



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

Monday, 24 September 2018

### **Retail Excellence announce Ireland's Top30 Stores Retailers from every sector make it to the Top of the Shops**

Retail Excellence, the largest retail industry representative organization in Ireland, has today announced the Top30 stores in Ireland. The list is comprised of retailers from around the country in every sector within the Irish retail industry.

The Top30 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 sectoral category winners, Top5 Stores and the National Store of the Year will be announced at a black-tie Awards banquet on Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup> in the Malton Hotel, Killarney, County Kerry.

Former "National Store of the Year" winners include Garvey's SuperValu Tralee, Avoca, Tilestyle, Applegreen, Arboretum, O'Briens Wines, Galvin For Men and Greenacres.

Lorraine Higgins, Chief Executive of Retail Excellence commented, "As with other year's the competition for the coveted prize of Store of the Year has been intense which has made the selection of the Top30 particularly difficult".

"As Irish retail competes with external factors like Brexit, sterling devaluation and the growth of online purchases our Members and their staff are proving their innovative ability and resilience yet again. Their exceptional standards of customer service and customer experience stands firmly with international best practice which is something we are rightly proud of".

"I want to congratulate those who made the Top30 Stores. Unfortunately, there can only be one winner but making it this far is testament to the hard work of the owners, their staff and investment in their retail operations".

"The retail industry continues to play its part in keeping businesses open, retail workers in jobs and our town centres vibrant. As the largest retail representative body our commitment to our Members is to continue celebrating standards in the industry in this country."

Congratulating the stores named in the Top30, 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."

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## Notes to the Editor

The Top30 stores will now be rigorously tested with a financial audit and an onsite visit from Retail Excellence and Echochamber, our UK retail consultants.

View the full list here: <https://www.retailexcellence.ie/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Retail-Excellence-Top30-Stores.pdf>

## **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.

## **Contact**

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