



KARL DEETER

Ireland's money expert



Windfall... checking if the taxman owes you money could bring a nice rebate

Q&A

Get back what you're owed

Q I RECENTLY claimed back some taxes for 2009 in a return I filed last October and was told I could look for taxes back from as long ago as 2007. Is this true? I've always kept receipts for everything.

PETER WILSON, Drogheda, Co Louth

A YOU heard right. You can claim back up to four years previously, which right now means from January 1, 2007.

You can submit a 2007 claim and the same for 2008 and 2010. You've already done one for 2009 and therefore can't claim twice for that year.

Oddly, the tables are strongly tilted in favour of the Revenue Commissioners.

If you want to claim back taxes you can only go back four years, but if you ever evaded taxes they can investigate you back to any point in time.

Make rebate claims whole lot less taxing

THERE are a few different ways to claim back tax.

You can do a manual return by going to revenue.ie, downloading Form 11, filling it in and sending it off.

If you're self-employed and have an accountant, they can do this for you.

Otherwise, if you're a PAYE worker, there are several companies who specialise in providing this service.

However, the Irish News of the World went a step further for our readers.

We spoke to the folks at irishtaxstore.com and they're offering you a discount of 25 per cent off their standard fee.

That fee is 15pc of whatever they

claim back for you, but if there's no refund there's no fee.

This offer means you can get that fee down to just 11.25pc.

It'll cost you nothing to find out if you're due a refund. The worst case scenario is that you won't be due one.

Go to irishtaxstore.com and click on 'Apply now'.

Then on the first drop box, where it says 'How did you hear about us?', click on 'Irish News of the World'.

From there, have your P60s ready and just fill in the forms that ask some standard questions relating to your own situation and how much tax you've paid in years past. Good luck!

A REAL PAIN IN THE CHEQUE

Expect nasty pay surprise

THERE are a few new numbers on your pay slips this month.

But don't get excited — it's not likely to be a raise. In fact, it'll be a reflection of how much more the State will be taking out of your pocket.

When the Health Levy and the Income Levy were introduced a few years ago, we were told they were temporary arrangements.

Indeed they were — but they've been replaced by the far more permanent Universal Social Charge, or USC, which will mUSCle in on your wealth, hitting anyone who earns more than €77 a week.

VICIOUS

The rate for anyone making more than €16,016 a year is a vicious seven per cent.

Those worst affected will be the lower paid.

Someone earning €20,000 a year loses 3.63pc of their income versus a person on twice that amount who loses 2.68pc.

Almost 100,000 people will move from the 20pc bracket to the marginal rate of 41pc.

In the past it started at €36,400 but now it's down to €32,800.

And this at a time when, as I wrote last week, banks will start to increase their mortgage rates and charges.

Is this unfair? It certainly is, to everybody who has to pay more in taxes because we have people running the State who won't sort out their own



Cash woe... charge will cause headaches

What the USC means to you

Single Person			
Earning	€20,000	€30,000	€40,000
Total tax paid 2010	€1,276	€5,076	€8,832
Tax you'll pay in 2011	€1,955	€5,055	€9,667
Difference to you	-€679	+€21	-€835
Net pay difference	-3.63%	0.09%	-2.68%

Married couple with one income

Earning	€40,000	€60,000	€80,000
Total tax paid 2010	€5,346	€15,312	€25,479
Tax you'll pay in 2011	€5,695	€16,527	€26,927
Difference to you	-€349	-€1,215	-€1,448
Net pay difference	-1%	-2.17%	-2.65%

cost base first before hitting those who have the nerve to go out and work for a living.

But what can you do about it? Don't get mad, get even.

Work out what taxes or expenditures you've paid that you may be entitled to claim back and make sure you get every last cent.

More than 70pc of PAYE workers overpay their taxes, yet only 5pc claim anything back.

According to Philip Doyle from irishtaxstore.com, the average couple are down about €2,000 and the average refund his clients are getting is about €2,400.

So, in effect, if you're due a refund you may be able to eliminate the

effects of the Budget and perhaps even do a little bit better.

Hundreds of millions in unclaimed taxes get sucked up into the State coffers every year, simply because people don't claim their own money back. That's either ignorance or carelessness.

Either way, make sure you get your cash back.

The tax return deadline for 2010 isn't until the end of October this year, but you can do it now and get in early.

You don't have to send paperwork, but do ensure you keep all receipts and bills your return is based on.

If you get an inspection you'll have to produce them — or face the consequences.

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