



Minister Brian Lenihan TD
Minister for Finance
Department of Finance
Upper Merrion Street
Dublin 2

24 January 2011

Re: Section 18 Finance Bill 2011, as initiated

Dear Minister

I am writing on behalf of the Irish Taxation Institute in respect of Section 18 of the Finance Bill which was published on Friday 21 January last. The Institute is conscious of the significant time pressure on the Oireachtas to have the Finance Bill enacted. We recognise that the scope for any significant amendment to the Finance Bill as initiated is limited. For this reason I am confining my comments in this submission to one matter in respect of the Finance Bill, which is the proposal in Section 18 to accelerate by one month the payment and filing date for individuals for self assessment purposes. We believe the acceleration of the income tax payment deadline will have very significant cash flow consequences for the self assessment taxpayer base, many of whom are already facing severe cash flow pressures. We have already received representations from our membership that the proposed change will give rise to significant pressures on tax consultants and on the tax administration system which play a vital role in assisting taxpayers with their pay and file compliance requirements.

The current filing date already gives rise to significant pressures on the system, both in the tax profession and in the tax administration. We are very concerned that accelerating the deadline by one month may place too great an administrative burden. For this reason we would urge that the proposed amendment be withdrawn as part of the Committee Stage process in the coming days.

We are, as ever, available to you and your officials for any further assistance that might be required.

Kind regards


Yours sincerely

Andrew Cullen
President
Irish Taxation Institute

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