

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SKILLS – NOTE FOR INFORMATION

The 2015 Revised Estimates Volume for Public Services includes additional once-off ring-fenced provision in respect of anticipated settlement payments to the Revenue Commissioners of approximately €12 million under two Revenue audits which are still ongoing. One of these audits relates to payments of travel expenses to certain categories of contract staff engaged by the State Examinations Commission for the conduct of the annual State examinations. While these expenses were paid without deduction of tax by the State Examinations Commission the view of Revenue is that the payments should be subject to tax. A provision of €10.7 million is provided in this regard. The second audit relates to certain payments made to Home Tutors which Revenue consider should be taxed at source, and to certain payments to members of boards and committees operated by the Department, which Revenue believes should be subject to tax on a PAYE basis rather than a self-employed basis. The provision made for this audit settlement is €1.4 million.

As is usual in cases where Revenue audits are ongoing this Department is precluded from making any further comment at this time. However, the audit will not impact on the overall payment arrangements for SEC contract staff engaged in the delivery of the 2015 State examinations.

22 December 2014