

# Highlights from Revenue's Statement of Strategy 2020- 2022

by Mairéad Hennessy

Mairéad Hennessy gives a review of the Revenues Statement of Strategy 2020-2022 which was announced in December 2019.

The Irish Revenue published its' Statement of Strategy 2020-2022 last December setting out its objectives for the three years ahead and reflects Revenue's Mission Statement, Vision and Core Values.

The Statement is centred around Revenue's twin strategic pillars of Service for Compliance and Confronting Non-Compliance. Revenue commits to implementing a range of measures across these two pillars, namely:

## Secure Compliance by Design and Excellent Service

Revenue states that it will continue to minimize opportunities for non-compliance and identifies the exploitation of technology as

playing a key role, for example, the use of pre-populated tax returns. Revenue commits to expanding real-time reporting of taxes and duties and will continue to explore opportunities to work with customs agents and intermediaries to improve compliance.

## Enhance its Risk-focused Approach to Compliance

Revenue states that it will continue to implement tailored approaches to taxpayer segments in order to reduce risk and support compliance. Specifically, Revenue commits to reducing the compliance burden on taxpayers with small amounts of self-assessed income.

Revenue will refine its range of intervention types to ensure maximum effectiveness in tackling non-compliance and strengthen its use of data analytics and intelligence to better target risks in duty tax evasion, fraud, organized crime, drugs, illicit trade and smuggling.

## Work with Partners to Meet International Challenges

Revenue commits to continue working with Government Departments and other State agencies to manage the impact of Brexit. Specifically, Revenue commits to implementing customs controls that will manage compliance risks but also encourage legitimate trade and support business.

Revenue will work with the Department of Finance on proposals by the EU and OECD to address the tax challenges of digitalisation and international taxation. As part of this, Revenue commits to working

to protect Ireland's reputation and minimize the compliance and administrative burden on taxpayers.

These measures will be implemented through Revenue's people and its structures and Revenue commits in its strategy to continuing its investment in its people and IT capability.

## Final Comment

In recent times, Revenue has experienced very strong returns on its investment in technology. In 2018 it carried out 10% fewer audits than in 2017 yet its 2018 activity generated a 25% higher yield compared with 2017. By increasing its technology capability to leverage the power of the third-party data, Revenue is in a stronger position to identify potential tax underpayments and fraud.



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