Political update: December 2026

Briefings

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27 November 2026

CIOT, ATT and LITRG work with politicians from all parties in pursuit of better informed tax policy making.

It has been a busy autumn on the political engagement front. We reported in last months online edition on the debates held by CIOT and CenTax at the Labour and Conservative party conferences on how we tax start-ups and entrepreneurs, at which Financial Secretary James Murray and Shadow Exchequer Secretary John Cooper were speakers. Our reports and analysis on tax announcements and discussions at seven conferences are available on the CIOT website blog at tax.org.uk/blog/1.

The Finance Bill is always a key time for our political engagement. At the time of writing, the ATT, CIOT and LITRG technical teams are all working hard alongside the external relations team preparing written and oral briefings for opposition spokespeople and other MPs scrutinising the legislation. Before that, we gave evidence in person to the House of Lords Finance Bill Sub-committee looking at some of the measures in the Bill. Antonia Stokes (for LITRG) and Margaret Curran

(for CIOT) both answered peers questions about the new requirement to correct and the proposed criminal offence of making reckless untrue statements. Chris Campbell (for ATT) and Sarah Hewson (for CIOT) both appeared as witnesses discussing the mandatory payrolling of benefits in kind. All did a great job of explaining the issues to the Lords and setting out our concerns about them.

We have also been busy in Scotland and Wales. Back in September, Joanne Walker (for CIOT and LITRG) gave evidence to the Scottish Parliaments Finance Committee as part of its pre-Budget scrutiny. CIOT and ATT comments on income tax and council tax were cited in the committees report. We were also cited in the Scottish governments response to a consultation on the future of council tax and included in a list of key stakeholders in Revenue Scotlands annual report. In October, CIOT co-sponsored a well-attended reception in Edinburgh, under the auspices of the Enterprise Forum, forMSPs and Scottish business. InCardiff, meanwhile, a team of CIOT representatives met with the new Finance Secretary, Elin Jones, to discuss the new governments tax agenda.

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