

5 October 2020

Dear Taoiseach,

These are exceptionally challenging times for our country. We, the undersigned, fully support the aims of you and your Government colleagues to help manage Covid-19, save lives, and protect the economy.

We are mindful of the profound impact of Covid-19 on the broader society and economy, and the wide-ranging efforts of Government in seeking to address this. Businesses across the country have worked hand in glove with Government to keep people safe, often at huge cost to themselves financially.

The hospitality and broader experience sector is a key element of our economic and social life, impacting each of the signatories below. It reaches well beyond those who are directly employed, and touches every city, town, village and rural community, with a far-reaching supply chain. It encompasses everything from the rich provenance of our food in our restaurants, sophisticated hotels that operate to the highest international standards, world class events, our pubs which are known and loved by national and international visitors alike, to unique experiences such as whiskey tasting in distilleries. All of this forms the fabric of our unique hospitality offering.

Underpinning all of this are the ancillary suppliers, contractors, and services to all those providers and a deep interdependency with Ireland's hospitality industry.

The sector contributes €4.5 billion in wages, salaries and employment taxes every year. More than 330,000 people are either employed directly or supported directly by demand from the sector.

We, businesses operating in this sector, have become increasingly concerned that the current Irish response is centred on restricting economic activity to a much greater extent than any other country in Europe, including full or partial closures of non food pubs, and much harsher international travel restrictions than our European neighbours.

Alongside the enormous impact for the businesses in question, the consequences of this ongoing focus will reach deep into the Irish economy. The current Irish approach risks not just short term, but long-lasting and irreparable damage to the economy and Irish society.

We are extremely concerned about the re-closure of hospitality venues and its emergence as a primary strategy to address the spread of the virus. Ireland already imposed one of the longest hospitality lockdowns in Europe, with non food pubs in Dublin never having opened. Many businesses operating in the experience economy are being constrained disproportionately. Other countries in Europe, many of whom are managing Covid effectively have not resorted to closing the hospitality sector.

The lesson of other countries is that a different approach is possible and should be considered – an approach which protects our health but also enables the hospitality and experience economy to operate. We believe a broader and more strategic approach towards supporting the hospitality sector is now essential.

Our first request is that the Government looks to best practice internationally and to countries that have managed to keep their hospitality sector open while at the same time taking clear and targeted approaches to controlling the spread of the disease in communities.

Our second request is for a much more targeted set of measures and supports for the sectors most impacted by COVID, and its restrictions. It is now clear that the measures announced in July are insufficient.

Finally, we urge for much greater engagement and coordination with the industries most impacted by the current restrictions. For example, the incredibly short notice given for the recent closures in Ireland caused unnecessary economic hardship to many businesses and could have been avoided, while consultation is also essential in the design and delivery of effective support measures.

The hospitality and experience sector are regulated environments and have proven to be responsible players throughout the crisis. The sector, which is vital to the Irish economy, can play a crucial role in the economic recovery which will follow this pandemic, as it did during the recovery of the last economic crisis, when it accounted for one in every seven jobs created. Regrettably, this recovery will not be the case if many of these businesses are forced to permanently shut their doors.

We hope that you will take these legitimate and urgent concerns on board. We are all ready and willing to take action to tackle this virus, something that is in everyone's best interests.

