

**Minutes of the Tax Professionals' Forum meeting, 24 October 2023**

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (FST), Victoria Atkins MP, chaired a meeting of the Tax Professionals' Forum on Tuesday 24 October 2023. Anita Monteith, Philip Baker, Richard Stratton and Jonathan Riley sent their apologies. All other members were in attendance.

The FST welcomed the members and thanked them for continuing to engage with HMT. She invited the Forum to give their views on how the government can get the most value from their work. The Forum expressed their preference to returning to a regular rhythm of engagement. They also suggested that we have more frequent meetings to discuss live tax policy making cases, rather than wait for an annual retrospective report. The FST asked the Forum to explore the benefits of these options with officials.

The Forum gave a high-level assessment of the government's performance against its published tax policy making principles. They noted the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent energy price shocks. They stated that there were instances during this period where the government had effectively engaged with stakeholders in a novel and rapid manner, and suggested that there could be lessons learnt for broader tax policy making from these experiences. The FST agreed with notion of establishing best practices to speed up the consultation process where there was a good case to do so e.g. in the face of forestalling risks or rapidly changing economic conditions.

The Forum reflected on their experiences of using the gov.uk platform and products to track policy making and development. They suggested that the government could make it easier for external stakeholders to see a record and roadmap of policy making for individual measures. They cited the Finance Bill website as a good example to follow. The FST agreed that ensuring openness and transparency in tax policy making was vital and asked the Forum to engage with officials on ways to improve the government's platforms.

Finally, the Forum noted their work towards their next report, which they are planning to publish in the spring of 2024.