

**Public Accounts Committee Hearing, 20 February 2014**  
**Office of the Revenue Commissioners Vote 9**  
**Opening Statement by Revenue Chairman, Josephine Feehily**

Thank you Chairman for the opportunity to make this opening statement. Mindful of the two minute limit, I will be brief. The Chapters under consideration today relate mainly to Revenue's core activities such as tax collection, debt management and audit/compliance.

Chapter 23 which deals with tax collection shows Exchequer revenue for 2012 at €36.5 billion. The figure for 2013 is €37.8 billion which is some €6 billion higher than 2010 which was the worst year of the downturn.

In relation to Debt Management, as I have said before to this Committee, the amount of outstanding tax debt and its change over time can give some insight into the financial circumstances of taxpayers. This debt is expressed by Revenue as a performance measure by comparing it with the gross tax collected. As expected the resulting ratio increased from a low of 2% for 2007 to 4% in 2009 and was still 4% at March 2013. However, I anticipate that it will show an improvement when we next measure the debt at the end of March 2014.

On the compliance side, we have active risk based programmes and I have circulated in advance Revenue's headline results for 2013 for the information of the Committee.

Committee members may also be aware that we will shortly be rolling out a structured focussed Local Property Tax compliance programme but before we do, we are giving property owners a final chance to avoid interest and penalties.

I have also furnished today for the information of the Committee some L.P.T. statistics which have just been published on Revenue's website to coincide with this campaign.