Yours

Company	Name
Association of Irish Professional Conference Organisers (AIPCO)	Ronan Flood
Drinks Ireland	Patricia Callan
Event Industry Association of Ireland	Elaine O' Connor
Food Drink Ireland	Paul Kelly
Ibec	Danny McCoy
Ibec	Sharon Higgins
Irish Hotels Federation	Tim Fenn
Irish Hotels Federation	Elaina Fitzgerald Kane
Licensed Vintners Association	Donal O'Keeffe
Restaurants Association of Ireland	Adrian Cummins
The Irish Exhibition Organisers Association	Garret Buckley
The Irish Hospitality Institute	Tina Maree
The Irish Showmen's Guild	John Turbett
Vintners Federation of Ireland	Padraig Cribbin
Vintners Federation of Ireland	Padraic McGann
3Arena	Cormac Rennick
Abbey Hotel Roscommon	Tom Grealy
Abbey Hotel Roscommon	Anya Grealy
Abbey Lodge	John King
Adare Manor Hotel	Anita Higgins
Aherlow House	Eve Quigley
Amber Springs Hotel & Health Spa	Eibhear Coyle
Aniar, Cava Bodega and Tartare Restaurants	JP McMahon
Anita McCarthy Irish Artist	Anita McCarthy
Anner Hotel	Noel Mulhaire
Aramark	Frank Gleeson
Arklow Bay Hotel	Dick Walsh
Ashling Hotel	Jamie Skehan
Ashling Hotel	Ronan Walsh
Aspect Hotel Park West	Andrea Wallace
Athlone Institute of Technology	Professor Ciarán Ó Catháin
Ballina Manor Hotel	Kevin Fingleton
Ballymaloe House	Peter Loughnane
Ballyseede Castle	Marnie Corscadden & Rory O'Sullivan
Bannigans Bar	Conor Hayes
Belvedere Hotel	Cathal O'Donoghue
Berties Bar	Paul Dempsey
Bill Chawkes Adare	Alan Fitzpatrick
Black Donkey Brewing	Richard Siberry
Blackbird Bar	Michael Tattan
Blood Monkey Irish Gin	Jason Kidd
Bloomfield House Hotel, Leisure Club & Spa	Ronan Byrne

Boortmalt	Charles Tozer
Bord Gáis Energy Theatre	Stephen Faloon
Bridge House Hotel, Spa & Leisure	Barry Kilroy
BRITVIC Ireland	Kevin Donnelly
Broadline Group	Suzanne Guerin
Brona Chocolates	Dan O'Connor
Brooks Hotel	Anne McKiernan
Brooks Hotel	Charles Sinnott
Brown Joes Athea	Eamon McElligott
Buck Mulligans	Gavin Meade
Buckleys Bar	Pat Casey
Bulgaden Castle	Conal Kelly
Buswells Hotel	Paul Gallagher
Byrne Group: Albany House, Eyre Square Hotel, Salthill Hotel, Victoria Hotel	Jakub Srebrzynski
Byrnes Bar	Walter Byrne
Byrnes Ennistymon	Richard Byrne
Cahernane House Hotel	Emer Corridan
Carlow Brewing	Seamus O'Hara
Carlton Hotel Dublin Airport	Declan Meagher
Carrig Country House	Frank Slattery
Carroll Food Services Ltd	Kenneth Carroll
Carroll's Cove	Catherine O'Carroll
Carton Bros	Ado Carton
Caseys	Thomas Casey
Cashel House Hotel	Brian McEville
Cashel Palace Hotel and Mikey Ryan's Bar and Kitchen	Adriaan Bartels
Castle Hotel & Leisure Centre	Don Buckley
Castle Tavern	Kieran Linnane
Caterhire and Hireall Ltd	Gavin Divilly
Charlie St Georges Pub	Murrough O'Byrne
Charlie's Bar	Majella Bradley & Colum Bradley
Christys Listowel	Christy Walsh
Clancy's Athy	Ger Clancy
Clarke's Bar Drogheda, Odd Mollies Cafe Bar and Venue, Gleasons Bar Drogheda, Donaghys Bar Drogheda and 79 West Street Venue	Brian Browning
Clayton Hotel Charlemont	Lynn McLaughlin
Clayton Hotel Galway	Rory Fitzpatrick
Clayton Hotel Leopardstown	Alan Deller
Clayton Hotel Silver Springs	Tracy Newman
Clayton Hotel Sligo	Valerie O'Neill
Clayton Whites Hotel	Joe O'Brien
Clearys NCW	Seamus Cleary
Clonakilty Distillery	Michael Scully
Clondrohid Tavern	Theresa Murphy

