23rd October 2026

AI and Your Numbers – Changing the Accountant–Client Relationship

Quant

Office for National Statistics

35%

of UK businesses with 10+ employees use AI technology

British Chambers of Commerce

54%

of UK firms reported that they ‘actively’ use AI

95%

of SME’s using AI said it has not had an impact on their size of workforce

Where AI is changing accountancy already







- Match and categorise bank transactions
- Draft invoice communications and chase overdue payments
- Analyse financial data and highlight useful insights
- Identify unusual transactions that may need review

The Caveats! - Context and Judgement

What can I do to minimise my tax bill?

Can I take on a new member of staff?

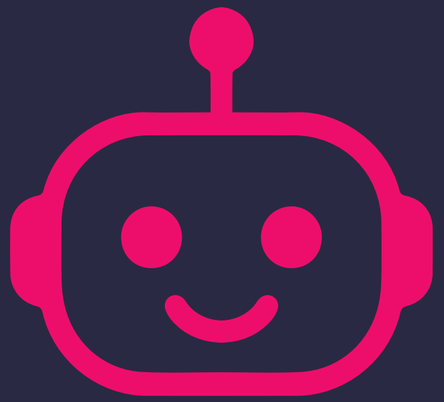
What industry are you in?

Wanting rapid growth in a particular time scale?

What are your own financial needs?

Targeting new markets?

The Caveats! – Trust and Accountability



- Fast answers
- Can help spot patterns
- May miss context clues
- May undervalue policy & law changes and overvalue historical results
- Operates outside of professional frameworks



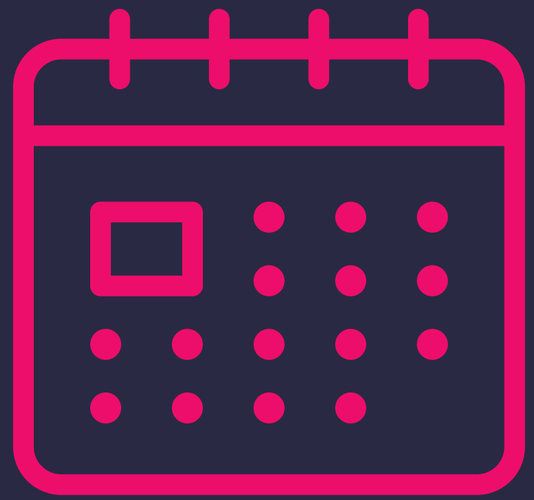
- Empathetic approach to your circumstances
- Potentially more nuanced approach to future law and policy shifts
- Bound by professional and ethical accounting standards

Integration not over-reliance



Preparation tool, not a complete problem-solver

- Turn year-end requests from your accountant into a digestible checklist
- Summarise close-down or year-end meetings into an action plan
- Use smarter AI project management or productivity apps to set reminders or revisit ideas



Your Data. Your Responsibility.



18%

of UK businesses surveyed said they were comfortable with their data being used to train external AI models

How much would you share for an instant ‘answer’?

AI in your accounts - a checklist



1. **Get your data ‘AI-ready’**
   Update your bookkeeping and organise your invoices regularly

2. **Treat AI as a support, but not the solution**
   Verify AI-generated financial advice with your accountant or official guidance.
   Consider introducing ‘plug-in’ AI tools to your current accounting software

3. **Pre-emptively protect yourself from oversharing**
   Check your AI tool's data policies and never upload sensitive information to an unapproved tool (especially financial data!)

4. **Use it as a tool to have more helpful conversations**
   Identify questions or summarise answers from accountant meetings

5. **Automate your ‘road-map’ but verify obligations**
   Combine obligations and deadlines with your business roadmap