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*Dear Peter*

**THE REVISED PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT IN RELATION TO  
TAXATION**

Today the revised Professional Conduct in Relation to Taxation (PCRT) code was published and I am writing to thank you for the work your professional body contributed to in responding to the Government's Budget 15 challenge to do more to tackle the creation and promotion of tax-avoidance schemes. I have been impressed with the commitment demonstrated by all the seven PCRT professional bodies, both to good tax compliance and to responsible tax planning, and with how you have engaged with HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) officials and Ministers over the last 18 months or so.

The overwhelming majority of people in the UK want to comply with tax laws and your members play a key role in helping them do so. That includes responsible tax planning. However a very small minority of advisors seek to exploit tax laws in a way that Parliament never intended, securing for their clients an unfair tax advantage. This group undermines the reputation of the great majority of the profession and



wider public confidence in the tax system. I believe that the five new tax planning principles set out in the PCRT will help protect the reputation of an industry that provides essential support to those trying to get their taxes right, and to the wider economy.

I know that the publication of the revised PCRT is not the end of the process. I know that you will continue to work with HMRC to ensure the new principles are advertised and promoted widely, and that robust action is taken against any members who decide to ignore them.

There is a shared goal between us on this matter and in this context we should do our utmost to ensure there is a continued shift in attitudes. We will need to keep the PCRT under review to check the extent to which the revised principles are having the impact we are all seeking. In the meantime, HMRC officials will work with the other professional bodies, the regulators of the legal professions, and agents who are not members of any professional body, to ensure that all those involved in tax planning adopt standards that match your principles.

*With many thanks  
Jane*

**Jane Ellison MP**