Clonsilla Inn and Restaurant, Quinlans The Blacklion Bar and Restaurant, The Bell Bar and Restaurant, The Arches Bar and Restaurant and The Bishopstown Bar and Restaurant	Kieran Horgan
Club House Hotel	Ian Brennan
Coachman's Inn	Richard Fitzgerald
Coca-Cola HBC	Miles Karemacher
Cogs & Marvel	Roisin Callaghan
Commodore Hotel	John Gately
Cork's Vienna Woods Hotel	Michael Magner
Corner Bar	Ciaran Boyce
Corner House Dromcollaghar	Nora Morrissey
Corporate Audio Visual Services	Mark Corless
Corporate.ie	Padraic O'Kane
CPM Ireland	Lorraine Butler
Creative Event Lighting	Alan Bryan
CSL Events	Joanne Keegan
CT Ireland	John Roche
D'Anglers Bar	Kevin Howey
daa	Dalton Philips
Dalata Hotel Group	Des McCann
Dalata Hotel Group	Sean McKeon
Davis Events Agency	Paul Davis
Dawn Farms, Ireland	Larry Murrin
Dead Centre Brewing	Liam Tutty
Delphi Resport	Nouman Zeb
Diageo	Oliver Loomes
Diamond Coast Hotel	Michael Yates
Dingle Benners Hotel	John Foley
Donnybrook Hall	Terry Masterson
Down The Hatch Bar	Larry Brennan
Downings Bay Hotel	Eileen Connor
Dromhall Hotel	Bernadette Randles
Dromoland Castle	Joe Hughes
Dromoland Castle and The Inn at Dromoland	Mark Nolan
Drury Court Hotel	Emma House
Dublin Skylon Hotel	Shane McGavock
Dunbar's	Tom Dunbar
Edward Dillon	Andy O'Hara
Egans House	Pat Finn
Emmet Hotel Clonakilty	Rob O'Keeffe
EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum	Patrick J. Greene
Ernie's Bar and Fitzpatrick's Bar	Niall Esmonde
Event Industry Alliance	Dan MacDonnell
Eventus Limited	John Fahy
Excel Recruitment	Shane McLave

Exchange Ballybunion	Joe & Cody Hellard
Exclusive Ireland	Joseph Hughes
Exhibit Design	Brendan, O'Sullivan
Eyre Square Hotel	John Beattie
Falls Hotel	Sarah
Fintan Wall Design	Fintan Wall
Fitzgeralds Woodlands House Hotel	David Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick Castle Hotel	Mark Scott-Lennon
Fitzwilliam Townhouse	Padraig O Feinneadha
Flannery's Hotel Galway	Siobhan Farragher
Foleys Bar and Off License	Martin & Therese Foley
FREE NOW	Niall Carson
Fusion Events	Brian O'Reilly
Gaiety Theatre	Laura McGuigan
Garryvoe Hotel	Aidan Cotter
Gaynor's Bar	Annette & John Gaynor
Gerard Browne LTD	William Browne
Gleann Fia Country House	Conor & Bridget O'Connell
Gleesons Bar Ennis	Michael Gleeson
Glendalough Distillery	Brian Fagan
Gleneagle Group	Carol O'Leary
Gleneagle Group: Gleneagle Hotel, The Brehon, INEC Arena, Killarney Convention Centre, The Maritime Hotel, Sheen Falls Country Club and Scotts Hotel	Patrick O'Donoghue
Golden Ireland	Geraldine McGlynn
Gorilla Design	Rob Jones and Ashe Conrad-Jones
Goughs Charleville	Corina Gough
Grand Hotel	Matthew Ryan
Great National Abbey Court Hotel & Spa	Mary Staunton
Great National Hotels	David Byrne
Great National South Court Hotel	Dermot Kelly
Griffin Hotel Group: Monart, Ferrycarrig Hotel & Hotel Kilkenny	Sandra Greiner
Guest Line	Clio O'Gara
Hackett's Bar and Services	Sue Hackett
Hanged Man's Pub & Restaurant	Patrick Keane
Harcourt Hotel, Dtwo, Black Door, -1900-, Harrington Hall and Iveagh Garden Hotel	Steven Haines
Havas	Chris Upton
Heffernan's Public House	Anthony Heffernan
Heineken Ireland	Maarten Schuurman
Herbert Park Hotel	Edward Stephenson
Heritage Island	John Rice
Hibernian Hotel & Leisure Centre	Kiernan O'Driscoll
High Res	Mark Galione
Highfield Guesthouse	Geraldine Duignan

