



## **Retail Excellence appoints new Board Members**

### **Reps from Applegreen, Shannon Group PLC, Butlers Irish Chocolates, Kilkenny Group and Willow join the Board**

Retail Excellence is delighted to announce the appointment of five new Members to their Board.

Joe Barrett, COO and co-owner of Applegreen, Darren Smyth, Head of Retail at Shannon Group PLC, Michelle McBride Retail Director of Butlers Irish Chocolates, Michelle O'Gorman, Group Area and Head of Retail at the Kilkenny Group and Jean McCabe owner of Willow have all taken up positions on the Retail Excellence Board.

Speaking about the new appointments, CEO, David Fitzsimons said "I am delighted to welcome such quality additions to the Board. Each new member brings insights from their respective sectors which added to their individual skillset, wealth of ability and experience will perfectly complement our existing members".

"I have worked with and know all of them personally and have no doubt that they will make a valuable contribution in shaping and developing future plans, direction and policies in tandem with existing members of the Board".

"We have much planned for the remainder of this year and in the longer term to try and resolve the huge issues facing retail in these uncertain times. It is testament to the strength of our organisation that we can call on the quality and advice of our board members to come up with solutions to the challenges facing with us".

"It is an exciting time to be working with the Board and I would like to thank all members for their hard work and dedication and I look forward to working for them for the betterment of the industry as a whole" David Fitzsimons concluded.

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## Editors Notes

### **Board members**

Chairman: Colm Carrol – Carrolls Irish Gifts

Vice Chair: JP Keneedy – Tilestyle

Joe Barrett - Applegreen

David Myers – Heatons

Darren Smyth – Shannon Group PLC

Michelle McBride – Butlers Irish Chocolates

Michelle O’Gorman – The Kilkenny Group

Luke Moriarty – the Moriarty Group

Paul Kealy – Tony Kealy’s

Jean McCabe – Willow

Fergal Doyle - Arboretum

Richard Wehrly – Wehrly Jewellers

David Fitzsimons – Retail Excellence

Lorraine Higgins – Retail Excellence

**Trustees:** Sharen McCabe – McCabe Pharmacies, Keith Rogers – Ecco, Kevin Jephson – Ardkeen Quality Food Store

For further information please click here: <https://www.retailexcellence.ie/board-members/>

### **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.