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## Small business champion wins top industry award

West Country chartered accountant Paul Aplin, a long-time champion of small businesses, has won a top industry award in recognition of his influential work on taxation issues.

He was presented with the Outstanding Industry Contribution award at the British Accountancy Awards ceremony held at the Tower of London on Wednesday evening (Nov. 20).

Mr. Aplin, tax partner at Somerset firm A.C. Mole & Sons, said:

“I have tried over the years to provide a voice in the corridors of Whitehall for the small business community, a community vital to the UK economy but one that I fear is not as well understood as it should be.

“My ambition is to get more people from HMRC and government to spend time with small businesses to try to see, at first hand, the problems they face.”

Introducing the award, *Accountancy Age* editor Kevin Reed praised Paul Aplin’s “calm, relaxed, but determined, demeanour” saying:

“He has achieved much. He is widely recognised as HMRC’s point man in helping it understand and improve its services. At the time of the Carter Review into the future of HMRC in a digital age, he was instrumental behind the scenes in getting HMRC to change its mind on bringing forward self-assessment filing deadlines.”

A chartered accountant and chartered tax adviser, Paul Aplin became his firm’s first tax partner in 1992. He and the practice received recognition in 1997 for being the first to file a tax return electronically and were the first firm to file a return over the internet in 2001.

Paul Aplin was recognised with an OBE for his services to the profession in the Queen’s 2009 Birthday Honours.

*Paul Aplin is chairman of the ICAEW Tax Faculty Technical Committee and you can follow him on Twitter @PaulAplinOnTax*

**Ends**

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Paul Aplin is available for interview. Please contact Linda Findlay, details above, or contact Paul direct on M: 07739 892194 E: [paulaplin@acmole.co.uk](mailto:paulaplin@acmole.co.uk)

## Notes for editors

A C Mole & Sons is an independent West Country firm of Chartered Accountants and Chartered Tax Advisers with several thousand clients across the UK. Clients are both individuals and businesses spanning a broad range of sectors including farming, the motor trade, manufacturing, retail, leisure and professional services.

The firm filed the UK's first ever electronic tax return in 1997 and has a national award winning tax team.

Stephen Golby is the firm's managing partner and advises a wide range of businesses.

David Perry and Chris Loveluck specialise in advising the farming community on tax and finance issues.

Paul Aplin OBE is a tax partner with the firm and is also Chairman of the Tax Faculty Technical Committee of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales and a member of H M Revenue & Customs Administrative Burdens Advisory Board.