

# RESPONSE

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**AAT**  
ASSOCIATION  
OF ACCOUNTING  
TECHNICIANS

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## The Budget – 17 March 2004

“The merger of the Inland Revenue and Customs & Excise has been long anticipated and will hopefully simplify the administration of tax. But as with so many tax promises, we wait to see that the reality rarely matches the hype.

"The merger needs to be handled carefully and sensitively: the disruption to the Inland Revenue caused by the introduction of tax credits caused considerable confusion and frustration amongst the accountancy profession. It also put Inland Revenue staff under severe pressure having to deal with an almost intolerable burden. It is imperative that the merger does not repeat these mistakes.

"We are particularly concerned about initiatives such as 'Working Together', of which the AAT is an active participant. We would urge those responsible to protect the role and purpose of these initiatives and to ensure that they are an integral part of how the new entity does business."

*For more information, please contact:*

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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- The AAT was founded in 1980 and is one of the fastest growing professional bodies in the world. It is the leading professional body for accounting technicians and has approximately 100,000 members worldwide.
- The AAT is sponsored by four of the major accountancy bodies in the UK:

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA)  
The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW)  
The Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA)  
The Chartered Institute of Chartered Accountants in Scotland (ICAS)

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