



PRESS RELEASE

Elderly and vulnerable in terror of Taxman

The Irish Taxation Institute (ITI) has expressed serious concern about the impact on the elderly and the vulnerable in our society due to recent and current Revenue investigations. The ITI and its members have direct and compelling evidence of the harrowing effect these investigations are having on the elderly and surviving relatives of deceased individuals. The President of the ITI, Mr Frank Hussey, has written to the Minister for Finance and the Chairman of the Revenue Commissioners setting out the ITI's concerns and made three recommendations.

- Instead of imposing a penal rate of interest on underpaid tax only a rate matching inflation should be imposed on people aged 65 years or over. Hussey pointed out that the refund of nursing home charges to elderly individuals will carry interest at an inflationary rate – the same treatment should apply to elderly people who have underpaid tax.
- Individuals aged 65 years or over should not have their names included in the quarterly list of tax defaulters published by Revenue
- Under no circumstances should the names of a deceased individual be included in the defaulters list

Mr Hussey said that the ITI supports Revenue's efforts to collect underpaid tax and any taxpayer who has failed to honour their tax liabilities should make the appropriate restitution to the Exchequer. However, the ITI is concerned about what happens to the elderly on top of the payment of tax. He says that the elderly are facing penal rates of interest and publication of their names in the quarterly Revenue tax defaulter's list. He also says that it is completely unacceptable that deceased individuals should find themselves included in the defaulters listing.

Hussey pointed out that these recommendations could be accepted under the existing legislative framework and they would not preclude the Revenue Commissioners from pursuing individual cases for civil and criminal penalties through the courts should exceptional circumstances warrant.



Note for Editors

Tax Return Week, Sunday, 29 May to Saturday, 4 June

Irish Taxation Institute (ITI)

The Irish Taxation Institute is promoting Tax Return week to remove some of the mystery and confusion that surrounds tax and dealing with Revenue. During this week the ITI will explain which taxpayers need to file a tax return and why. They will also provide advice to taxpayers on the most efficient way to meet their tax obligations while ensuring that they pay no more tax than they are legally obliged. Information will be given to the PAYE taxpayer regarding their entitlement to receive refunds of tax. The ITI will also, during the week, highlight some of the quirks and anomalies in our tax system and deal with some of the current hot tax topics including Revenue Investigations and the role of tax incentives.

While the main tax return filing deadline is in October, according to Mark Redmond, Chief Executive of the ITI, taxpayers should now be pulling together the information required to submit their tax returns. Those in refund positions should send in their claim to Revenue as soon as possible. According to Redmond, one of the main reasons why taxpayers do not get the refunds they are entitled to or become the focus of Revenue audit or investigation work is due to incomplete or rushed tax returns.

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