# A member’s view: Mehran Iqbal ATT CTA

Briefings



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This month’s CIOT member spotlight is on Mehran Iqbal, ATT Council Member and Principal at Smart Leap.

## How did you find out about a career in tax?

Whilst training as an accountant, I developed a keen interest in taxation alongside my accounting duties. After qualifying as a Chartered Accountant, a professional contact recommended pursuing the Chartered Tax Adviser (CTA) qualification to enhance my expertise and provide greater value to clients.

## Why is the CIOT qualification important?

The CIOT qualification is both comprehensive and highly practical. Its structured design ensures the development of in-depth, specialised knowledge within your chosen CTA Route, enabling application in daily professional practice. It enhances

your individual capabilities and instils greater confidence among clients and colleagues.

## Why did you pursue a career in tax?

I am motivated by personal challenges, which naturally inspire me to improve and grow. After completing my accountancy exams, I recognised taxation as a key area for further development. Based on advice from a senior colleague, I decided to specialise in taxation alongside my role as an accountant.

## How would you describe yourself in three words?

Empathetic, visionary and resolute.

## Who has influenced you in your career so far?

My career has been influenced by a combination of personal support and professional inspiration. My parents, who instilled in me the core values of knowledge and resilience; my teachers, who fostered my learning and development; and my wife, whose unwavering support has been instrumental to my achievements.

Professionally, I follow the work of leading tax experts such as Emma Rawson, Keith Gordon, Mark McLaughlin, Nichola Ross Martin, Peter Rayney, Sofia Thomas and Dean Wootten.

## What advice would you give to someone thinking of doing the CIOT qualification?

Life is filled with challenges, and the CIOT qualification is certainly a demanding one. My advice is to start early, create a structured plan, and be prepared to persevere through setbacks. Practice, particularly with past exam questions, is crucial to achieving success.

## What are your predictions for the tax industry?

While the potential for AI to displace certain roles raises widespread concerns, I believe the role of tax professionals will evolve rather than become obsolete –residing in complex judgment and proactive planning. Governments will also face

the challenge of adapting tax systems to an AI-driven economy to maintain vital revenue streams, and of designing fiscal policies that address the environmental impact of the technology itself. Managing the tax and non-tax implications of AI's carbon footprint will also become a key focus.

## What advice would you give to your future self?

Trust yourself and stay true to who you are.

## Tell me something that others may not know about you.

After passing my ATT in 2020, my slow handwriting felt like a roadblock to the CTA – until computer-based exams arrived. It was heaven-sent, and I knew I had to go for it!