Hilton	Stephen Cassidy
Hilton Dublin Kilmainham	Carmen Ciuhat
Honey & Buzz	Paddy Davis
Hotel Kilkenny	Jamie Huesca
Hotel Minella	Elizabeth & John Nallen
Hotel Westport & Westport House	Declan Heneghan
Hotel Woodstock	Sean Lally
Inchydoney Island Lodge & Spa	Des O'Dowd
Inis Meáin Restaurant & Suites	Marie-Therese & Ruairi de Blacam
Innishannon House Hotel	Shane Roche
InterContinental Hotel Dublin	Nicky Logue
iNua Collection: Muckross Park Hotel, Kilkenny Hi-bernian Hotel, Hillgrove Hotel, Tullamore Court Ho-tel, Fairways Hotel, Radisson Blu Hotel Athlone, Radisson Blu Hotel Cork and Radisson Blu Hotel Sligo	Eugene Harrington
Irish Distillers	Conor McQuaid
Irish Family History Centre	Fiona O' Mahony
Irish Poster Advertising	Garrett Delaney
Itsa...	Domini & Peaches Kemp
JD Norths Bar & Venue	John Quigley
JDs Ballybunion	Brian Fouhy
Jim Pete's Pub	James Keaveney
Joshua Tree	Bill Creagh
JR O Connors Charleville	Clem Smith
Jurys Inn	Diana Pyzio
Jurys Inn Dublin (Christchurch & Parnell Street)	Alan Buckley
Jurys Inns	Joe Maguire
Keadeen Hotel	Joe O'Loughlin
Kilgallens Bar	Peter Kilgallen
Kilkea Castle	Adrian Mooney
Kilkenny Ormonde Hotel	Colin Ahern
Killarney Brewing & Distilling Company	Barry Spellman
Killarney Heights Hotel	Collette Andre
Killarney International Hotel	Tracy Coyne
Killeen House Hotel & Rozzers Restaurant	Geraldine Rosney
Kilmichael Bar	Jerh & Evelyn McCarthy
Kinsale Hotel and Spa	Ronan Fahy
Lambay Irish Whiskey	Jean-David Costerg
Langan Taverns	Sean Langan
Lavelle's Eagle Bar	James Lavelle
Lawlors Hotel	Michael Burke
Leitrim Marina Hotel	Robert Rigney
Live Nation	Sian Redmond
Longford Arms	Orlagh Reynolds
Lough Ree Distillery	Sheila Mullen
Lough Ree Distillery	Peter Clancy

Lough Ree Distillery	Michael Clancy
Maldron Hotel Portlaoise	Adrian Foy
Maldron Hotel Shandon	Joe Kennedy
Maldron Hotel Tallaght	Linda Folan
Maldron Hotel Tallaght	Alan Groarke
Marine Hotel	Al Ryan
Maryborough Hotel & Spa	Justin McCarthy
Master Chefs	Pat O'Sullivan
Mc Kelveys Bar	Jim McGowan
MCI Ireland	Rob Allidine
Meadowlands Hotel	Siobhan Ni Mhathuna
Mellett's Emporium	Marie Mellett
Menlo Park Hotel	Elaine Healy
Menlo Park Hotel	John Francis
Mespil Hotel	Janet Moore
Metropole Hotel & Cork Airport Hotel	Aaron Mansworth
Michael JF Wright Hospitality	Michael Wright
Midlands Park Hotel	Dara Cruise
Mike the Pies Listowel	Aiden O Connor
Molloys	Martin Molloy
Molson Coors Beverage Company	Ryan McFarland
Mooney's Bar & Grocery	Paul Hyland
Moran Hospitality	Tommy Moran
Mulligan & Haines, W Plunkets, The Lock Keeper and The Sackville Lounge	Alan Murtagh
Neon Agency	Dan MacDonnell
Net Affinity Limited	William Cotter
Neville Park Hotels	Colm Neville
Nevilles Adare	Fiona Loftus
No. 1 Pery Square Hotel & Spa	Patricia Roberts
NolaClan	Alan Clancy
Norris's Bar	Martin Colbert
O'Callaghan Collection: The Alex, The Davenport, The Green and The Mont	Eoin Likely
Old Ground Hotel	Imelda Lineen
Old McDonalds Farm	Dan MacDonnell
Oranmore Lodge	Brian J O'Higgins
O'Reilly Hotel Group	Pat Chawke
Oriel House	Janice McConnell
Osteria Lucio Restaurant	Robert Scanlon
P'Mac's Town ,P'Mac's Dundrum, Blackbird Rathmines , Boland's Stillorgan	Paul MacNulty
Paris Texas	Pat Crotty
Park Hotel Kenmare	TJ Mulcahy
Park Hotel Kenmare	Francis Brennan
Pery's Hotel	Marie Tynan

