

Richard Dixon

Richard is Chair of ICTRG and International Head of Major Donors with Concern. ICTRG is a coalition of over 150 charities which is strategically focused on creating a policy climate in Ireland in which philanthropy can thrive through tax and regulatory reform. Formed in 1991 ICTRG has successfully lobbied governments to improve tax effective giving mechanisms to the charity and voluntary sector with notable successes in 1998, 2001 and 2006.

Dr. Thomas B Courtney

Tom is a Partner in Arthur Cox where he is the head of the Company Secretarial Practice Group. Tom's particular area of expertise is Company Law and Corporate Governance and he advises a number of charities. Tom is the author of The Law of Private Companies (2nd ed; 2002) one of the leading textbooks on Irish company law. He is also the Chairman of the statutory Company Law Review Group, which advises the Government on company law reform and is one of the 20 non-governmental expert-members of the EU Commission's Advisory Group on Company Law and Corporate Governance, established by Commission Decision (2005/380/EC), who advise the EU Commission on company law reform.

Paul Farrell

Paul Farrell is the Registrar of the Companies Registration Office. He was appointed to that position in 1997.

Gerard Harrahill

Gerry is the Collector-General with the Revenue Commissioners. He has responsibility for the collection of all the major business and personal taxes and for the carrying out of appropriate collection and pursuit and enforcement activity where taxpayers fail to meet their obligation to pay their taxes on time. In 2006, gross collection by his Office was €50.7bn. His office, with a staff of 840, is currently in six separate locations, mainly in the mid West Region.

Revenue's function in relation to charities regulation is the consideration of applications from bodies of persons or trusts claiming exemption from tax on the basis that they are established for charitable purposes only. Gerry's office in Nenagh administers and manages the tax exemption scheme for Charities. Gerry has been Collector-General for two and a half years and previously headed up Revenue's then newly established South West Region. He has worked previously with the Departments of the Environment and Transport.

Olivia O'Leary

Olivia O'Leary has presented television and radio programmes for the last three decades for both RTE and the British Channels, BBC and ITV. She presents the 'Between Ourselves' discussion programme for BBC Radio 4, and does a weekly political column for RTE Radio 1's Drivetime.

Register online at www.charitytaxreform.com (ICTRG members €65 and non-members €85) OR complete enclosed registration form and return with payment to Irish Charities Tax Reform Group by **1st November 2007**. Discounts available for 2 or more from the same organisation – see form for details.

Early booking is essential as places are limited.

ISFC

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www.charitytaxreform.com
www.vatcampaign.com

charities towards 2012

what's in store?

Irish Charities Tax Reform Group

16th Annual Conference
Thursday 8th November 2007
The Gresham, Dublin

Keynote address by Minister Pat Carey TD, (Minister of State, Dept. Community Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs with responsibility for Drugs Strategy and Community Affairs)

Chaired by: Olivia O'Leary (Journalist and Broadcaster)

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Programme

- 08.45** ICTRG AGM (Members only)
- 09.15** Registration with tea/coffee
- 09.50** Introductions – Richard Dixon (Chairman ICTRG)
- 10.00** Opening Remarks - Olivia O'Leary
- 10.10** Keynote Address: "Charities – towards 2012, what's in store?" – Pat Carey TD, Minister of State, Dept. CRaGA
- 10.40** The Proposed Companies Consolidation and Reform Bill
Tom Courtney – Chairman of the Company Law Review Group
- 11.00** Minimising dual reporting by Charity companies
under new Charity legislation – legal and practical
implications – Paul Farrell, Registrar of the Companies
Registration Office
- 11.20** Questions and Answers
- 11.45** Break
- 12.00** Charities and Taxation – Service and Compliance Issues
Gerard Harrahill, Collector General, Revenue Commissioners
- 12.30** Questions and Answers
- 12.45** Olivia O'Leary - Concluding Remarks
- 13.00** Lunch
- 14.00** Close

Keynote Speaker – Minister Pat Carey T.D.

Born in Kerry, Minister Carey is a full time Public Representative and former Vice Principal, St. Finian's School, Finglas. First elected in 1997 for the constituency of Dublin North-West he was re-elected to Dail Éireann May 2002 and May 2007.

He was Vice-Chairman of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Foreign Affairs up to November 2004, and a Member of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on European Affairs and the Oireachtas Committee on the Scrutiny of EU Legislation up to November 2004.

He is alternate Member to the Convention on the Future of Europe, Member of the Forum on Europe and Chairman of the British Irish Interparliamentary Body. He is a member of the National Economic and Social Forum and a member of Amnesty International.

Charities towards 2012 – what's in store?

What's in store for charities over the next five years? Following the general election in May we have a new coalition government and a new Minister with responsibility for charities, Minister Pat Carey T.D. The Charities Bill published before the election is expected to be re-introduced and enacted during the Autumn term with a Charity Regulatory Authority to be set up soon thereafter. The Company Law Review Group is coming to the end of its mammoth task of reforming company law. New companies legislation is on its way including changes to companies limited by guarantee, the legal structure adopted by many charities. Charity companies may be faced with reporting to both the Companies Registration Office and the new Charity Regulator though the intention is to minimise dual reporting as much as possible. The new Charity Regulator will be responsible for determining the charitable status of organisations but eligibility for charitable tax exemptions will continue to be the preserve of the Revenue Commissioners.

"Charities towards 2012" explores the changing landscape for charities in the next five years. We are delighted to welcome the new Minister at the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs with responsibility for Charities regulation, Minister Pat Carey T.D. as our keynote speaker. Minister Carey will outline the new government's policy on charities and the latest position on the legislation and plans for its implementation.

As part of the ongoing debate on Charities legislation there has been much discussion about appropriate legal structures for charities. The incorporated vehicle of a company limited by guarantee is the form favoured by one-third of charities. Dr Tom Courtney, Chairman of the Company Law Review Group (CLRG), will outline the background to the work of the CLRG in proposing a radical overhaul of Irish company law which has been accepted by the Government and is in the process of being drafted. This talk will then go on to focus particularly on the effects on guarantee companies. In this context he will also consider the suitability of the guarantee structure for charities and the advantages of remaining within the company law arena.

One of the disadvantages for charity companies will be the need to report both to the new Charity Regulator and to the Company Registrar. There is a commitment in the legislation to minimise dual reporting as much as possible. Paul Farrell, the Registrar of the Companies Registration Office, will outline the legal and practical issues involved and how these may be addressed.

The role of the Revenue Commissioners in determining the eligibility of charities for tax exemption is not set to change under new charities legislation. Gerard Harrahill, the Collector General, will give an overview of this role in his address on Taxation and Charities – Service and Compliance issues. He will also be happy to answer questions on this issue following his address.

Olivia O'Leary will reflect on the morning sessions and give us her own view on the changes, challenges and opportunities in store for charities over the next five years.

The Conference is designed for Board Members, Trustees, Chief Executives, Bursars and Development and Financial Executives of charities and voluntary organisations.

Irish Charities Tax Reform Group has a membership of 152 charities and is strategically focused on creating a policy climate in Ireland in which philanthropy can thrive through tax and regulatory reform.