

<b>Meeting topic</b>	<b>Customs Consultative Committee</b>
<b>Attendees</b>	<p>Lynda Slattery (Acting Chair) – International Policy and Brexit – Customs Division, Revenue</p> <p>John O’Leary – eCustoms &amp; Risk Management – Customs Division, Revenue</p> <p>Declan O’Dalaigh – National Policy and Operations – Customs Division, Revenue</p> <p>Sean O’ Seaghda – Legislation – Customs Division, Revenue</p> <p>Celine O’Neill – Brexit – Customs Division, Revenue</p> <p>Eileen Hoey – Brexit - Customs Division, Revenue</p> <p>Pat Ivory – Ibec</p> <p>Doreen Burke – Ibec</p> <p>Declan Ivory – ICT Ireland</p> <p>John P O’Loughlin – PwC</p> <p>Aidan Flynn – Freight Transport Association</p> <p>Simon McKeever – Irish Exporters Association</p> <p>Pascal Koenig – Irish Exporters Association</p> <p>Tom Thornton – Irish International Freight Association</p> <p>Helen Pyke – Dept. Business, Enterprise &amp; Innovation</p> <p>Paul Lynam – British Irish Chamber of Commerce</p> <p>Derek Dunne – Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers</p> <p>David Putt – Irish Shipping Agent Association</p> <p>David Brown – Customs – IT</p> <p>John Dawson – Bell Transport &amp; Logistics</p> <p>Emma Ormond – Primark</p> <p>Alan Cleary – Primark</p> <p>Malcolm Kirkby – Logistics &amp; Freight Association of Ireland</p> <p>Peter O'Reilly – Logistics &amp; Freight Association of Ireland</p> <p>Seamus Kavanagh – Irish International Freight Association</p> <p>Stephen Cummins – Irish Association of International Express Carriers</p>
<b>Apologies</b>	<p>Florance Carey, Chair – Customs Division, Revenue</p> <p>Carol-Ann O’Keeffe – Brexit – Customs Division, Revenue</p> <p>Ray Ryan – Brexit – Customs Division, Revenue</p> <p>Niamh Corby – ICT&amp;L Division, Revenue</p> <p>Brian Cotter – American Chamber of Commerce Ireland</p> <p>Stephen Tracey – ICT Ireland</p> <p>Verona Murphy – Irish Road Hauliers Association</p> <p>Tony Goodwin – Irish Road Hauliers Association</p> <p>Majella Fahy – Bord Bia</p> <p>Shane Hamill – Bord Bia</p>
<b>Secretary</b>	Rachel McKenna – Brexit – Customs Division, Revenue
<b>Date of meeting</b>	04/03/2019
<b>Venue</b>	Dublin Castle

<b>Item 1: Adoption of minutes of meeting 20/09/2018</b>	Chair circulated a copy of the minutes highlighting an additional point and noted minor adjustments which had no context amendments. Minutes were adopted and will be published on the Revenue website.
<b>Item 2: Update on Brexit and related matters</b>	<p><b>Opening</b>  Lynda Slattery, (Acting) Chair, opened the meeting by inviting committee members to provide feedback on Revenue's Brexit Information Seminars that they or their members had attended. The consensus was that the seminars were very informative with emphasis on the benefits of the opportunity to engage with Revenue staff and other agencies on a one-to-one basis.</p> <p><b>Infrastructure</b>  Celine O'Neill provided an overview of the upscaling of Revenue's IT systems which has been undertaken to ensure sufficient capacity to cater for the anticipated increase in customs declarations post-Brexit. Revenue's engagement with the Irish Chamber of Shipping was noted in the context of the Ferry Operator's intention to amend their terms and conditions to include a requirement for lodgement of customs declarations in advance of arrival at ports. Drivers will be expected to provide visual confirmation of relevant Movement Reference Numbers (MRNs). The message will be clear – a truck driver will not be allowed to board a ferry and will experience delays unless they have the appropriate documentation.</p> <p>Celine also provided, via presentation, an illustration of the practical implementation of the flow of goods. She covered the requirements for advance lodgement of declarations, risk analysis while goods are at sea, notification 20 minutes before docking, indicative routing messages and the different flows for green and red routings at Dublin Port and Rosslare Europort.</p> <p><a href="#"><u>Presentation on Brexit Update by Celine O'Neill.</u></a></p> <p><b>Legislation</b>  Seán O'Seaghda gave an overview of the 'Withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union (Consequential Provisions) Bill 2019'. The Act focused on measures such as protecting our citizens and supporting the economy, enterprise and jobs. While there was little to provide the CCC group with from a Customs perspective as there was no Customs provisions in it, from a Revenue perspective this was at a critical stage as it is in Committee Stage in the Dáil.</p> <p><b>Authorised Economic Operator (AEO)</b>  Declan O'Dalaigh provided an update on AEO status. He noted that 160 traders currently hold this trusted trader status which alleviates the amount of customs controls or interventions required. The status can reduce a comprehensive guarantee to 30%, or nil in some cases. It was noted that the status would not be suitable for all business types though, e.g. agricultural goods will be required to be checked regardless of whether AEO status is held.</p>

