

## How do I find a suitable accountant or tax adviser?

If you appoint a professional accountant or tax adviser to help you with your tax, you should do so with great care.

It is not widely understood that absolutely anyone can set up in business offering tax advisory services, even if they have absolutely no qualifications or experience. So if you choose someone at random from the telephone book, yellow pages or the internet, you do so at your own risk.

In our experience you are more likely to make a good choice if you appoint someone who meets all, or at least three, of the following criteria:

- they are recommended by someone you know,
- they belong to a professional institute which will have required them to take tax examinations, will require that they have professional indemnity insurance and will have a complaints procedure
- they have considerable experience in advising on tax in the areas in which you require help,
- you have met them and they seem to be efficient in the way that they work and someone whom you could get along with.

If you need a professional tax adviser, a good place to start would be the:

- [Chartered Institute of Taxation](#);
- [Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales](#);
- [Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland](#); or
- [Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland](#).