



**Rachel Doyle of Arboretum scoops third ever Retail Excellence Lifetime Achievement Award in 20<sup>th</sup> Year of Retail Awards**

**600 greats of Irish retail gathered to mark her significant achievements in business  
An Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar commends Rachel Doyle's contribution to the Irish Retail Industry**

Retail Excellence has announced Rachel Doyle as the third ever Lifetime Achievement Award winner at their 20<sup>th</sup> prestigious retail awards event held in The Malton Hotel, Killarney, Co Kerry.

The glittering black tie event was attended by some 600 of Irish retail's biggest names who gathered to mark the significant achievements of the finalists and winners.

Rachel Doyle, a graduate of horticulture, is the proprietor of Arboretum Garden Centres in Carlow and Wicklow, a Board Member of An Bord Bia and a former President of the International Garden Centre Association (IGCA).

She started her business in Leighlinbridge, Co Carlow selling plants from the garage at the side of her house and has grown it into a multi-million euro business providing almost a hundred jobs in rural Ireland. Working alongside her husband Frank and sons Fergal and Barry the business which started in the late 1970's is very much a family affair. The success of the Carlow business led Rachel to acquire another Garden Centre in Wicklow.

CEO of Retail Excellence David Fitzsimons said "This is only the 3<sup>rd</sup> time ever in the history of the Retail Excellence awards that the Board of Retail Excellence voted to bestow a Lifetime Achievement Award on a very special person, Rachel Doyle of Arboretum".

"She is a woman who has achieved hugely both in her business and family life and has managed to hold some of the highest positions in the Garden sector both within Ireland and internationally. Despite all of this, she remains one of the most encouraging and affable individuals I have ever met so it is fair to say she has her feet firmly planted on the ground".

"The first recipient of this Award over 15 years ago was Patrick Hanley, a man who grew up in Tipperary and went on to forge a magnificent retail career culminating in his appointment as CEO of Harvey Nichols. The second lifetime achievement award recipient, the award presented 10 years ago, was world renowned retailer and former Senator Feargal Quinn. So, it gives me great pleasure to bestow this honour on Rachel who deservedly follows in the footsteps of such luminaries.

“Rachel’s family and the staff of Arboretum should be rightly proud of tonight’s achievement. Despite being around the retail industry for some time I continue to be inspired by the brilliant commitment and innovation of Rachel in all that she does.”

“I want to commend her for instilling the highest standards of service and engagement in her businesses and for continuing to be a great colleague, advisor and advocate for the industry” said David Fitzsimons, CEO, Retail Excellence.

#### Editors Notes

The Awards were presented on Saturday evening (November 11) by media personality Hector Ó hEochagáin. The sell-out event was attended by a number of Oireachtas members and 600 Irish retail industry executives

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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 1,800 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.