

Department of Finance and the Revenue Board Liaison Group

Meeting, 20 February 2015

Attendees: Derek Moran, Ann Nolan, Niall Cody, Gerry Harrahill, Liam Irwin, Gary Tobin (Secretary to the Group)

This was the first meeting of this Group since the new Revenue Chairman was appointed.

It was agreed that this Group should meet regularly (i.e. quarterly) to discuss issues of mutual importance to the Department of Finance and the Office of the Revenue Commissioners, while fully respecting Revenue's statutory independence in the performance of its duties.

The following issues were discussed.

- **Revenue Statement of Strategy** – it was noted that the new Strategy would be put before Government for approval shortly.
- **Memoranda for Government** – issues in relation to how Revenue observations are included in Memoranda were discussed.
- **Tax Appeals Commissioners Bill** – the current state of play in relation to new tax appeals legislation was discussed, the fact that the draft heads of the Bill were discussed by the Oireachtas Finance Committee recently and the implications for resources of the proposed structures for the Office.
- **Finance Bill** – the Finance Bill process was discussed and the recent changes to the annual cycle on foot of the new European Semester. It was agreed that both organisations would jointly review the existing process to see if any improvements to it could be made.
- **Estimates** – the annual estimates were discussed, including the recent appearance before the Oireachtas Finance Committee.
- **Competent Authority** – the ongoing recruitment process for Revenue's competent authority function was discussed, on foot of its inclusion in the Road Map for Tax Competitiveness, launched as part of the most recent Budget.
- **Brussels based staff** – arrangements for secondments of Irish personnel to the European institutions and to the Irish Permanent Representation was discussed.
- **Thornhill Review** – Revenue's input into the ongoing Local Property Tax Review, being carried out by Dr Don Thornhill was discussed.
- **Next meeting** – it was agreed that the next meeting should take place soon after the Exchequer returns are published and that that issue should become a standing item on the agenda.