



## **Press Statement – For Immediate Release**

Friday, 07 September 2018

### **Retail Excellence Announce Ireland’s Top5 Employees in their People Awards Employees from across Ireland 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.

Sarah Buckley of Adrian Dunne Pharmacy, Joanne Davin of Flying Tiger Copenhagen, Niamh Cleary of Inglot, Megan Lynch of Mulligan’s Pharmacy and Maura Fahey of PH Ross all made the Top5 Rising Star of the Year.

Elzbieta Tyrala of Applegreen, Dean Walshe of ECCO, Marta Siudak of Insomnia, Dwayne Hunt of Smith’s SuperValu and Mary Keane of Kilkenny Shop are vying for the title of Manager of the Year this November.

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, which are backed by AIB Merchant Services will be presented at a black-tie event which will take place on Saturday 10th November in the Malton Hotel in Killarney.

Commenting on the announcement, Lorraine Higgins CEO of Retail Excellence said “we are delighted with the volume and quality of entries into our people awards this year. The high standard set by retail employees in each category represents the best in customer service and engagement which made our task particularly difficult in selecting the Top5. We wish them all the very best in the next stage.”

Mark Patterson, Head of Field Sales at AIB Merchant Services said “success within retail is driven by passionate, dedicated and committed people. The calibre of entrants in 2018 was outstanding. AIBMS would like to acknowledge and congratulate all shortlisted finalists who delivered impressive performance to get this far.”

The Top5 successful entrants in each category will now go forward to the next stage of the process when they meet with the judging panel in October.

## Notes to the Editor

### **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 1,850 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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