

Report of 63rd Meeting of Customs Consultative Committee 30th September 2016

Conference Room 2, Cross Blocks, Dublin Castle

Attendance:

Tony Buckley	Revenue Commissioners (Chair of CCC)
Owen Ryan	Revenue Commissioners
John O'Leary	Revenue Commissioners
Seán O Seaghdha	Revenue Commissioners
Michael Colgan	Revenue Commissioners
Dermot Brown	Revenue Commissioners

Pat Ivory	IBEC
Anne Williams	IBEC
Kathryn O'Donovan	IBEC
John Dawson	Irish International Freight Association
Stephanie Anderson	American Chamber of Commerce
Paul Caplis	Irish Exporters Association
Tom Thornton	Irish Exporters Association
Carol Lynch	Chambers Ireland
Stephen Treacy	ICT Ireland
Declan Ivory	ICT Ireland
Dave Browne	Customs – IT
Simon McKeever	Irish Exporters Association

Apologies: Nicky Duggan (Intel Ireland), David Putt (Irish Shipping Agents Association), Malcolm Kirkby (Logistics and Freight Association of Ireland), Derek Dunne (Manifests Ireland), Erik O'Donovan (IBEC), Brian Cotter (American Chambers of Commerce Ireland), Niall Stobie (Irish Exporters Association),

Introduction by Chair

Mr. Buckley welcomed the group and the agenda was adopted. There were no issues arising from the minutes of the previous meeting. IBEC requested an update and discussion on Brexit and the potential customs impact for Irish exporters and importers. The Chairman said this would be dealt with under AOB.

Item 1: 2016 FIATA World Congress

Tom Thornton gave a brief overview of the 2016 FIATA (International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations) World Congress which is being held in Dublin from 3rd – 10th October. The Congress will be attended by approximately 700 people from 110 countries and is expected to be worth €2m to the Dublin economy.

Item 2: Planned outages of AEP & related systems

The trade outlined three requests they have in relation to planned outages of Revenue systems:

- More advance notice of outages would be welcomed
- Could outage be planned at off peak trade times
- Outages should start at the notified times

Revenue acknowledged that there had been unforeseen complications during the most recent update which led to longer than planned outages. However, Revenue reiterated that all planned outages are scheduled for weekends and with busy trade times in mind. All outages are kept to a minimum and fallback procedures can be used if necessary. Outages that occur at short notice e.g. within a couple of hours of the notice being issued, are not considered by Revenue to be planned outages – they would be considered as emergency fixes necessary to address specific problems with the systems.

Item 3: Benefits for AEO operators and submission of paperwork electronically

Revenue welcomed suggestions from the trade that more paperwork be submitted electronically and agreed that this is the direction Revenue wish to take. It is not currently possible to submit all paperwork electronically – in some instances original paperwork is required by EU regulations. Revenue are currently exploring secure methods of submitting paperwork electronically where possible, particularly in relation to submission of supporting documents for orange routed SADs, and hope to have progress in this area by mid 2017. Trade will be kept up to date on progress.



AOB:

Customs Act 2016

The Customs Act 2015 is now on the final stages and commencement is planned for 31st December 2016.

BREXIT

Revenue understands the concern of the trade as to what impact BREXIT will have on their customers. No negotiations can take place with the UK until Article 50 has been invoked and all negotiations as regards a future trade agreement will be between the UK and the EU and not bilateral between the UK and Ireland. Revenue are currently exploring a number of possible models for a border at the land frontier between Ireland and the UK and would welcome indicative figures from the trade in relation to the volume of traffic across the land frontier and the volume of shipments that use the UK as a 'land bridge'.

Centralised Clearance

Revenue informed the trade that, while the UCC allows for centralised clearance, there has been no progress made on this issue to date and it is unlikely there will be much progress over the next 12 months. The main impediment to making progress is the treatment of VAT.

Electronic T2L forms

The UCC allows for the development of an electronic system for the submission of eT2Ls. The system is listed for delivery in 2019 but Revenue cautioned that this timeframe is very ambitious with very little information available regarding the proposed system.

Amendments to legislation dealing with royalties and transactional values

Revenue stated that there are no plans to make any amendments to the legislation dealing with royalties and transactional values. Revenue clarified that the transitional period relating to relevant sale is in place until the end of 2017. Owen Ryan offered to reply to any specific queries from members.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be held in Conference Room 2, Dublin Castle at 2.30 on Wednesday 30th November.

Celine O'Neill
Secretary
October 2016

