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# Waterford retailers meet to tackle cigarette smuggling

Wednesday, 30th October 2013

Retailers from Waterford are to attend a special meeting to discuss the problem of cigarette smuggling and illegal selling in both Waterford and Wexford. The meeting takes place at the Riverside Hotel in Enniscorthy, Co Wexford on Monday, November 4th at 6pm. It is organised by retail group Retailer Against Smuggling (RAS), which represents retailers across Ireland in the fight against the retail trade

RAS has invited independent retailers across Waterford county to attend as well as TDs, councillors and representatives from the Garda and Revenue and Customs.

The meeting will discuss the effect that the illegal cigarette trade is having on independent retailers and will look at ways to tackle cigarette smuggling.

Waterford has an especially serious problem with illegal cigarette selling: according to a recent survey carried out by MS Intelligence, one-third of all cigarettes consumed in the county have no Irish tax paid on them, the highest rate in Ireland.

The county also has a low conviction rate, with just three convictions in 2012 for illegal selling and smuggling. Retailer Jimmy Gahan, who is a member of RAS, called for action to address this problem.

"The situation is getting worse and worse, with black market cigarettes widely available across the county. Unless something is done to tackle the problem, you're going to see more store closures and legitimate retailers driven out of business," Mr Gahan said.

The measures that RAS is calling for include: a clampdown on markets an fairs where illegal cigarettes are being sold; pursuing convicted smugglers and illegal sellers for tax evasion and greater co-operation between law enforcement authorities and business owners.

"If retailers work together with the relevant authorities, we can tackle this problem. It is in everyone's interest to stamp out cigarette smuggling," Mr Gahan added.

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## Letters to the Editor

### Editorial

water, water everywhereThe establishment of a new agency that would oversee the privatisation of water here in Ireland was never going to be a popular proposition. When it comes to paying for such a fundamental and basic necessity for everyday life many people believe that is what they taxes for. However it seems now that despite all the arguments back and forth that we are very soon going to be paying for our water. We have had it pointed out ad nauseam to us just how much it costs for water to come o ...

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## Weekly Poll

We're delighted to announce the launch of the new-look Waterford Today website. Tell us what new features you would like to see added?

Community Forum features - 0%

Article Commenting System - 0%

More Social Media Interactions - 0%

Online Competitions - 0%

GeoIP Googlemap locations - 0%

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