Vitaly Mutko, the Russian minister of sport, was implicated, he added, "It was

gations that Larsine Diack, the former president of the International Association of Athletics Federations, and associates took more than El million in

Almost half of migrants from EU are on benefits

Michael Savage

year burn on EU migrants claiming benefits at the forefront of his renegotiation of Britain's membership of the European Union

The prime minister will back up his ternand with the claim that nearly hall all new arrivals from the HU are

dairning benefits He will say that 43 per cent of BU migrants rely on the support of the UK enefits system during their first four ears in the country. This represents 234,000 EU nationals out of \$26,000

About 148,000 of these ome 56 per cent, receive tax credits ousing/benefit and other welfare band ets available to people in work.

Downing Street said that migrants entitled to so-called "inwork" benefits claimed an average of £5,000 per family, costing UK taxogo emment's planned reforms, none of rigrants in their first four years.

pested that more than 10,000 recently arrived HU families claimed over \$10,000 through in-work welfare in the new analysis made clear the new for changes to the welfure rules, and the bur-year benefit but will reduce the francial incentive for ELI miamots to come to Britain in the first place.

"Because of how generous the UK) n-work benefits can be, it can make financial sense for an EU citizen to go Europe, to a minimum wage in the UK, using the in-work benefits to top up the



GPs award £2.4bn deals to their own companies

Times investigation reveals conflicts of interest

Chris Smyth Health Editor Kat Lay Health Correspondent **Times Data Team**

Groups of family doctors who control local NHS budgets have handed at least 12.4 billion of taxpayers' money to organisations that their members own

or work for, The Times can reveal. GP-led groups are responsible for spending NHS funds locally, creating the potential for conflicts of interest because doctors can effectively pay

themselves for clinical services. An investigation by The Times and the rules because the doctors declared the interest and abstained during deci-

Health chiefs could be questioned by MPs over their control of NHS budgets after Meg Hillier, the chairwoman of the House of Commons public accounts committee, said that there was a governance issue. "There's a problem with the system that people are getting tied up in knots like this and it does not look

good for the taxpayer," she said. She said that the committee would be looking into the spending of the groups. arouing that it was not good enough for





Axed staff rehired by councils in £5bn spree

Scandal of consultants earning £1,000 a day

All Sherman Whitehall Editor Alice Udals-Smith, Times Data Team

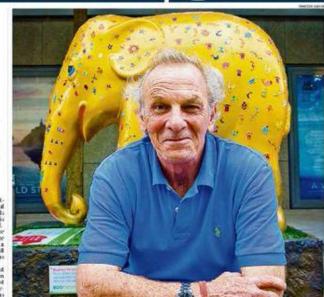
Local councils are rehiring staff they have recently made redundant in a "scandalous" £5 billion spending spree on agency and consultancy workers. an investigation by The Tieses has

Dozens of authorities have splashed out more than £50 million with five spending above \$100 million since 2000-III. Much of the money has been nterim managers and consultants,

Association and head of E& at Hertford thire county council, said that social workers often went back to councils where they had worked before, but this was also the case for higher-paid staff.

"Many go to the private sector for better pay in legal, finance and HR or general management roles. There is a ig chance that local government will pay the same for them to come back as consultants, she said.

A freedom of information request showed that the worst offenders on used on approxy social workers but as agency expenditure include the biggest increasing amount is now going on councils, the counties and London borcoche. Birmingham city council was





Megan Lucero Data Journalism Editor @Megan_Lucero