PLANIT	Antoinette Redmond and Spencer Simmonds
Pluto	Elaine O'Reilly
PMacs Group	Colin Dolan
Porterhouse Group	Peter Mosley
Prem Group	Colin Nolan
Publicis Dublin	Jimmy Murphy
Quintessential Brands	Fergus Murphy
Radisson Blu Hotel Limerick	Brian Harrington
Radisson Blu Royal Hotel	Lorraine Allis
Ramble Inn Croagh	Paidi & Sean Kelly
Rathkeale House Hotel	Ann Madigan
Rathmullan House	Mark & Mary Wheeler
Rathsallagh	Joe O'Flynn
Richard Lynch Consulting Limited	Richard Lynch
Richmond Marketing	Barry Connolly
Riverside Hotel Sligo	Mark Ballintine
Roche's Bar Tipperary	Lorcan Roche
Rochestown Park Hotel	John Donovan
Roganstown Hotel & Country Club	Ken Battigan
Round Tower Hotel	Aidan Quirke
Sandhouse Hotel & Marine Spa	Paul Diver
Sandymount Hotel	John Loughran
Sean's Bar	Sean Mc Donald
Searsons	Bill Chawke
Seven Oaks Hotel & Leisure Club	Michael Walsh
Sharkey's Bar	Michael Sharkey
Silken Thomas	Brian Flanagan
Slieve Russell Hotel, Golf & Country Club	Stephen Masterson
Slieve Russell Hotel, Golf & Country Club	Tony Walker
Sligo Park Hotel	Gerard Moore
Sodexo	Julie Ennis
Spitalfields	Stephen McAllister
St Mel's Brewing Company	Liam Hanlon & Eoin Tynan
Starcom	Geoff McGrath
Station House Hotel	Brian Gallagher
Stonewell Cider	Daniel Emerson
Suntory Beverage and Food Ireland	Mark Aherne
Talbot Hotel Collection	Philip Gavin
Talbot Hotel Stillorgan	Daragh M. O'Neill
Tarrant's Bar	George & Gemma Tarrant
Taylor's Bar & Beer Garden	Jonathan Duggan
Teeling Whiskey Company	Jack Teeling
The Address Connolly & The Address Citywest	Sean Reid
The Ardilaun Hotel	John Ryan
The Bank	David Chawke
The Bankers Bar	Alan Campbell

