

# NOTES FOR GUIDANCE

## STAMP DUTIES CONSOLIDATION ACT 1999

(as amended by subsequent Acts up to and including  
the Finance Act 2024)

### Part 4 - Adjudication and Appeals



These notes are for guidance only and do not purport to be a definitive legal interpretation of the provisions of the Stamp Duties Consolidation Act 1999 (No. 31 of 1999) as amended by subsequent Acts up to and including the Finance Act 2024.

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## PART 4 ADJUDICATION AND APPEALS

### Overview

Adjudication has been abolished for instruments executed on or after 7 July 2012 and self-assessment has been introduced in relation to such instruments.

This Part contains provisions relating to Stamp Duty assessments and appeals against Stamp Duty assessments. An instrument which has been stamped in conformity with an assessment may be produced in evidence notwithstanding the fact that doubts may be expressed later as to whether the correct amount of Stamp Duty was in fact paid in relation to the instrument - see **section 20(5)**.

A person has the right to appeal against a Stamp Duty assessment made by the Revenue Commissioners. In addition to this statutory right the Commissioners also operate a review procedure under which a person who is dissatisfied with a decision or an assessment made by a Revenue officer may arrange to have that decision or assessment reviewed. Details of the review procedures are available on the website of the Revenue Commissioners at <https://www.revenue.ie/en/corporate/information-about-revenue/customer-service/how-to-complain/index.aspx>.

### Section 20 Assessment of duty by the Commissioners

#### Summary

This section provides for the accountable person to include an assessment of the duty in the return filed in relation to an instrument under the e-stamping system and also enables the Revenue Commissioners, in certain circumstances, to assess the amount of duty chargeable on an instrument.

#### Details

##### *Assessment of duty*

The accountable person is required to include an assessment of the Stamp Duty chargeable in relation to an instrument on the return which is required to be filed under the e-stamping system and to pay the duty and interest, calculated in accordance with **section 159D**, unless the Revenue Commissioners make another assessment to be substituted for the assessment. **(1)**

Where an accountable person fails to file a return required to be stamped under the e-stamping system, the Revenue Commissioners are entitled to make an assessment of the duty chargeable, to the best of their **(2)**

knowledge, information and belief, and the accountable person is liable for payment of the duty so assessed together with interest, calculated in accordance with **section 159D**, unless the Commissioners make another assessment to be substituted for the assessment.

Where an assessment is incorrect, the Revenue Commissioners are entitled to make another assessment which is to be substituted for the incorrect assessment. **(2A)**

Where the Revenue Commissioners make an assessment to be substituted for another assessment, the accountable person is liable for payment of the duty so assessed together with interest calculated in accordance with **section 159D**. **(3)**

#### *Production of evidence*

The Revenue Commissioners may call for a copy of the instrument and any evidence they deem necessary in order to verify that the instrument has been correctly stamped. **(4)**

#### *Admission in evidence*

An instrument stamped in conformity with an assessment made under this section is admissible in evidence and available for all purposes even though the assessment may subsequently prove to be incorrect. **(5)**

An instrument which is chargeable with duty may only be stamped in accordance with an assessment. **(6)**

#### *Instruments which may not be stamped*

The Revenue Commissioners may not stamp an instrument which by law may not be stamped after execution. **(7)**

#### *Making of enquiries*

The Revenue Commissioners may make enquiries or take any necessary action to satisfy themselves as to accuracy of a return filed in relation to an instrument under the e-stamping system. **(8)**

#### *Substituted assessment*

Where an amended return is filed in relation to an instrument under the e-stamping system, a substituted assessment of the Stamp Duty chargeable must be included on the amended return. **(9)**

#### *Surcharge*

An assessment to Stamp Duty shall include a surcharge applied under **(10)**  
**section 14A(3)**.

## **Section 21 Right of appeal of persons dissatisfied with assessment**

### **Summary**

This section gives a right of appeal to the Appeal Commissioners against a Stamp Duty assessment made by the Revenue Commissioners (see **section 20**).

The Stamp Duty appeals procedure is based on the appeals procedure which applies for the purposes of income tax.

### **Details**

**Subsection 1** was deleted by **section 42 of the Finance (Tax Appeals) Act (1)**  
**2015**, which came into from effect from 21 March 2016.

#### *Accountable person may appeal*

An accountable person, who is dissatisfied with an assessment made by **(2)**  
the Revenue Commissioners, may appeal against the assessment to the  
Appeal Commissioners on giving notice in writing of the appeal to the  
Appeal Commissioners within 30 days after the date of the assessment.  
The decision of the Appeal Commissioners is final unless the appeal is  
submitted to the High Court on a point of law.

#### *No appeal where duty is self-assessed or duty agreed*

An appeal cannot be made against **(3)**

- an assessment made by an accountable person, or
- an assessment made by the Revenue Commissioners where the  
duty had been agreed between the Commissioners and the  
accountable person, or any person authorised by the accountable  
person, before the assessment was made.

#### *No appeal unless return is filed and duty paid*

An appeal cannot be made against an assessment made by the **(4)**  
Commissioners unless, within 30 days after the date of the assessment,

- a return is filed in relation to the instrument under the e-stamping  
system, and

- the accountable person pays the duty based on the return filed.

For the purposes of **subsection (4)**, the amount of the duty to be paid includes any surcharge under **section 14A(3)**, interest calculated in accordance with **section 159D** and any costs incurred or amounts charged in pursuing the collection of the duty.

This subsection deleted with effect from 21 March 2016. (5)

This subsection deleted with effect from 21 March 2016. (6)

This subsection deleted with effect from 21 March 2016. (7)

*Appeals against value of land*

Appeals against the value of land are not heard by the Appeal Commissioners; rather they must be made to the Land Values Reference Committee. (8)

*Appeals relating to expression of doubt*

Where no appeal is made in accordance with **section 949I Taxes Consolidation Act 1997** or **section 121** in relation to the valuation of an asset, the assessment made by Revenue will be final. (9)

*Income Tax appeal provisions to apply*

Where a Revenue officer subsequently amends an assessment that has been deemed final and conclusive (as set out in **subsection (9)**), this will not be appealable by the taxpayer. (10)