

Main TALC Meeting 31 March 2010

Summary Note of Discussions

Practitioners met with Revenue at Main TALC on Wednesday 31 March. Amongst the matters discussed were:

Review of the Operation of TALC

A sub-group had been formed in December 2009 to review the operation of TALC and make recommendations to streamline its administration. The sub-group provided its findings at the meeting.

Regulations on Mandatory Reporting

It is envisaged that draft regulations will be published by Revenue by the end of May. A consultation process will then follow, prior to finalisation of the regulations. Practitioners emphasised the need for certainty for business in the application of the reporting obligations. Revenue noted that issues of particular concern could be highlighted to them either prior to or post publication of the draft regulations.

New Audit Code of Practice

Key issues in the new Code have been discussed by Revenue's Board of Management. A revised draft will be discussed at TALC Audit in April.

RTS

A sub-group, with a representative from each of the TALC bodies, is to be formed to discuss possible improvements in the service.

Revenue Customer Service

Revenue noted that discussions between union representatives and Government to reach a resolution to the overall industrial dispute were in progress. In the event of a resolution being reached efforts will be made to ensure any backlogs in correspondence are dealt with promptly.

CGT – Return of Information

Practitioners queried the practice of a surcharge being applied where Capital Gains Tax arising on a disposal was paid in full but the information was omitted from the relevant Form 11 in error. Revenue noted that they have reviewed their policy in this area. Where they are satisfied that the omission is as a result of a genuine oversight and the related tax had been paid, they will not generally seek to apply a surcharge. A communication advising of the Revenue approach in this regard will issue shortly.

Other Matters

Revenue advised that an interdepartmental group, consisting of the Department of Social and Family Affairs, the Department of Finance and Revenue, has been formed to

consider the various issues involved in introducing a Universal Social Contribution as proposed in Budget 2010.

Revenue referred to eBrief No. 17/2010 which confirmed the extended Pay and File deadline of 16 November for those who both pay and file income tax on ROS. They confirmed that in line with practice, this extended deadline will also apply for making RAC, PRSA and AVC contributions where an individual qualifies for the ROS pay and file deadline.

It was highlighted by Revenue that greater use will be made of electronic audits (e-audit) in their audit compliance programme in 2010. E-auditing involves Revenue examining software, identifying tax compliance controls and downloading data from a taxpayer's systems and interrogating it. Revenue noted that laptops and memory sticks used by them in the process are subject to the highest level of encryption. It was noted that e-audit was in use for a considerable time and had been discussed in the context of the revised Code of Practice. If any of the bodies were interested Revenue would give a presentation on the issue to the Audit Sub-Committee but audits currently underway would continue.

There was an initial/exploratory discussion on "Review of the Internal /External Review Process" - an item on the Work Plan for 2010.