

PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Irish Taxation Institute President responds to allegations that tax advisors
encourage evasion.
23 July 2004

The President of Irish Taxation Institute, Mr Frank Hussey has responded to suggestions made by Mr Michael Noonan TD following the Committee of Public Accounts meeting yesterday.

“Any suggestion that there is some sort of tax evasion industry where tax advisors are systematically assisting people to evade their taxes is misguided. More than any other professional grouping, tax advisors have fostered an environment of tax compliance and promoted informed public opinion in regard to the civic duty of all citizens to pay their fair share of taxes.

No other profession has its work scrutinised more closely by an arm of the State than the tax profession. Every return we assist in completing is screened by Revenue, and as a profession, the quality of our work has never been questioned or challenged. Practitioners go to extraordinary lengths to ensure that the clients they serve are in full compliance with the law of the land. The success of the recent Revenue investigation campaigns has been achieved because of the support and cooperation given by tax advisors – the €677 million collected thus far in the Offshore Assets investigation came in with the cooperation and involvement of our members.”

Mr Hussey pointed out that Revenue already have very significant powers of investigation and prosecution. “Should Revenue wish to prosecute cases for aiding and abetting tax evasion, they face only the same obstacles as all regulatory bodies face in conducting similar actions. There is no justification for any special rules.”

Lastly Mr Hussey observed that the recent attacks on the tax profession are both unfair and unwarranted.

ENDS

Further information

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