



Retail Excellence announce Ireland's Top5 People Employees from Dublin to Donegal, Cork to Carlow make the Top5

The Top5 Finalists in The Rising Star of the Year and Manager of the Year Awards categories have today been named by the largest retail representative organisation in Ireland, Retail Excellence.

Clare Breathnach of The Loop Dublin Airport, Derek Burke of Dairygold Co-Op Superstores Midleton, Cork, Terrence Devlin of McCabes Pharmacy, Dundrum Town Centre, Donna Keenan of Harvey Norman, Nutgrove Shopping Centre and Chris Kirwan of Ecco, Dún Laoghaire all made the Top5 Rising Star of the Year.

Sandra Devenney of McElhinneys Department Store Ballybofey, Donegal, Andrew Finnegan of Compu b, Grafton Street, Donal Flynn of Fallon & Byrne, Exchequer Street, Dublin, Dwayne Hunt of SuperValu, Kinsale, Cork and Liam Kenny Arboretum, Leighlinbridge, Carlow Laoghaire all made the Top5 Manager of the Year.

The Top5 finalists in each category are part of the Retail Excellence Awards, which were established in 1997 to promote best practice and encourage high standards in the Irish retail industry and are now the largest and most prestigious of its kind in Ireland. The Awards will take place on Saturday 11th November in the Malton Hotel in Killarney.

David Fitzsimons, Chief Executive of Retail Excellence commented, "There were hundreds of entries in each category nationwide and as with other years we are delighted with the quality of applicants this year. The very high standard set by the Top5 demonstrate the importance of service and customer engagement among Irish retail employees which made selecting this year's Top5 particularly difficult. Congratulations to the successful entrants who will now go forward to the next stage of the process when they meet with the judging panel in October".

"We sincerely congratulate all of the hundreds of entrants who, while unsuccessful on this occasion, displayed such high standard of commitment and dedication to their companies. We wish them well in their future career and hope to see them enter again in 2018".

"The Retail Excellence Awards are about recognising and rewarding retail excellence. High standards are particularly important given the severe challenges currently facing Ireland's retail industry and the industry's employees play a pivotal part in helping counteract this. The team at Retail Excellence wishes all Finalists the very best in the next stage of the Awards."

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About Retail Excellence

Established in 1995, Retail Excellence is owned by the members, for the members. We are an organisation which invests in innovative and exciting learning, market intelligence, human resources services, Government representation and member networking initiatives. Retail Excellence has over 1,750 leading retail companies in Ireland. Our members are the most progressive and innovative retailers. Retail Excellence is by far the largest retail industry body in Ireland.