



**Press Statement – For Immediate Release
Sunday November 11th 2018**

National Retail Excellence Awards Winners Announced

Over 500 Retailers gather as Willow, Ennis crowned National Store of the Year 2019

Retail Excellence, the largest Retail representative body in Ireland, has announced the winners of their annual Awards held in the Great Southern Hotel, Killarney on Saturday, 10th November.

The Awards, which are backed by AIB Merchant Services, were presented by energetic TV personality Hector Ó hEochagáin and attended by more than 500 Irish retail industry executives.

Top5 Store Winners included Willow in Ennis, who took the National Store of the Year 2019, Mellerick's Pharmacy, Fermoy, bambino's children's store, Ennis, Shannon Airport Duty Free, Shannon, and Fresh The Good Food Market, Grand Canal Square, Dublin.

Other sectoral award winners included The Kilkenny Shop on Nassau Street which won Restaurant and Coffee House of the Year, Specsavers on Dawson Street who picked up the title of Optician of the Year, Nook and Cranny, Portlaoise won National Gift Store of the Year, Arboretum in Carlow won Garden Centre of the Year, Harvey Norman, Tallaght won National Electronic & Tech store, Dollard & Co., Dublin won National Food & Wine Store of the Year, Applegreen, Gorey won National Forecourt Store of the Year, Casey's Furniture in Limerick won National Home & Interiors store, and Petstop, Carrickmines, Dublin won Pet Store of the Year.

Fianna Fáil TD and Chair of the Oireachtas Cross Party Group on Retail, Dara Calleary, has been named Retail Advocate of the Year. Slane in County Meath was heralded as Ireland's Friendliest Place 2019.

The night also celebrated the best in eCommerce with Glanbia winning Website of the Year, Hale Vaping winning New Website of the Year, mobile operator Three winning Digital Campaign of the Year and Carrolls Irish Gifts winning Exporter of the Year.

Talent within the Retail Industry was also celebrated with Mary Keane, Manager of The Kilkenny Shop on Nassau Street, Dublin winning Manager of the Year and Niamh Cleary of Inglot Waterford winning Rising Star of the Year.

DPD was announced as the Supplier of the Year 2019 to the Irish Retail Industry.

Group CEO of Retail Excellence David Fitzsimons said “We are delighted to recognize and award the very best in Irish retail all of whom have shown an unquestionable commitment to meeting and exceeding customer expectations as well as innovation in store and in-service delivery. We are particularly pleased that across all of our categories of awards Irish retailers, both big and small, urban and rural competed to deliver that exceptional standard of service to customers regardless of their size.’

“We look forward to working with the finalists, entrants and members into the future to assist in their endeavours and continue driving standards in Irish retail.”

“Congratulations to all the winners. These retailers represent the best in retail industry in Ireland. AIB Merchant Services are proud to partner with Retail Excellence Ireland on such a prestigious event.”

Established by Retail Excellence in 1997, The Awards is the biggest event in the Irish retail industry calendar and aims to promote best practice and encourage high standards in the Irish retail industry.

ENDS

Full List of Winners

National Store of the Year 2019	Willow, Ennis, Co. Clare
Top5 Store & National Pharmacy of the Year 2019	Mellerick’s Pharmacy, Fermoy, Co. Cork
Top5 Store 2019	bambino’s, Ennis
Top5 Store & National Visitor Store of the Year 2019	Shannon Duty Free, Shannon Airport, Co. Clare
Top5 Store & National Supermarket of the Year 2019	Fresh the Good Food Market, Grand Canal Square, Dublin
National Specialist Food & Wine Store of the Year 2019	Dollard & Co., Wellington Quay, Dublin
National Restaurant & Coffee House of the Year 2019	The Kilkenny Restaurant & Café, Nassau Street, Dublin
National Electronic & Tech Store of the Year 2019	Harvey Norman, Tallaght, Dublin
National Forecourt of the Year 2019	Applegreen, Ramstown, Gorey
National Garden Centre of the Year 2019	Arboretum, Kilkenny Road, Co. Carlow
National Home / Interiors Store of the Year 2109	Casey’s Furniture, Raheen, Co. Limerick
National Gift Store of the Year 2019	Nook and Cranny, Main Street, Portlaoise, Co. Laois
National Optician of the Year 2019	Specsavers Opticians, Dawson Street, Dublin 2
National Pet Store of the Year 2019	Petstop, The Park, Carrickmines, Dublin
Retail Industry Advocate of the Year 2109	Dara Calleary TD, Fianna Fáil, Mayo
Supplier of the Year 2019	DPD
Ireland’s Friendliest Place 2019	Slane, Co. Meath
Rising Star of the Year 2019	Niamh Cleary, Inglot
Manager of the Year 2019	Mary Keane, The Kilkenny Shop
Website of the Year 2019	Glanbia Connect
New Website of the Year 2019	Hale Vaping
Digital Campaign of the Year 2019	Three
Exporter of the Year 2019	Carrolls Irish Gifts