



PRESS STATEMENT
Friday 27th July 2018

Retail Excellence announce Ireland's Top 100 Stores

Retail Excellence announce Ireland's Top100 Stores Retail Excellence, the largest retail industry representative organisation, has today announced the Top100 stores in Ireland in each industry sector right across the country.

The Top100 stores are part of the Retail Excellence Awards in partnership with AIB Merchant Services, 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 at a black-tie event on Saturday, November 10 in the Malton Hotel in Killarney.

Previous Store of the Year winners include Tilestyle, Applegreen, O'Brien's Wines, Greenacres in Wexford and last year, Garvey's SuperValu in Tralee.

Lorraine Higgins, Chief Executive of Retail Excellence said "This year we were delighted to have received over 500 store entries from every sector for our national retail awards. The quality of customer care and excellence throughout these entries made selecting the Top100 stores an extremely difficult task".

"Such high standards are particularly important given the difficult challenges facing retailers at present including the ongoing threat posed by Brexit, as well as domestic issues which we continue to work to resolve on behalf of our members." "I want to sincerely thank and commend each entrant and in particular, congratulate those announced today in our Top100."

Congratulating the stores named in the Top100, Mark Patterson, Head of Field Sales of AIB Merchant Services said "These retailers represent the very best of the retail industry in Ireland. AIB Merchant Services are proud to partner with Retail Excellence Ireland to support such a prestigious event."

Ends

Notes to the Editor

As part of the Top100 selection process, all store entrants were visited by a mystery shopper, with those exceeding service and standards criteria making it into the Top100 stores. The Top100 will now be invited to a private briefing with Echochamber, a creative retail agency who track global retail trends, on August 15 in AIB Bankcentre. Here the attendees will be presented with the 10 pillars of Retail Excellence and will be given time to prepare a submission showing evidence they meet those 10 pillars. Echochamber will then consider the submissions and will proceed to selecting the Top 30 stores which will be announced on Wednesday 19th of September. The Top30 stores will then be rigorously tested before being whittled down to the top 3 finalists and winners in sectoral categories.

About Retail Excellence Ireland

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.

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