Tax Relief for the Donation of Heritage Items

Section 1003 of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 provides that persons who donate heritage items can credit 80% of the value of these items against their liabilities for certain taxes. The taxes covered by the relief are Income Tax, Corporation Tax, Capital Gains Tax, Gift Tax and Inheritance Tax.

For the purposes of the relief, ‘heritage item‘ means any kind of cultural item including:

- Any archaeological item, archive, book, estate record, manuscript and painting, and
- Any collection of cultural items and any collection of same which are considered appropriate for donation to the national collections

The National Collections are described as Approved Bodies under the legislation and include the National Museum of Ireland.

In order to be considered as appropriate for donation the heritage item(s) must be:

- An outstanding example of the type of item involved, pre-eminent in its class, whose export from the state would constitute a diminution of Ireland’s accumulated cultural heritage or whose import into the State would constitute a significant enhancement of the accumulated cultural heritage of Ireland.
- The open market value of the item/collection of items must be at least €150,000 and in the case of a collection, at least one item in the collection must have a minimum value of €50,000.

Potential donations under Section 1003 are assessed by a Selection Committee composed of representatives of the national Cultural Institutions, the Arts Council and the Heritage Council.

The scheme is administered by the Cultural Institutions Division of the Department of Arts, Sport & Tourism. For further information, contact:

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Section 1003 Selection Committee
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