Tolley's® TAXATION Awards 2026

AWARD CATEGORIES

Best International Tax Team
This award is open both to firms which specialise in international tax and to international tax teams in larger law and accounting firms. The team must be largely based in the UK but can be providing services and advice to businesses or individuals anywhere in the world. Entries are encouraged both from teams which concentrate on a particular aspect of international tax, such as transfer pricing, and from teams which provide the entire range of international tax services.

Best Specialist Team in a Law or Accounting Firm
This award is open to teams whose work does not fall within any of the other specific award categories. Any tax-related specialism undertaken by a distinct team within a firm is eligible. Stand-alone teams which are not part of a large firm should enter the Best Independent Tax Consultancy Firm category.

Best Employer in Tax
This award is open to any organisation which employs staff working in taxation whether in private practice, the third sector or in-house. General practice firms are eligible providing that their entry concentrates on their tax team rather than on the firm as a whole. The judges will be looking for rounded entries which show how individual careers are developed within the ethos of a team. To have a chance of being shortlisted an entry in this category needs to include the perspective of staff members themselves.

Best Independent Tax Consultancy Firm
This award is open to all independent firms who provide tax consultancy services other than those for which there is a specific category elsewhere in the awards. Consultancy teams in larger firms should enter the 'Best Specialist Team in a Law or Accounting Firm category.

Best In-house Tax Team
This award is open to all teams dealing with their own organisation's tax management and reporting. Entrants can be from teams in public or private companies, those in the public or third sector, or teams within large professional firms dealing with their own in-house tax.

Best Corporate or Business Tax Practice
This award is open to any team in an accountancy or law firm which delivers UK tax advice to businesses.

Best Private Client Tax Practice
This award is for firms which have a substantial private client base. It is open both to firms which are wholly devoted to providing private client advice and to private client practices within larger firms.

Best Tax Disputes/Investigations Team
This award is open to independent firms, or distinct practices within larger firms, which specialise in any form of tax investigation, dispute resolution or risk management work with a tax focus.

Best Tax Practice in a Regional Firm
This award is open to multi-office practices which operate in a defined geographical region in the UK.

Best VAT/Indirect Tax Team
This award is for all teams whose work is in any area of indirect tax, whether they are an independent businesses or part of a larger firm.

Best New Tax Practice
This award is open to any new tax practice which was established within the last three years. The judges will be particularly interested in entries from start-ups and wholly new practices but new firms which have been spun out of existing organisations or new teams within an existing practice will also be eligible.

Best Small Tax Practice
This award is open to any full-service tax practice which operates from a single office or from a small group of offices. Small specialist and boutique firms should enter the Best Independent Tax Consultancy Firm category.

Best Employment Tax Team
This award is open to all firms which specialise in UK employment tax, or to the UK employment tax teams in larger firms.

Taxation's Rising Star
This is open to individuals aged 30 or younger on the closing date for entries who have started to establish themselves as leading lights in the tax profession. Entries can be submitted by the individuals themselves, by close colleagues, or by their employer. The judges will be looking for entries which show real progress within the individual's firm as well as demonstrating a contribution to the tax profession as a whole.

Tax Mentor of the Year
This award recognises an exceptional tax professional who has made a real difference to the professional life of their mentees. The judges invite submissions from individual mentees who can demonstrate how their mentor has helped them achieve their goals. Firms can also nominate individuals within their own organisations who are recognised as key mentors to staff and partners.

Tolley's Award for Outstanding Contribution to Taxation in 2025-26 by an Individual
This award recognises the work of individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to tax in 2025 or early 2026. Nominations can be made by anybody within the tax profession – there is no need to obtain the approval of the individual being nominated. (Anybody nominated will be asked by the judges whether they wish their name to go forward for consideration.)

Tolley's Award for Outstanding Contribution to Taxation in 2025-26 by a Not-for-profit Organisation
This award recognises the important role that many not-for-profit organisations play within the tax world in the UK. The judges will take a wide view of what is meant by not-for-profit to ensure that the widest group of organisations will be eligible. Entries can be submitted by any member of the tax profession as well as by the organisations themselves.

***Best Tax Technology Product**
This award is designed for software providers who are providing products for use by tax professionals. The judges will welcome entries which focus on the development of existing products as well as entries featuring entirely new products.

***Most Innovative Use of Technology in Tax**
This award is for tax professional firms and in house teams. The judges will be looking at ways in which firms have used technology to enhance their efficiency or improve their client service offering. Entries must show real innovation rather than incremental improvements in the use of existing technologies.

**These two awards recognise the importance of technology within the tax profession. Please ensure that you pick the appropriate category – entries which are submitted for both categories are highly unlikely to be successful.*

Outstanding Client Service Award **NEW for 2026**
This is a new award which recognises the paramount importance of client service. Entries should be specific to a particular client (or group of related clients) rather than client service achievements as a whole. The client can be anything from an individual through to the largest multinational group. The judges will expect that the client's own perspective will form part of the entry: any confidentiality concerns can be flagged in the submission or discussed in advance with the chair of the judging panel.

Lifetime Achievement Award
This prestigious award, given at the discretion of the judges, will honour an individual who has made a substantial contribution to taxation over his or her entire career. Individuals can nominate themselves, but nominations will also be accepted from colleagues and business associates.