



AN COIMISIÚIN UM ACHOMHAIRC CHÁNACH  
TAX APPEALS COMMISSION

178TACD2024

Between

██████████

**Appellant**

and

**The Revenue Commissioners**

**Respondent**

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**Determination**

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## **Introduction**

1. This is an appeal to the Tax Appeals Commission (“the Commission”) brought by ██████████ (“the Appellant”) under sections 865(7) and 949I of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 (“the TCA 1997”), against a refusal by the Revenue Commissioners (“the Respondent”) of a claim made by the Appellant for a repayment of income tax in the amount of €1,005.10 for the tax year 2018, on the ground that the Appellant’s claim for a repayment of overpaid income tax for the year 2018 was made outside the statutory timeframe.
2. On 20 August 2024, the Commission notified the Appellant and the Respondent that the Commissioner intended to adjudicate on this appeal without a hearing and informed the parties that they could request a hearing within 21 days of that notification. Neither of the parties has objected or requested a hearing. Accordingly, this appeal is adjudicated without a hearing, under section 949U of the TCA 1997.

## **Background**

3. The Respondent submitted that on 25 March 2024, the Appellant filed an income tax return for 2018. The income tax return indicated that the Appellant had overpaid income tax in the amount of €1,005.10.
4. On 26 March 2024, the Respondent wrote to the Appellant to inform him of its decision to refuse the Appellant’s claim for a repayment of income tax for the year 2018, on the ground that the Appellant’s income tax return for 2018 was filed outside the four year time limit imposed by legislation.
5. On 11 April 2024, the Appellant submitted a Notice of Appeal to the Commission.
6. On 19 June 2024, the Respondent submitted a Statement of Case. On 26 June 2024 and 2 July 2024, the Commission sent reminders to the Appellant to submit his Statement of Case. On 17 July 2024, the Appellant replied to the Commission to say that he had nothing to add to the Respondent’s Statement of Case. In neither his Notice of Appeal nor subsequent correspondence did the Appellant dispute that he had filed his income tax return for 2018 in 2024.
7. The Commissioner has considered all of the documentation submitted by the parties in this appeal.

## **Legislation and Guidelines**

8. The legislation relevant to this appeal is as follows:



returns, the Revenue department contacted us and said we would not be eligible for that year's overdue tax repayment (we had been over taxed again) as we had not submitted a return for 2018. So under Revenue's request, we got together the information for our accountant and instructed them to submit it. We now have a bill and payment needed for finding out that we overpaid tax in 2018 but we've been refused repayment of it, as outside of the time scale set by Revenue, although they instructed us to submit outside of their time scale. We feel it is incredibly unfair, as we would have to have paid back if we had owed Revenue the money and now we have an extra bill to the accountant to pay, for which we do not have the money to do so. The majority of the repayment will be going towards paying the bill we now have for submitting 2018 tax return. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] It is an incredibly stressful situation we are now in and we would greatly appreciate you looking at it and reconsidering your decision."

#### *Respondent*

11. In its Statement of Case, the Respondent submitted (among other things):

*"For the 2018 Income Tax return to be a valid return and any overpayment be available for refund or offset, it would have to be filed within 4 years of the end of the chargeable period i.e. on or before 31 December 2022. As the Appellant filed their 2018 Income Tax returns on 25 March 2024 and as this is clearly outside of the 4-year limit imposed by Section 865 of the Acts, Revenue are precluded from allowing refund or offset of the overpaid tax in the total amount of €1,005.10."*

#### **Material Facts**

12. Having read the documentation submitted, the Commissioner makes the following findings of material fact:

- 12.1. On 25 March 2024, the Appellant filed an income tax return for the 2018 tax year.
- 12.2. The income tax return indicated that the Appellant had overpaid income tax for 2018 in the amount of €1,005.10.
- 12.3. On 26 March 2024, the Respondent refused a repayment of the overpaid income tax on the ground that the Appellant had filed his income tax return for 2018 outside the four year statutory time limit.