The Brehon	Sinead McCarthy
The Castle Arm	Michael Twohig
The Castle Inn	Michael O'Donovan
The Chawke Group	Charlie Chawke
The chq Building	Mervyn Greene
The Claypipe Bar	Padraig Walsh
The Collective Group	Sean Reid
The Conference & Events Venue at The Mansion House	Jan Leonard
The Croke Park	Sean Reid
The Cross Bar	Brian Enright
The Dingle Pub	Tom Geaney
The Doyle Collection	David Synnott
The Dropping Well	Lisa Chawke
The Fitzwilliam Hotel Dublin	Fergal O'Connell
The Frylite Group	Eamon McCay
the g Hotel & Spa	Andrew Drysdale
The Galmont Hotel & Spa	Stefan Lundstrom
The Gleneagle Hotel Group	Cariosa Flemming
The Goat	Jenny Chawke
The Hamlet Court Hotel	John O'Neill
The Hogan Stand	Teilo and David Maher
The Inn at Dromoland	Nico Hernandez
The Kingsley	Fergal Harte
The Lakeside Hotel & Leisure Centre	Eoin Little
The Landmark Hotel	Ciaran Kelly
The Lansdowne Hotel, Toners Pub, The Waterloo Pub and The Fifty One Pub	Michael J. Quinn
The Malting Company of Ireland	Dick Walsh
The Mangan Group	Paul Mangan
The Mangan Group	Niall Courtney
The Marker Hotel	Andre Claro
The Marker Hotel	Sheila O'Sullivan
The Marker Hotel	Charlie Sheil
The Merrion	Peter MacCann
The Mona Bar	Eamon Hanlon
The Montenotte Hotel	Brian Bowler
The Old Mill Pub	Tony Horgan
The Old Oak	Ger Kiely
The Old Spot	Stephen Cooney
The Olde Castle Bar and Restaurant	Seoirse O'Toole
The Olympia Theatre	John Johnston
The Orchard	Ali Chawke
The Palace Bar	Willie Aherne
The Parkavon Hotel	Breeda Kelleher
The Parkway Hotel & Maybury Coaches	Martin Maybury

The Pigs Ear	Andrea Hussey
The Rising Tide Bar	Deirdre Murphy
The Roadside Tavern	Peter Curtin
The Rose Hotel	Maeve Collins
The Rose Hotel	Mark Sullivan
The Russell Court Hotel	Rangan Arulchelvan
The Seafood Café, Klaw, Salty Buoy Food Truck	Niall Sabongi
The Shed Distillery	Pat Rigney
The Shelbourne	Tjeerd de Vries
The Shelbourne Bar	Philip Gillivan
The Smith Group	Peter Smith and Matt Smith
The Square Inn	Martin Morrissey
The Strand Hotel Ballyliffin	John Keyes
The Tackroom Pub	Mark Cassidy
The Tanyard Bar	Michael O'Driscoll
The Tap Room	Tony Walsh
The Thomond Bar	Rea Kennedy
The Twelve Hotel	Fergus O'Halloran
The Villager Pub	Mark Heather
The Wagon Tavern	Tom Aherne
The Well	Gabrielle & Dominick Cadden
The Well	Dan MacDonnell
The Westbury	Katie Farrell
The Westin Hotel	Eamonn Casey
Tifco Hotel Group	Enda O'Meara
Tifco Hotels (Clontarf Castle Hotel, Crowne Plaza Dublin Airport, Crowne Plaza Dublin - Blanchardstown, Crowne Plaza Dundalk, Holiday Inn Express Dublin Airport, Hilton Dublin Kilmainham, Hotel Kilmarney, 3 Lakes Hostel, Travelodge Ireland, Innisfallen Hotel, Kinsale Hotel & Spa)	Mary Buckley
TJ Carolan	Bryan Fallon
Tommy Micks Mountcollins	Wilma Lenihan
Trident Hotel	Hal McElroy
Trump International Hotel Doonbeg	Margaret Nagle
Urban Brewing	Leo E. Vasileiou
Vaughan Lodge Hotel	Michael & Maria Vaughan
Verve and Event Industry Ireland	Ronan Traynor
Villa Rose Hotel and Jackson's Hotel	Thomas Gallen
Walsh Whiskey	Bernard Walsh
Westlodge Hotel	Annette O'Donovan
Westport Woods Hotel	Michael Lennon
Whelans NCW	Gearoid Whelan
White Events	Linda White
Wild Atlantic Group	Diarmuid McAuliffe
Woodenbridge Hotel & Lodge	Gerard O'Brien