

Meeting topic	
Customs Consultative Committee	
Attendees	<p> Florance Carey, Chair – Customs Division, Revenue Lynda Slattery – International Policy and Brexit – Customs Division, Revenue John O’Leary – eCustoms & Risk Management – Customs Division, Revenue Declan O’Dalaigh – National Policy and Operations – Customs Division, Revenue Sean O’ Seaghda – Legislation – Customs Division, Revenue Celine O’Neill – Brexit – Customs Division, Revenue Carol-Ann O’Keeffe – Brexit – Customs Division, Revenue Ray Ryan – Brexit – Customs Division, Revenue Niamh Corby – ICT&L Division, Revenue Eileen Hoey – Brexit - Customs Division, Revenue Pat Ivory – Irish Business & Employers Confederation Stephen Tracey – ICT Ireland Declan Ivory – ICT Ireland John P O’Loughlin – PwC Aidan Flynn – Freight Transport Association Simon McKeever – Irish Exporters Association Pascal Koenig – Irish Exporters Association Tom Thornton – Irish International Freight Association Helen Pyke – Dept. Business, Enterprise & Innovation Paul Lynam – British Irish Chamber of Commerce Derek Dunne – Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers Verona Murphy – Irish Road Hauliers Association Tony Goodwin – Irish Road Hauliers Association David Putt – Irish Shipping Agent Association David Brown – Customs – IT John Dawson – Bell Transport & Logistics Majella Fahy – Bord Bia Emma Ormond – Primark Alan Cleary – Primark Malcolm Kirkby – Logistics & Freight Association of Ireland Peter O'Reilly – Logistics & Freight Association of Ireland Seamus Kavanagh – Irish International Freight Association Stephen Cummins – Irish Association of International Express Carriers </p>
Apologies	Brian Cotter – American Chamber of Commerce Ireland
Secretary	Rachel McKenna – Brexit – Customs Division, Revenue
Date of meeting	10/01/2019
Venue	Dublin Castle
Item 1: Adoption of minutes of meeting 20/09/2018	Adopted and published on the Revenue website.

Item 2: Update on Brexit and related matters

Opening

Chair opened the meeting and advised of the intention to provide an update on Revenue preparations and receive the views of the external bodies present. In accordance with the “island of Ireland” Government approach, Revenue are working on the basis of the backstop being in place and are focussing on East/West trade. It was noted that the Government is also now working on a no-deal scenario as well as the central case scenario.

Revenue’s focus remains on ensuring minimal delays to the movement of good by legitimate traders. This will be assisted by timely submission of accurate data.

Regarding staffing, the recruitment process and comprehensive training for additional trade facilitation staff is well-underway and Revenue are on-target to ensure we will have sufficient presence for 29 March 2019.

Infrastructure

Celine O’Neill gave an update on Infrastructure preparations at Dublin Port and Rosslare Europort. The Office of Public Works (OPW) are now leading the engagement in securing permanent facilities required in a Central Case scenario i.e. the Withdrawal Agreement being ratified and a transition period until the end of 2020. In a no-deal scenario, Celine noted that OPW will be providing more basic facilities.

In line with UCC, Revenue cannot provide routings until goods have been presented to Customs. This is deemed to have happened once the ferry passes the buoy at either Dublin or Rosslare. There will be provision for truck drivers to log into the Revenue site to obtain routing information using their truck or trailer registration number. The vast majority of goods will not require additional intervention provided that accurate information has been provided in advance. If there is no declaration, a red routing will be given and the goods will not be allowed to leave the port of entry.

Revenue urged businesses to consider the range of authorisations available under UCC that mitigate some of the challenges associated with Customs formalities and can allow for interventions to be undertaken away from the vicinity of ports. If members are considering applying for such authorisations, they need to contact Revenue immediately to begin the authorisation process.

Trader Engagement

Ray Ryan gave an outline of the Trader Engagement Programme including the content and key messages it aims to deliver to business. Revenue are hosting the events and Dept. of Agriculture Food and Marine are also presenting. The events are being held in various locations throughout the country and the initial target audience is large businesses that trade with the UK and logistics / freight

	<p>forwarders. The events also provide an opportunity to have one to one engagement with Customs experts and other relevant state agencies.</p> <p><u>Trader Engagement Presentation</u></p> <p>Information Technology Niamh Corby and John O’Leary noted the significant IT work that was required and that has been undertaken to date to meet the anticipated increased volumes of declarations arising from Brexit. Robust stress and performance testing has taken place to ensure Revenue systems will have capacity to cater for the volumes and the impact on the systems, particularly at peak times.</p> <p>Revenue will have new functionalities available in the Public Interface Test (PIT) environment by the end of Q1 2019.</p> <p>Guarantees & Simplifications Declan O’Dalaigh advised that approx. 200 of the 800 operators with deferred payment authorisations have not been in contact with Revenue despite our attempts at engaging. Members were asked to remind operators of the importance of commencing the application process. Comprehensive guarantee authorisation must be in place by May or the deferred payment authorisation will cease.</p> <p>Authorised Economic Status (AEO) offers a number of benefits to business i.e. fewer Revenue interventions, possible waiver or reduction in the level of guarantee and access to simplifications and special procedures. However, AEO status will not be suitable for all business types.</p> <p>There is extensive information available on the Revenue website and availability of expert teams at each of the Brexit Information Seminars throughout the country.</p>
<p>Item 3: Briefing by members on recent developments and current concerns</p>	<p>There was some concern around ‘basic’ agricultural checks in Rosslare but this should be aided by additional resourcing in the location.</p> <p>Some committee members were concerned about the lack of preparation for a North-South no-deal scenario. Revenue advised of the Government’s position regarding a hard border. However, they said the value of preparations for East West trade would stand to business in this regard.</p> <p>There was some discussion regarding the government agency supports available for businesses, including a Customs Insights course provided by Enterprise Ireland. Assistance with recruitment and training for Customs Clearance agents is not provided by Revenue.</p>

	<p>There were some requests to consider VAT deferral at the point of import. This is a policy decision and the Dept. of Finance are currently considering this.</p> <p>There may have been some issues with people contacting Revenue regarding Inward and Outward Processing and being told they couldn't apply as they weren't trading with the UK. The EU have now clarified the position and traders can apply now.</p> <p>It was suggested that Revenue provide guidance documents and/or fact sheets to assist the dissemination of information in an easily understood manner for the haulage and freight forwarding sector. Revenue pointed to the extensive information contained on their website and noted they have no plans to develop such documents at present.</p> <p>One member of the Committee advised Revenue that to use the Truck registration as opposed to a Trailer registration would be a mistake and serve to cause confusion and delay throughout the movement process. Revenue confirmed that their systems will enable use of either field.</p>
Item 4: AOB	None.
Item 5: Date of next meeting	No proposed date yet, this will be reviewed dependant on any further developments. Chair thanked all members for their participation.
<p>Action 1:</p> <p>Action 2:</p> <p>Action 3:</p>	<p>Committee members are requested to notify traders of the importance of accurate and timely data.</p> <p>Encourage businesses to visit Revenue's website which has extensive customs information including a Brexit queries email address and a dedicated Brexit page which is regularly being updated. Also encourage members of groups to attend one of Revenue's Brexit Information Seminars.</p> <p>If businesses are considering requesting authorisations e.g. approved warehouse, advise them to get in touch with Revenue now.</p>