

## where does our money go?

Half a billion quid here, twenty billion pounds there...the news is awash with mind-bogglingly enormous piles of cash. But what do they mean? The best way to understand these figures is to divide them up into values we can get our heads around: pounds per person per year. From holidays to healthcare, where does our money go?

Since there are 62 million of us living in the UK, even pretty vast sums of money are quite cheap if we club together: if the government spends one billion pounds, that's just £16 each.

Looking at spending in this way throws up some surprises: for example, we spend more on peanuts than MPs' expenses, but guess which one got more media attention? Just £10 a year goes on researching cancer, even though it will kill a third of us. There's a lot in the Cashogram, so have a browse and let us know what you see.

£1bn | £16 each | £100bn | £1600 each



You start with a **salary**

The **government** takes some as **direct tax**

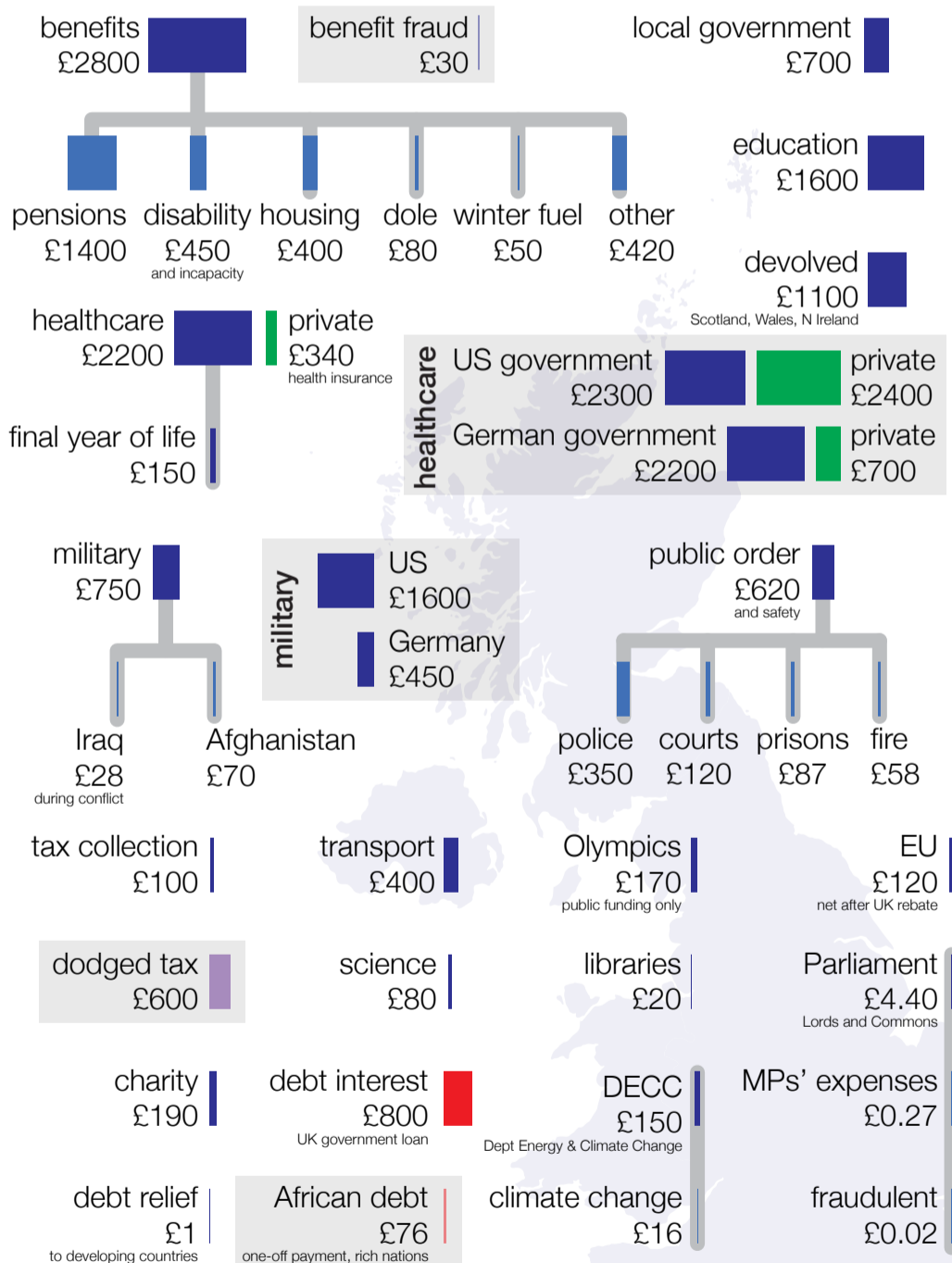
Some of your **spending** funds **indirect tax**

