Members survey: Budget 'missed opportunities'

Briefings

December 2026



27 November 2026

The Budget missed an opportunity to drive economic growth and simplify the tax system, according to a survey of more than 300 members of the ATT.

Asked which area the Budget should have focused on more, 37% of respondents said it should have sought to promote growth, while a further 28% chose tax simplification measures. Other issues included cost-of-living support (11%), incentivising investment (9%) and closing the tax gap (6%).

The findings come as ATT members gave the Budget itself a largely subdued reception. Almost half (49%) described their reaction as negative, including 12% who were very negative. Another 38% were neutral, while 13% were somewhat positive. Not a single respondent selected very positive.

The poll also asked tax professionals which Budget measures they expected to have the biggest impact on their clients. Income tax changes were the most commonly cited, chosen by around a third. Savings and investment measures were next, selected by more than one in five.

Jon Stride, chair of the ATTs Technical Steering Group, said: The message from our members is clear. While Budgets inevitably involve difficult choices, tax professionals think there was scope for the government to do more to support growth and make the tax system simpler.