



**Irish Tax
Institute**

Leaders in Tax

Update of Irish Tax Institute Branch Network Meeting with Revenue in the Border Midlands West Region

A meeting between Irish Tax Institute Branch Representatives and Revenue from the Border Midlands West region was held on 19 April. The following matters were discussed:

1. Refund Processing

It was considered that the turnaround time for processing refunds was generally good. Revenue noted that prompt processing of tax refunds was a matter of priority for Revenue. They drew practitioners attention to instances where refunds are 'deferred' subject to requests for additional information before they can be authorised. Where the requested information is not made available within 3 months the item will be treated as 'closed' on Revenue's system.

2. National and Regional Projects

Revenue noted a number of projects underway:

- The focus on cash businesses continues in 2011. This includes bars, nightclubs, fast-food restaurants, wholesalers and one-off housing.
- Checks are being made on claims for some tax credits. Identifying taxpayers who are working and in receipt of social welfare payments is also a priority.
- Compliance checking in the 'white collar' sector at national level is also underway, this includes for example night class teaching and physiotherapists.
- At regional level unannounced visits/streetscapes continue.
- A variety of checks are being conducted by the BMW districts for example checking of VIES returns, rental properties, cash-for-gold operations, equipment hire and installation, excise duty in the drinks sector.
- Checks are also being conducted to ensure tax compliance in a number of sectors including nursing homes, second hand shops and slimming classes.

3. Revenue Audit Activity

Revenue noted that the use of profile interviews would increase in the region as a shorter more focused approach to specific risks, where appropriate.

Revenue are also up-skilling staff in the use of e-audit.

4. REAP Update

Revenue highlighted the importance of completing return forms correctly and in full to ensure REAP rules are not inadvertently triggered.

They noted that a REAP system to identify risks in the PAYE taxpayer base has been developed.

5. Electronic Agenda

Revenue noted the significance of 1 June for the further extension of mandatory efilings/epayment. Revenue have written to the taxpayers subject to the requirement and sent client lists to tax agents. Instances were noted by practitioners where client lists were incomplete or contained taxpayers who were no longer represented by the agent. Revenue advised that Revenue be contacted in such cases so the relevant records can be updated accordingly.

The 2011 CT1 is expected to be available around the 16th of May.

In relation to the facility to e-register for tax and cancel tax registrations online Revenue noted that cancellation of a VAT registration requires Revenue approval so cannot be done automatically.

Work is continuing on the development of eRCT. Revenue are engaging with various stakeholders in its development. Regular eBriefs and updates are expected to issue over the coming months to ensure practitioners and taxpayers are familiar with the new system prior to roll-out.

Some practical issues arising for practitioners in making CAT and stamp duty payments online were raised. The Institute agreed to engage directly with Revenue's ROS section on the matters in question.

In other matters, practitioners highlighted practical issues around completion of a Statement of Affairs (Form SA1) in cases involving inability to pay. As the form seeks historic cost information for assets, they considered that a Schedule of Assets with current values, as would be provided to a bank, would be more appropriate. Revenue noted that Form SA1 is statutory document that must be returned and signed. If accompanying documents meet Revenue's information requirements they will be looked on favourably.