The **government** spends more than it receives in tax: this is called the **budget deficit**



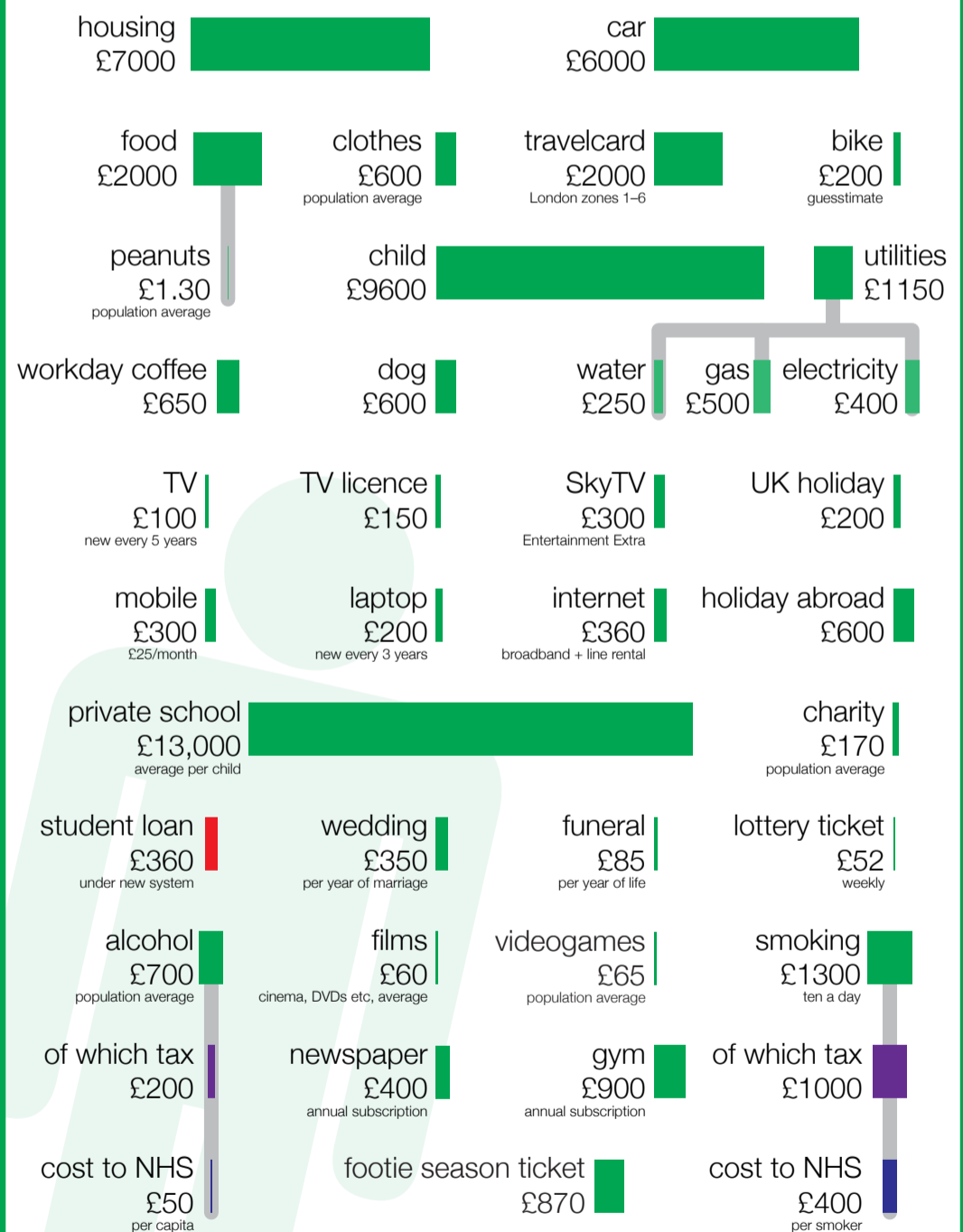
## government spending: £12,800

This is the amount the government spends on your behalf if you earn the median full-time salary. This is coincidentally almost the same as the amount spent per man, woman and child in the UK.



## personal spending: £18,600

These are examples of personal expenditure. The exact amounts will obviously vary from person to person, and many are entirely optional. As a result, they add up to more than £18,500!



## miscellaneous money

These are various figures divided out per person in the UK. They're not directly related to the boxes above...they're just a bit of fun. Or horror.