## Analysis

13. This appeal relates to the Respondent's refusal of the Appellant's claim for a repayment of overpaid income tax for the tax year 2018. The Commissioner is confined to considering whether that decision was in accordance with the applicable legislation.
14. In an appeal before the Commission, the burden of proof rests on the Appellant, who in this appeal must show that the Respondent was incorrect to refuse a claim for repayment of the amount of income tax overpaid by the Appellant. In the High Court case of *Menolly Homes Ltd v Appeal Commissioners and another* [2010] IEHC 49, Charleton J. stated at paragraph 22 that:

*"The burden of proof in this appeal process is, as in all taxation appeals, on the taxpayer. This is not a plenary civil hearing. It is an enquiry by the Appeal Commissioners as to whether the taxpayer has shown that the relevant tax is not payable"*.

### Section 865 TCA 1997

15. Section 865(2) of the TCA 1997 provides that a person is entitled to a repayment of tax paid where that tax is not due from that person. However, section 865(4) of the TCA 1997 provides that "*a claim for repayment of tax under the Acts for any chargeable period shall not be allowed unless it is made... within 4 years, after the end of the chargeable period to which the claim relates.*" (emphasis added).
16. In this appeal, the relevant tax year was 2018. Therefore, the claim for a repayment of income tax must have been made on or before 31 December 2022. The Appellant has not disputed that he filed his income tax return for 2018 on 25 March 2024. It is this date that establishes a valid claim for the purposes of section 865(3) of the TCA 1997. Having regard to this date, the Commissioner is satisfied that the Appellant's claim fell outside the four year time limit prescribed in section 865(4) of the TCA 1997.
17. The use of the word "shall" in section 865(4) of the TCA 1997 indicates an absence of discretion in the application of this provision. The wording of the provision does not provide for extenuating circumstances in which the four year rule might be mitigated. The legislation does not afford the Commissioner any discretion to disapply the rule.
18. Previous determinations of the Commission have addressed the matter of repayment in the context of the four year statutory limitation period. These determinations may be found on the Commission website<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> [www.taxappeals.ie](http://www.taxappeals.ie)

19. The Commissioner appreciates that this decision will be disappointing for the Appellant. The Commissioner acknowledges the family and financial circumstances which the Appellant outlined on appeal. The Appellant was entitled to check whether the Respondent's refusal of his claim for a repayment of income tax was correct. However as noted above, the legislation does not afford the Commissioner any discretion on this matter.

### **Determination**

20. For the reasons set out above, the Commissioner determines that the Appellant has not succeeded in showing that the Respondent was incorrect to refuse the Appellant's claim for a repayment of income tax in the amount of €1,005.10, under section 865(4) of the TCA 1997.

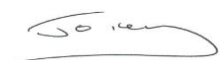
21. This Appeal is determined in accordance with Part 40A of the TCA 1997 and in particular section 949U thereof. This determination contains full findings of fact and reasons for the determination, as required under section 949AJ(6) of the TCA 1997.

### **Notification**

22. This determination complies with the notification requirements set out in section 949AJ of the TCA 1997, in particular section 949AJ(5) and section 949AJ(6) of the TCA 1997. For the avoidance of doubt, the parties are hereby notified of the determination under section 949AJ of the TCA 1997 and in particular the matters as required in section 949AJ(6) of the TCA 1997. This notification under section 949AJ of the TCA 1997 is being sent via digital email communication **only** (unless the Appellant opted for postal communication and communicated that option to the Commission). The parties will not receive any other notification of this determination by any other methods of communication.

### **Appeal**

23. Any party dissatisfied with the determination has a right of appeal on a point or points of law only within 42 days after the date of the notification of this determination in accordance with the provisions set out in section 949AP of the TCA 1997. The Commission has no discretion to accept any request to appeal the determination outside the statutory time limit.



Jo Kenny  
Appeal Commissioner  
17 September 2024