



Update on Institute Branch Network Meeting with Revenue in the South West Region

Institute branch representatives met with Revenue from the South West (SW) region on 26 January, matters discussed included:

Revenue Update

Revenue provided attendees with an update on their plans for the region for 2011, a main focus of which is activity in relation to the shadow economy. This will include:

➤ *PAYE*

Revenue are exploring underpayments of tax by taxpayers within the PAYE system. This can arise, in particular, where a taxpayer's main income is PAYE but where there may be other undeclared income. Checks are also likely to be made on tax credits being claimed.

➤ *Cash Businesses*

The focus on cash businesses will continue. Revenue have enhanced their automated interrogation techniques. There will be an increased Revenue visibility countrywide this year, which will include more unannounced visits by Revenue officials.

Revenue will also be looking at "white collar" activities for example doctors, dentists, lawyers and accountants. Initially Revenue will carry out a scoping exercise to identify risk areas which will be followed by some test enquiries.

Sectoral Reviews & New Initiatives

The jewellery business including retail, wholesale, cash for gold and pawn brokering, is a sector Revenue are focusing on in 2011.

Revenue will also be looking at the employment classification of dental associates and dental hygienists. Revenue are still in the process of gathering information in this regard. Some dentists will be written to as part of this process. Revenue also met with the Irish Dental Association recently.

Practitioners asked for an update on Revenue's project in relation to GP locums in the South West. Revenue stated that all GPs have been written to at this stage.

Revenue Audit Activity

A key priority for Revenue is concluding open audits in a timely manner. Inability to pay remains a common issue Revenue are coming across in the current environment. Revenue's new case management IT system, developed in the SW, has been rolled out across the country.

Revenue Electronic services

Revenue reminded attendees of the ability to e-register for tax on ROS. They also noted the roll-out of the next phases of mandatory e-filing. Letters will be issuing to those taxpayers required to efile/epay under the 2011 phases, agents will be copied on letters where identifiable. Revenue should be contacted as soon as possible in relation to any difficulties taxpayers may have with complying with the requirements.

Practitioners referred to Section 77 of Finance Act 2011 which provides for reporting of members of some professional bodies to their Institutes by Revenue. Practitioners highlighted the importance of safeguards and protocols on the use of this facility. Revenue stated that they were aware of the complexity of the matter and are open to discussion with the professional bodies on its use.