	<p>There is a questionnaire available which enables a trader to self-assess their suitability for the AEO status. It was noted that it can take time to process an AEO application so it is important to submit applications as soon as possible.</p> <p><b>Special Procedures/Guarantees</b></p> <p>Declan O'Dalaigh covered the update on the Special Procedures and Guarantees, noting that Revenue have seen an increase in Inward/Outward Processing, Temporary Storage, End-use and Warehousing. The key message was to remind members of the requirement to have these procedures and the associated guarantees that should accompany them. It was noted that anyone with these guarantees were required, under the UCC, to have them reassessed by May and this was a challenge, with or without Brexit.</p> <p><b>Supports for Business – Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland (SBCI)</b></p> <p>Representatives from the SBCI provided a presentation to the group regarding the Brexit Loan Scheme which is a fund of up to €300M available to eligible businesses. There are a number of terms attached:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4% maximum interest rate (participating lenders may compete below this level)</li> <li>• Terms and conditions have been designed to ensure the loans are accessible</li> <li>• The loans are for up to three years (SBCI noted that the term was being reviewed)</li> <li>• The scheme will run for two years (March 2018 – March 2020)</li> <li>• Loans range from €25,000 to €1.5 million per eligible enterprise</li> <li>• Unsecured loans up to €500,000</li> </ul> <p>Loans must be used for future working capital requirements to fund innovation, change or adaptation of the business to mitigate the impact of Brexit. At least 15% of the import/export turnover of the business must be impacted by Brexit. Further information is available in the presentation provided by SBCI.</p> <p><a href="#"><u>Presentation - SBCI Brexit Loan Scheme</u></a></p> <p>Business representatives said that companies, despite substantial efforts and commitment of resources, could not be fully prepared for the UK leaving the EU and therefore a no deal exit must be avoided. They also said that in all scenario's companies, particularly SME's, would need time to adjust to new trading arrangements.</p>
<b>Item 3: Briefing by members on recent developments and current concerns</b>	<p>There was some discussion regarding Postponed Accounting and whether it was included in the 'Withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union (Consequential Provisions) Bill 2019'. It will be covered in the Act, and the group were advised it could be discussed further at the next meeting if required.</p> <p>Some members raised concerns regarding Revenue backlogs for processing AEO/Special Procedures however it was noted that Revenue have increased</p>

	<p>staffing numbers and there are no issues with meeting required processing timeframes. It was also noted that the timeframe for processing can vary depending on a number of factors, e.g. business size and whether there are branches spread over a number of counties, etc.</p> <p>Chair notified the group that Revenue will be increasing media presence in the coming weeks and that there will be a communications piece with Dublin Port and Rosslare Europort happening in the coming weeks too.</p> <p>The group were advised that new, UCC compliant, IT systems were being worked on and it was expected that these would be rolled out from 2020 onwards.</p> <p>A question was raised regarding a movement that begins on 28 March but doesn't arrive in Dublin until 30 March and how that shipment is then processed. The group were advised that the European Commission is finalising a guidance note on this.</p> <p>The link to this guidance note is available below via the Revenue website: <a href="https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/guidance-excise-ongoing-movements.pdf">https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/guidance-excise-ongoing-movements.pdf</a></p>
<b>Item 4: AOB</b>	None.
<b>Item 5: Date of next meeting</b>	No proposed date yet, this will be reviewed dependant on any further developments. Chair thanked all members for their participation.
<b>Action 1:</b>	The group were advised to inform their members of the upcoming Revenue Brexit Seminar on 11/03/19 in Dublin and to encourage them to attend.
<b>Action 2:</b>	Contact details for SBCI representatives are available for any interested members.