

What is the British Connection?

Various OECD member states run satellite secrecy jurisdictions, but **Britain's** network is by far the largest, accounting for between a third and a half of the global market in offshore financial services. Ten secrecy jurisdictions on our list are either British **Crown Dependencies** (Jersey, Guernsey, the Isle of Man) or British **Overseas Territories** (such as the Cayman Islands or Bermuda,) which are partly controlled and supported by the UK and partly independent from it. Many others are **British Commonwealth Realms** or members of the **British Commonwealth**, which include some Overseas Territories but otherwise have a much looser relationship with the UK.

All these jurisdictions generally share British common law; deep financial penetration by British financial interests and enablers; typically use British-styled offshore structures such as trusts, usually have English as a first or second language, and many of them have their final court of appeal at the [Privy Council](#) in London: a legal bedrock that underpins their offshore industries.

The Queen is head of state in most of these territories and Britain has quite wide powers that would allow it to disallow or change their secrecy legislation, though as our [UK Narrative Report](#) explains these powers are not straightforward, and Britain has generally chosen not to exercise its powers for political and economic reasons.

As our full [UK narrative report](#) explains, the British secrecy jurisdictions have for decades served as a global network capturing financial business from countries around the world and feeding it into the City of London. Jersey Finance, the official body representing that secrecy jurisdiction's financial services industry, illustrates this with a [statement](#) that "Jersey represents an extension of the City of London." This network allows the City to get involved in dubious financial businesses at arm's length, and to avoid responsibility when scandal strikes.

On Britain's claims to have cracked down

In September 2013 UK Prime Minister David Cameron [stated](#) in the House of Commons: "*I do not think it is fair any longer to refer to any of the Overseas Territories or Crown Dependencies as tax havens. They have taken action to ensure that they have fair and open tax systems.*" The table and Chart 2 below illustrate just how patently untrue this statement is.

**Table showing secrecy performance by Key Financial Secrecy Indicators of
British Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies**

KFSI #	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Secrecy score
Anguilla	0.4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0.42	0	0.78	0.8	0.07	76
Bermuda	0.47	0.5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0.57	1	0.43	0.8	0.21	80
British Virgin Islands	0.2	0.5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0.33	0	0.67	0.2	0	66
Cayman Islands	0.5	0.5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0.32	0	0.5	0.6	0.07	70
Gibraltar	0.36	0.5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0.37	1	0.63	0.6	0.33	79
Guernsey	0.47	0.75	1	1	1	1	1	1	0.8	1	0.18	0	0.27	0.4	0.14	67
Isle of Man	0.33	1	1	0.8	1	1	1	1	0.8	1	0.34	0	0.39	0.2	0.2	67
Jersey	0.23	1	1	0.8	1	1	1	1	1	0	0.26	1	0.41	0.5	0.21	75
Montserrat	0.7	0.5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0.5	0.47	0	0.85	0.8	0.35	74
Turks & Caicos Islands	0.63	0.5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0.66	0	0.76	0.8	0.39	78

KEY

0	Fully compliant
	Partially compliant
1	Wholly uncompliant

Chart 2 takes this point further, revealing that the British jurisdictions are clustered towards the top (more secretive) end of the secrecy spectrum, with the British Commonwealth countries of Brunei and St. Lucia sharing the dubious distinction of being extremely secretive.

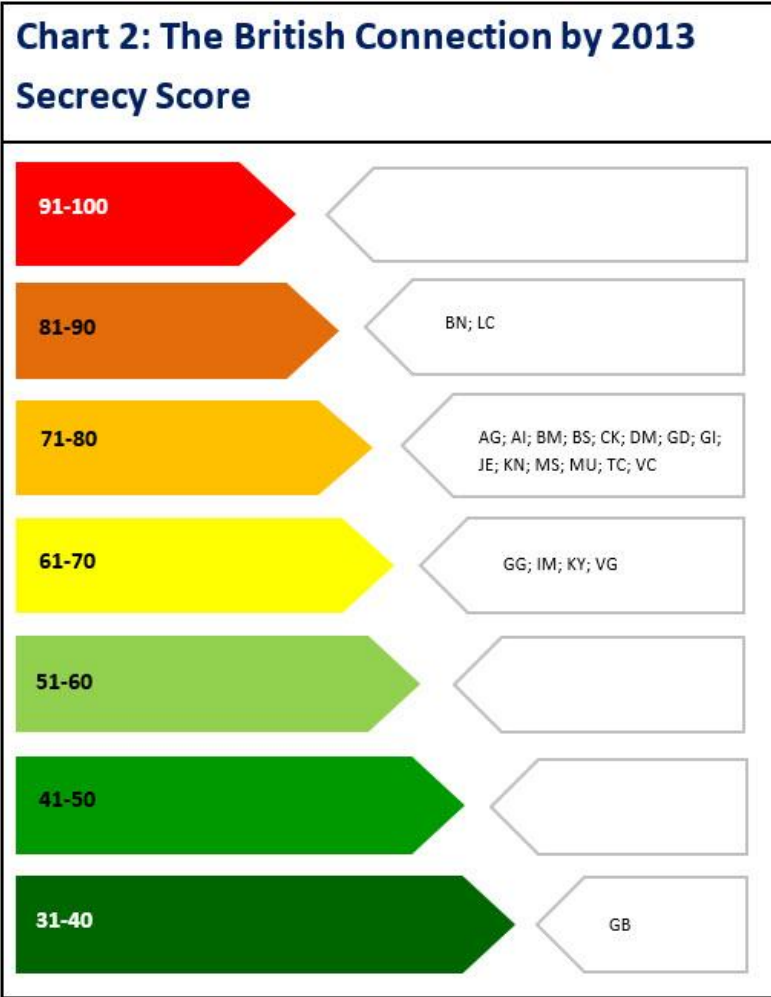


Chart 2: KEY

The bars in this chart range between red indicating exceptionally secretive, to dark green indicating moderately secretive. See [here](#) for the country codes used in this chart.