

Method Statement for **Help to Buy** Dataset

1. Introduction

The purpose of this document is to provide information on the commitment to quality activities and procedures Revenue has put in place in respect of the production of Revenue Statistics to comply with the Irish Statistical System Code of Practice (ISSCOP).¹

This in this release are based on analysis of applications and dataset provides statistics claims filed in respect of the HTB incentive.

The Help To Buy (HTB) incentive, announced in Budget 2017 (October 2016), is designed to assist first-time buyers with the deposit required to purchase or self-build a new house or apartment to live in as their home. The incentive provides for a refund of Income Tax and DIRT paid over the previous four tax years, limited to a maximum of 5% of the purchase value up to a value of €400,000. The HTB refund is capped at €20,000. This incentive is available for the period from 19 July 2016 to 31 December 2019.

For a property to be eligible for HTB it cannot exceed a value of €600,000 in the period from 19 July to 31 December 2016 or €500,000 in the period from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2019.

Purchase Value/Amount of Relief

- Up to €400,000 - Up to 5% of purchase price
- Between €400,000 and €500,000, from 1 Jan 2017 - Max relief will be €20,000
- Over €500,000, from 1 Jan 2017 - No relief
- Between €400,000 & €600,000, between 19 Jul 2016 & 31 Dec 2016 - Max relief will be €20,000
- Over €600,000, between 19 Jul 2016 & 31 Dec 2016 - No relief

The property must be occupied by the first-time buyer, or at least one of the first-time buyers in the case of multiple first-time buyers, within 2 years and for a minimum period of five years.

¹ For more information see <http://www.isscop.ie/>

2. General Information

<i>Dataset Name:</i>	Help to Buy (HTB) Incentive Statistics
<i>Keywords:</i>	Home, Help to Buy, first time buyers, deposit, self build, new build, house, apartment, income tax, DIRT, qualifying contractor, year
<i>Update Frequency:</i>	Monthly
<i>Licence:</i>	CC-By
<i>Formats:</i>	.csv, .pdf
<i>Hyperlinks:</i>	https://www.revenue.ie/en/corporate/information-about-revenue/statistics/tax-expenditures/htb/htb-monthly.aspx Open Data Portal: https://data.gov.ie/dataset/help-to-buy-htb-incentive-statistics
<i>Business Owner:</i>	Philip O'Rourke
<i>Contact Information:</i>	statistics@revenue.ie
<i>Reference Years</i>	2016-2017
<i>Anonymisation or aggregation required:</i>	No, Macro-data
<i>Geographical Scope:</i>	National, County

3. Production

<i>Coding:</i>	A geographical breakdown of the HTB claims are provided, these are County based combining city and county local authorities in the case of Dublin & Cork
<i>Data Source:</i>	Customers' returns
<i>Imputation:</i>	Not applicable
<i>Breakdown:</i>	The data are broken down by applications and approvals, claims by build type, property value loan to value ratio, claims amount (range) and by County.
<i>Computation:</i>	Not applicable

4. Quality

<i>Relevance:</i>	<p>Data are used to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform the Tax Strategy Group and the Department of Finance on budgetary decisions • Provide answers to Parliamentary Questions (PQs) and Freedom of Information (FOI) requests. • Inform policymakers and internal stakeholders and • Fulfil requests for data from academics, students, journalists and members of the public.
<i>Accuracy & Reliability:</i>	<p>Data are compared with the previous year's data.</p> <p>Source data are input into Revenue's systems by the Collector General's area and the statistical outputs are assessed and validated are signed off by the Accountant General's area.</p>
<i>Timeliness & Punctuality:</i>	<p>An advance release schedule is provided for all datasets with anticipated publication deadline.</p> <p>Divergence from the notified schedule is publicised in advance, along with a new release date.</p> <p>See the list of Supporting Documentation below for a link to the current Revenue Statistics Publication Calendar.</p>
<i>Coherence and Comparability:</i>	<p>The dataset provides figures for various aspects of the Help to Buy Scheme by count. The data are grouped at the same granularity for all years.</p> <p>Where there is a deviation notes are provided. Provisional data are also identified.</p>
<i>Accessibility and Clarity:</i>	<p>Published electronically on Revenue's Website & Open Data portal</p> <p>This dataset is consistent with the Open Data Technical Framework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • with metadata, methodological and quality information • to Open Data 3-star Format (i.e., machine readable) and • searchable through keywords.

5. Supporting Documentation

[Revenue Statistics - Quality Statement](#)

[Revenue Statistics - Publication and Dissemination Policy](#)

[Revenue Statistics - Publication Calendar](#)

[Revenue Statistics - Statistical Disclosure Control](#)

[Open Data Technical Framework](#)

[Irish Statistical System Code of Practice](#)