

## **AAT clamping down on rogue accountants**

The AAT is stamping down heavily on its members who have been providing self-employed accountancy services to the public without a licence and without appropriate anti-money laundering (AML) supervision.

Recent pages of disciplinary news in Accounting Technician magazine have been full of stories about members being reprimanded, fined and warned over future conduct. There were at least 20 members listed for punishment.

The fines have varied from £140 to £2,343, and in many cases the sanctions also remain live on the members' record for a period of 24 months.

AAT's head of professional standards, Adam Williamson, explained that recent changes in the way it collected data from members during renewals and licence applications led to the identification of a number of members who were offering services without the necessary AAT licenses. He said: "As a result of these changes, the cases have essentially all come at once, hence the large number of notices you have identified."

Williamson stressed that the AAT has now brought all these members into compliance, and this is not indicative of widespread or ongoing problem.