

EIRCODE CASE STUDY

Central Statistics Office

The Central Statistics Office (CSO) is the independent statutory body responsible for compiling and publishing official statistics. With a staff of over 650, the CSO strives to keep society fully informed by producing accurate, objective, timely, accessible and trustworthy official statistics.

The CSO conducts a wide range of statistical inquiries on most aspects of the Irish economy and society. In all, the CSO publishes over 300 statistical releases and publications each year, all of which are available at www.cso.ie.

How are Eircodes helping the CSO?

Using Eircodes allows CSO field workers to identify locations accurately. More strategically, however, using Eircodes helps to link datasets. This helps to generate very specific, accurate reports, for example the new Residential Property Price Index (RPPI).

This index gives a breakdown of property price and transactions trends. It uses indicators broken down by characteristics (buyer, seller, dwelling, etc.), geographical location (region, county and Eircode routing keys) and Revenue data. The RPPI now includes more locational information based on Eircodes: for the first time it has published the average price paid for properties broken down by the Eircode routing key, revealing a level of market topography before unseen. Eircodes are now intrinsic to the RPPI price model and facilitate the compilation of 12 new sub-indices, covering all regions in Ireland, where previously the index merely compared

WHAT ARE THE KEY BENEFITS TO THE CENTRAL STATISTICS OFFICE OF USING EIRCODE?



Increased **reliability** of geographical information



improved **efficiency** in matching locations



enhanced data to inform wider Government policy.

Dublin to the rest of the country. The CSO will also create statistical information by linking, for example, a dataset on the locations of foreign business investors with a dataset on broadband availability and quality. This report will show the extent to which one thing influences the other. In order to create these reports, the information needs to be accurate. Without Eircodes, there can be confusion and ambiguity with addresses. Traditional addresses have many fields, which are often presented inconsistently – for example, Street and St, Avenue and Ave, and so on. This can be ambiguous and, therefore, reduces the accuracy of the information. Using

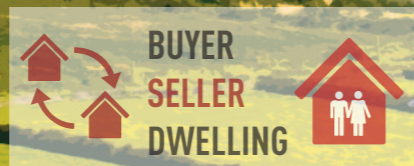
Eircodes eliminates the ambiguity and allows accurate statistical information to be linked and compiled.

Scale of savings or improvements

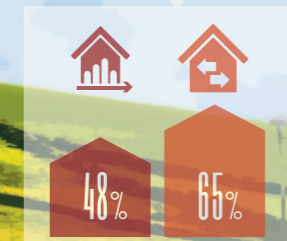
The Government's Capital Plan 2016 – 2021 represents an exchequer investment of €27bn. Using accurate data at local level, compiled by using Eircodes, means that the current plan is better informed than previous plans. This allows the Government to target resources where they are most effective, particularly at a regional level. Optimising the allocation of funds by just 0.1% would be worth almost €3m.



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*For illustration purposes only