Career development: Is your finance team tax-ready?

Briefings

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As tax requirements become increasingly complex, practical knowledge and professional training can help finance teams manage risks and support better decisions

Tax knowledge is becoming increasingly important across finance teams, not just within specialist tax roles. As regulation, reporting requirements and technology continue to evolve, finance professionals are expected to recognise tax considerations earlier and understand how they affect wider business decisions. Building practical tax knowledge can helporganisations manage risk, support informed decision-making and prepare for the challenges ahead.

Finance teams encounter tax considerations across a range of activities, from payroll and employment taxes to reporting requirements, business transactions and governance obligations. At the same time, technology is changing the way finance

teams work. Advances inautomation, data analytics and digital reporting have created opportunities for greater efficiency, but have also increased expectations around data quality, controls and compliance. Finance professionals must understand how technology influences processes and decision-making.

For employers and finance leaders, the key questions are practical. Does yourfinance team have the tax knowledge it needs to keep pace with change? Canteam members identify potential taxrisks before they become significant issues? Are they confident in responding to legislative changes? And is tax knowledge shared effectively across the organisation?

Getting tax wrong can be costly, while getting it right can help organisations to manage risk and make better decisions.But building tax capability doesnt mean turning every finance professional into atax specialist. It means ensuring that people understand the tax issues relevant to their role and know when to seek expert advice.

Connor Whelan, Group Services Manager, Group Tax at Porsche Cars Great Britain Ltd, has experienced these benefits first-hand. The ATT has been avital part of my development as a tax professional and has helped me build astrong technical foundation across a broad range of taxes, which gives me the confidence to apply that knowledge in the workplace, said Connor.

For example, my ATT knowledge has helped me when reviewing business-led projects, allowing me to identify potential tax considerations at an early stage. Thatmeans I can provide clear guidance to the business, help manage risk and make sure that tax implications are considered as part of wider decision-making. The practical knowledge gained through the ATT continues to be valuable in supporting the business and navigating complex issues. The ATT Qualification has supported me throughout my career, and I'd recommend it to anyone looking to develop their tax knowledge.

For employers, supporting tax training can help create stronger, more resilient finance teams. It can reduce reliance on a small number of specialists, improve confidence across the function, and support more informed conversations with advisers and stakeholders.

Keeping pace with change requiresmore than occasional updates. Continuous professional development, structured training and recognised qualifications all have

a role to play. The ATT Qualification provides a practical grounding in UK taxation and can support both aspiring tax specialists and finance professionals whose roles increasingly intersect with tax.

CIOT members are also eligible to joinATT without completing any further qualifications, giving them access to ATT member benefits and a wider professional community. Find out more about joint ATT/CTA membership at tinyurl.com/yptbr83r.

To find out more about the ATT Qualification, member benefits and how ATT could support skills development in your organisation, visit www.att.org.uk/stepup-finance.