

Report of
66th Meeting of the Customs Consultative Committee
21st December, 2017

Conference Room 2, Cross Blocks, Dublin Castle, Dublin 2.

Attendance:

Tony Buckley	Revenue Commissioners (Chair)
Karen Doyle	Revenue Commissioners (Secretary)
Michael Colgan	Revenue Commissioners
Owen Ryan	Revenue Commissioners
Celine O’Neill	Revenue Commissioners
Fiona Zellmann	Revenue Commissioners
Dave Browne	Customs –IT
Pat Ivory	Irish Business & Employers Confederation (IBEC)
John O’Loughlin	Irish Business & Employers Confederation (IBEC)
Stephen Tracey	Irish Business & Employers Confederation (IBEC)
Declan Ivory	Irish Business & Employers Confederation (IBEC)
Brian Murphy	Irish Exporters Association
Fiona Luciani	Irish Exporters Association
John Dawson	Irish International Freight Association
Seamus Kavanagh	Irish International Freight Association
Tom Thornton	Irish International Freight Association
Paul Lynam	British Irish Chamber of Commerce
Carol Lynam	British Irish Chamber of Commerce

Graham Joyce	Fedex/TNT
Verona Murphy	Irish Road Haulage Association
John Nolan	Irish Road Haulage Association
Derek Dunne	Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers
Aisling Carney	American Chamber of Commerce Ireland
Andrew Rae	Dept. Business, Enterprise & Innovation
Caoimhe Gavin	Dept. Business, Enterprise & Innovation

Apologies:

David Putt	Irish Shipping Agents Association
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Opening Remarks:

Chair welcomed the group and opened the meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting were adopted without any amendments.

Item 1: End of year update on Brexit and related matters:

Chair welcomed the group and gave a brief overview of Article 50 negotiations to date. At the European Council meeting of 14/15 December 2017 the EU agreed that sufficient progress had been made in relation to the Phase 1 issues and that the negotiations could move on to Phase 2.

Revenue, as part of the whole of government approach, is actively engaged in examining the full range of scenarios that may apply post-Brexit. Revenue will need to expand contact with the trade in the future in order to ensure that there is full awareness of customs requirements when trading with a non-EU country. Revenue hopes to begin preparations for a trader outreach programme in 2018. Any insights that can be offered from the members as to useful topics to be covered during the outreach programme would be welcomed.

Revenue gave an update on the pre-development phase of AEP which is already in motion. It will be developed over the next 18 months and will incorporate requisite UCC changes. Revenue will give sufficient notification to traders regarding lead in times for IT changes.

PWC gave a briefing on their participation in a round table event held in Westminster. The theme of the discussion with UK industry was around the practical challenges the UK may face in light of Brexit.

IBEC updated the group on a project they are participating in that will aim to assess the skills needs arising from the potential trade implications of Brexit. The project is being led by Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation (DBEI). The project group will build on two similar reports that were published in 2012 and 2015. The project should be completed by mid March 2018.

Item 2: The UK Landbridge – preparations for Phase 2 negotiations:

Revenue is looking at issues arising due to Ireland's geographic location and the use of the UK as a landbridge when accessing markets on the Continent. This work is being undertaken in conjunction with other Government departments in preparation for Phase 2 of the Article 50 negotiations.

Item 3: Support for stakeholder planning – form and timing of outreach:

There was a discussion around the timing and type of outreach programme Revenue will develop. Trade requested detail on the scenarios Revenue are exploring and requested clarity on the issues when possible. It was agreed that a scenario planning exercise detailing the issues and benefits would be useful.

Item 4: Customs Decision System:

Revenue provided an update on the introduction of the Customs Decision System which went live on 2 October, 2017. The European Commission and EU Member States have designed a new "Customs Decisions System" as part of the new UCC requirements for economic operators to introduce all new applications for customs decisions or authorisations electronically. Revenue acknowledged that there are some problems associated with the first release of the system. Revenue have notified these problems to the European Commission. The majority of the problems have now been fixed and commitments have been given to fix all outstanding problems. Revenue will give an update on progress at next meeting.

Item 5: AOB: None.

Chair thanked all members for sharing information as it is invaluable.

Next meeting proposed for 2018.

Karen Doyle

Secretary,

December 2017.