



All-Party Oireachtas Group on Retail Launched The Group is a Retail Excellence initiative

Retail Excellence, the largest retail representative body in Ireland, today (Wednesday 7th of February) launched a Cross Party Oireachtas Group on Retail in Leinster House.

The all-party group, is chaired by Fianna Fail TD Dara Calleary and is comprised of members from the main parties and from both Houses of the Oireachtas to include James Lawless TD FF, Declan Breathnach TD FF, Anne Rabbitte TD FF, Aidan Davitt Senator FF, Jan O'Sullivan TD Lab, Alan Kelly TD Lab, Maria Byrne Senator FG, Paudie Coffey Senator FG, Joe Carey FG TD, Neale Richmond Senator FG, Noel Grealish TD IND, Gerry Craughwell Senator IND, Maurice Quinlivan TD SF.

The core objective of the Group is to ensure that the significance of the retail industry is asserted and that future Budgets are framed with retail interests in mind to help protect and strengthen the largest private industry employer in Ireland (282,000 employees) which contributes e7 billion per annum to the Exchequer.

Retail Excellence will be the secretariat for the group, through which Oireachtas members will gain access to the most pressing issues facing the industry and hear directly from industry leaders.

Deputy CEO of Retail Excellence, Lorraine Higgins said "Retail is a limb of the economy which fails to get the recognition it deserves despite the pivotal role it plays in every village, town and city in Ireland in keeping 282,000 employed and keeping town centres vibrant. All of which is being threatened by cheap imports from outside the EU with VAT and duties not factored into prices, increasing cross-border spend, increasing business costs along with a plethora of other issues which need to be urgently addressed. The intention of this Group is to ensure future policies and budgets are framed with retail focused solutions so the industry is better supported given its significance".

Chair of the Cross Party Oireachtas Group, FF TD Dara Calleary said ""Retail is Ireland's most important and most local industry and Ireland's most important and most local employer. It faces challenges that it has never faced before and it is important that its voice is heard within the Oireachtas. I look forward to working with my colleagues on a non-party basis to support our retailers to sustain and grow their businesses in the interests of every part of our island"

Ends ----

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Editors Notes:

RETAIL EXCELLENCE Committee Members

Sharen McCabe – Chairwoman, McCabe’s Pharmacy Group, Prior Chairwoman Retail Excellence, Retail Excellence Trustee

Keith Rogers – Head of Retail, Ecco, Prior Chairman Retail Excellence, Retail Excellence Trustee

JP Kennedy – Chairman, Retail Excellence, MD TileStyle

Michelle McBride – Retail Director, Butlers Chocolates, Retail Excellence Board Member

Fergal Doyle – COO & Owner, Arboretum, Retail Excellence Board Member

Darren Smyth – Head of Commercial, Shannon Group plc, Retail Excellence Board Member

Luke Moriarty – Owner & MD, SuperValu Moriarty Group, Retail Excellence Board Member

Tracy O’Brien – Human Resources Director, Lloyds Pharmacy Ireland & United Drug

Michael Neary – Loss Prevention Manager, Harvey Norman

Martin Carpenter – GM, Aer Rianta International

Damian Duggan – Owner, Duggan Jewellers, Board Member The Association of Fine Jewellers

Kieran O’Brien – Marketing Manager UK and Ireland – Compu b

Mark Galligan – CEO House of Ireland

David Campbell – Retail Excellence

Lorraine Higgins – Retail Excellence

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.