



Press Statement – For Immediate Release

Monday, 01 October 2018

Retail Excellence embark on a five day, eleven county Retail Road Trip to find Ireland's Best Store

Retail Excellence, Ireland's largest retail representative body, have today (Monday) embarked on a country wide Retail Road Trip visiting the 30 finalists in their Store of the Year competition to find the number one Store in Ireland. The Store of the Year competition is the central part of the Retail Excellence Annual Awards, which were established in 1997 to promote best practice and encourage the highest standards in the Irish Retail Industry. They are now the largest and most prestigious of their kind in Ireland.

Over the course of the five-day Retail Road Trip the Top30 stores will be rigorously tested with an onsite visit from Retail Excellence and Echochamber, our UK Retail Excellence Consultant partners and a financial audit.

Former "National Store of the Year" winners include Avoca, Tilestyle, Applegreen, Arboretum, O'Briens Wines, Galvin For Men, Greenacres and Garvey's SuperValu in Tralee. Commenting on the Road Trip, Lorraine Higgins, Chief Executive of Retail Excellence said "We have spent the last number of months on a mission to find the Best Store in Ireland from assessing the overwhelming number of entries, mystery shopping each one, reviewing submissions to whittling the numbers down to our Top30. Now, one of the vital stages of this competition is physically testing each store and we are embarking on this process today".

"The awards are a great way for retailers to receive vital feedback to empower them to be the very best they can be, enhancing customer experience, job satisfaction for employees all the while driving footfall in store. The Top30 finalists are amongst the most creative and progressive retailers in the country which makes the task of selecting Ireland's top store all the more difficult."

"I want to wish the Top30 Stores the very best of luck in this final stage of the competition. Unfortunately, there can only be one winner but their journey this far is testament to the hard work of the owners, their staff and investment in their retail operations".

"As a retail body we are proud that the industry continues to play its part in growing and sustaining the Irish economy, keeping businesses open, retail workers in jobs and our town centres vibrant. It is important to celebrate this and our commitment to all is to continue driving standards within the retail in this country." Lorraine Higgins concluded.

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 10th in the Great Southern Hotel, Killarney, County Kerry.

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.

Top30 Stores list can be found here: <https://www.retailexcellence.ie/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Retail-Excellence-Top30-Stores.pdf>

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