

The lack of compliance of duty-free travel allowances is having a detrimental impact on retailers and government revenue. RAS members analysis is based on the following assumptions:



3 million

trips were made by Irish residents to the UK by air and sea in 12 months

(Source: UK Office for National Statistics, Q4 2022 to Q3 2023)



18%

of the population are current smokers

(Health Ireland Survey 2023)

540,000*

of those trips were made by smokers purchasing duty-free cigarettes

**This figure doesn't include non-smokers buying cigarettes for friends and family*



There are strong suspicions that the 200 cigarettes limit is consistently being breached, facilitated by the fact that passengers can easily by-pass personal allowances, for instance by potentially purchasing 200 cigarettes in duty-free stores in airports and 200 cigarettes on flights, i.e. 400 cigarettes per passenger.

540,000

passengers currently smoking x 400 cigarettes

Meaning total number of duty-free cigarettes purchased by adult smokers arriving into the country by air and sea from the UK could be up to

216 million

half of which are in excess of limitations in place

Meaning that legitimate Irish retailers could lose up to

€90 million

in retail value (5.4 million x €16.75)

Representing a loss to the Exchequer of

€72 million

(almost 80% of the price of packet of cigarettes is tax and excise duty)



108 million cigarettes =

5.4 million

cigarette packs



retailers
against smuggling