Emma Rawson awarded OBE

Briefings

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ATT Director of Public Policy Emma Rawson is recognised in the King’s Birthday Honours for her service and vision in supporting HMRC, tax agents and taxpayers through Making Tax Digital.

The Association of Taxation Technicians is delighted that Emma Rawson, ATT Director of Public Policy, has been awarded an OBE in the King’s Birthday Honours List. The honour recognises her outstanding contribution to the tax profession, and in particular her work in supporting HMRC, tax agents and taxpayers through the development and implementation of Making Tax Digital for Income Tax.

Emma has played a central role in helping to explain one of the most significant changes to income tax administration in recent years. Through her work at ATT, she has helped ensure that the practical implications of MTD are clearly understood and that the concerns of agents and taxpayers are communicated constructively to policymakers. Her approach has combined technical expertise with a consistent focus on making the tax system more accessible and workable in practice.

At ATT, Emma has been the driving force behind the organisation’s digital content on MTD, overseeing and contributing to technical guidance, practical guides, explainer videos and social media updates designed to reach a wide range of audiences. This work has helped members, students, agents, employers and taxpayers to navigate complex changes with greater confidence.

Her contribution has extended well beyond the production of guidance. Emma has represented ATT in detailed engagement with HMRC and other professional bodies, chaired the MTD Professional Body Issue Escalation Group, delivered webinars and member sessions, and helped to ensure that the real-life issues raised by agents are fed back into policy discussions. Her leadership has been valued for its clarity, balance and practical insight at a time of considerable change for the profession.

Beyond MTD, Emma has also been recognised for her voluntary work and commitment to public education. This includes supporting local self-employment networks, designing educational materials, and helping to raise the aspirations of young people in West Yorkshire by visiting schools and colleges, giving talks about careers and providing practical support. Her work reflects a wider commitment to improving understanding of tax and opening up opportunities for others.

The OBE follows another major professional accolade for Emma, who was recently named winner of the Outstanding Contribution to Taxation by an Individual award at the 2026 Tolley’s Taxation Awards. Together, these awards reflect the breadth and impact of her work across tax policy, member support, public education and the wider tax community.

Everyone at ATT warmly congratulates Emma on this remarkable and well-earned honour, which recognises not only her professional expertise but also her sustained commitment to public service and to supporting those affected by change in the tax system.