CEO Welcome: Making our voices heard

Welcomes

December 2026



26 November 2026

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, John Healey, gave his first Budget statement at the end of October. While there were no headline-grabbing announcements, the Budget contained a raft of smaller tax changes. Many appear relatively modest, but collectively they add further complexity to the tax system.

Our work on the Budget starts much earlier than October, and we are very proud of the part that we continue to play in helping Parliament scrutinise tax policy. CIOT, ATT and CIOT's Low Incomes Tax Reform Group (LITRG) have all provided written and oral evidence to the House of Lords Finance Bill Sub-committee, with ATT and LITRG each giving oral evidence once and CIOT appearing twice. These sessions have covered topics as diverse as mandatory payrolling of benefits and Customer Correction Notices.

It is always encouraging to see our expertise being recognised, and these appearances allow us to explain how tax policy works in the real world for taxpayers, businesses and advisers. None of this happens without a great deal of work behind the scenes, so we would like to thank everyone who has helped to shape our evidence.

The Budget allows us to share our expertise more widely, and this year our teams have been particularly busy. Alongside our detailed technical work, we have also been active in the media, publishing articles and press releases, speaking on the radio and providing timely reactions as announcements emerged. It has been a real team effort, ensuring that our voices and members' experiences are part of the wider tax debate.

Our technical teams have been busy analysing the Budget announcements and assessing what they will mean for members, their clients and taxpayers. There is plenty to keep them occupied, such as the particularly short consultation period for the proposed new Founders' Relief, which closed on 30 November, little more than a month after it was launched. While we always welcome the opportunity to engage with government on the design and implementation of new tax policy, meaningful consultation takes time, particularly where proposals are complex and their practical consequences need careful consideration. Our teams have worked hard to ensure that practical considerations and the views of those affected are reflected in our responses.

Elsewhere, the examination season comes to an end with the Advanced Diploma in International Tax (ADIT) exams from 15 to 17 December. In an ever more connected world, tax professionals need to navigate the challenges and opportunities of today's business environment. ADIT is an advanced-level qualification in cross-border tax, designed by world-leading experts to provide a robust foundation in international tax. We would like to wish all the students taking these exams the very best of luck.

Tax return season is now starting to pick up pace for those working in private client departments across the country. This year, many firms will also be preparing for the additional complexities of Making Tax Digital submissions. We wish everyone tackling client returns and submissions all the very best over the coming weeks. May your calculations run smoothly, your submissions go to plan and your coffee cups never run dry!

Finally, as we approach the end of another busy year, we would like to thank everyone who has helped make 2026 such a success, whether through contributing to our technical work, volunteering in schools and at careers fairs, or supporting fellow members and future tax professionals through our mentoring programme. Your time, expertise and enthusiasm make an enormous contribution to our organisations, and we are very grateful for everything you do.

We wish you a lovely festive season and a happy, healthy and successful New Year.