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Accounting and Business

Ireland January 2018

200,000 and counting

ACCA celebrates meeting a membership milestone

Future perfect

A look ahead at what 2018 might hold for CFOs

Data deadline

How can finance professionals help with data protection compliance?

Digital banker

KBC's Darragh Lennon on using technology to win market share

Think Ahead

ACCA



The view from

Helen Hamilton FCCA, senior tax manager BDO, on client requirements and the growing war for talent

At BDO, we are focused on creating the best-performing, most trusted and respected accountancy firm in Ireland. We've grown our market share by putting clients first and delivering exceptional customer



In addition to my day-to-day role, I enjoy getting involved in firm-wide initiatives. I am a member of BDO's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Committee, its Technology Innovation Group, and the

service, while actively engaging and developing our people. Working within the Tax Planning Department, our team is focused on delivering effective tax services to our clients.

Working with clients during turbulent times has focused the minds of all concerned. That focus continues as we see our clients experience recovery, expansion and growth.

My current role involves providing advisory and compliance tax services to clients from a wide variety of sectors. I work with domestic owner-managed businesses providing a full suite of tax services. I manage the day-to-day client relationship and co-ordinate the management and delivery of tax services.

General Data Protection Regulation working group.

I enjoy interacting with ambitious and entrepreneurial people. One of the most rewarding parts of my job is that I get to work alongside and learn from truly entrepreneurial clients and colleagues.

BDO Ireland is based in Dublin city centre and the CSR Committee supports initiatives in the local area that will make a lasting positive impact. Each year, our staff selects a local charity that we then support throughout the year. Our most recent CSR fundraising initiative saw 42 colleagues abseil down 100ft in Croke Park, myself included, in aid of our nominated charity.

One of the biggest challenges our sector will face in the year ahead is around people. Without a doubt the war for talent is back. We are actively recruiting as a result of new business and increased market activity.

Throughout my career I have learned that effective communication is the key to success. This skill helps to build trust, rapport, and is critical in managing expectations with clients and colleagues. ^{AB}

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42%



of global regulatory inspections of audits identified deficiencies; even with the top six firms' planned 25% reduction by 2019, one in three audits would be left with significant findings. *Source: The International Forum of Independent Audit Regulators*

McAteer takes GT helm

Michael McAteer FCCA has been elected as the new managing partner of Grant Thornton Ireland. The head of advisory services has taken over from Paul McCann, who will continue as a partner in financial services advisory and also head up the European banking group with Grant Thornton International. 'It is a great honour to be elected by my partners to lead Grant Thornton into consolidating our position as leading business advisers and seeking opportunities for strategic growth,' McCann said.

RSM Ireland comes top

RSM Ireland has been named as the best RSM member firm for 2017. The award was based on performance across a number of criteria, including evidence of growth; innovative work practices and client service solutions; demonstrating a leadership role in regulations/professional practice; staff initiatives; and active membership in the international network. Since joining the network in 2016, RSM Ireland has reported a 144% increase in international referrals, with more than 40% of those coming from the UK as companies consider the impact of Brexit.