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## EXCLUSIVE: 2019 eprivateclient Top Accountancy Firms revealed

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Welcome to the 2019 *eprivateclient* Top Accountancy Firms rankings – the annual analysis of the leading UK tax advisory firms who look after the affairs of some of the wealthiest individuals and families in the UK and globally.

As with the rankings in both 2017 and 2018, this year’s list is no longer limited to the Top 25 but reflects the depth and breadth of advice available to private clients in the UK. As a result 32 firm feature in the rankings this year (compared to 33 firms in 2018) spread across four tiers with eight firms featuring in each tier.

Data collected from the firms, as well as estimates made by *eprivateclient* when data was not provided, reveal that for 2019 the 32 firms comprise 425 partners, 2964 fee earners, over 3800 private client staff and made £521.65 million in fee income. These numbers are slightly down on last year when the 33 firms featured had a combined total of 470 partners, 3222 fee earners, 4182 private client staff and generated fee income of over £536 million. The slight contraction took place during a period of uncertainty for the UK economy and can also be explained by the merger between BDO and Moore Stephens earlier this year and the resultant impact on the combined firm’s figures.

The eight firms in Tier I have a total of 215 partners at an average of 26.9 per firm (up from the average of 24 for Tier I firms last year). Total number of fee earners at the eight firms adds up to 1770 for 2019 (at an average of 219 per firm – up from 190 per firm last year) while total UK private client staff at the Tier I firms stands at 2224 for 2019 – ranging from 182 at KPMG to over 350 at Saffery Champness. The eight firms generate fee income of £326.4 million (at an average of £40.8 million a firm). Private client fee income as percentage of total firm income across the 8 firms ranged from just 1 percent (PwC) to 60 percent (Saffery Champness).

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Tier II's eight firms have 108 partners among them (13.5 per firm compared to 12.2 in 2019), 629 fee earners (an average of 78.6), total staff of 864 (at an average of 108 per firm) and saw fee income in 2018 of £120.9 million - over £15 million on average and a significant rise on the average Tier II earnings of £10 million per firm in 2018's rankings. Private client fee income as percentage of total firm income across the eight firms ranged from just 4 percent (Grant Thornton) to over 82 percent (Rawlinson & Hunter).

In Tier III the 8 firms to feature have a total of 71 partners, 361 fee earners, total staff of 454 and generated fee income of £50.1 million last year. As a percentage of total firm income in Tier III, private client fee income was as high as 60 percent at one firm (Sopher + Co) and stood at just 14 percent for Menzies.

Tier IV again featured eight firms who among them have 31 private client partners, over 200 fee earners, 265 UK private client staff and made £24.2 million in fee income in the last year. Private client fee income accounts for around 60 percent of all fee income at two of Tier IV's firms –Creasey's and Tax Advisory Partnership (the latter who feature in the rankings for the first time in 2019).

The 2019 *eprivateclient* Top Accountancy Firm rankings are based on a survey of over 100 private client accountancy firms in the UK. Where data was not provided, publisher's estimates were made, which are clearly labelled on the rankings.

To view the full rankings table, please click below

The 2019 *eprivateclient* Top Accountancy Firms initiative is kindly supported by 1762 from Brewin Dolphin.

A champagne reception will be held for the winners in London on 04 June 2019.

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