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Big Four invest heavily in professional standards

Sir, The recent criticism of the so-called Big Four accountancy firms ignores the important function we perform as independent auditors and advisers to clients. It is true that this is often a statutory requirement for companies. People are entitled to demand the highest level of professional conduct from auditors in exchange for this guarantee of income.

I know from experience just how much the Big Four invest in professional standards. Many staff are members of professional bodies and abide by their regulations as well. There is a reason no one suggests replacing the fire brigade with fire extinguishers for every household: our professionalism is valued.

The Big Four are far from perfect. We must keep adapting what we do to the changing needs of our clients and of society as a whole. Constructive criticism can help us do better – but others might learn from our professional commitment.

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