

Enterprise Newsletter

March 2021

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Exporters, less than 1 month to new Brexit UK Import Controls on 1st April

On 1 April, the UK will introduce new import controls on certain categories of EU goods, **including plant and animal products**. This will mean that, in addition to the necessary customs formalities, Irish exporters exporting to the UK need to have their UK importer pre-notify the UK authorities of these goods, get the appropriate Export Health Certificate(s) from the Irish authorities and move the goods together with the Export Health Certificates(s).

It's crucial that exporters fully understand these new UK import requirements and ensure everyone in the supply chain, including the UK importer(s), is clear on their roles and responsibilities and can meet them.

For more information, please visit [Preparing for new UK Import Controls](#)

Public Consultation: National Minimum Wage 2022

Every year the [Low Pay Commission](#) makes recommendations to Government on the rate of the National Minimum Wage.

All you have to do is share your opinion about what the National Minimum Wage should be, no matter how **short** or **detailed**.

Please submit your opinions before 7 March

- **Email:** secretarylpc@enterprise.gov.ie
- **Post:** The Secretary, Low Pay Commission, Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, 23 Kildare Street, Dublin 2

See more, [Public Consultation: National Minimum Wage 2022](#)

Local Enterprise Week 01-05 March

Making It Happen

Find out what supports, and programmes are the best fit for your business.

Book your place at an event today at LocalEnterprise.ie/Week

Government opens first call for €100m Brexit Scheme for Agri-food Sector

[First call closes on Thursday, 15 April 2021](#)

The Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment Leo Varadkar T.D. and the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine Charlie Mc Conalogue T.D. opened the first call for applications under the Government's €100m Scheme for the Agri-food sector.

Up to €70m is available under the first call, which is being administered by [Enterprise Ireland](#). It is open to large, medium or small enterprises, engaged in the processing and marketing of primary meat and dairy products to apply.

See more, [Agri-Food Sector Fund](#)

The Work Safely Protocol

Employers

All employers should review compliance with the Work Safely Protocol on a regular basis to ensure all measures to prevent COVID 19 transmission remain in place. Basic public health measures are outlined in the Protocol, ensuring social distancing of staff, wearing of masks when this is not possible, preventing gatherings at lunch and breaktimes, bathrooms stocked and hand sanitizer available to promote good hygiene are all key measures. These are some of the measures that will help you keep your workplace and your employees safe.

Further measures are outlined in the [Work Safely Protocol](#).

Employees

If you can work from home, you need to continue to do so. The Work Safely Protocol emphasises that employees should not attend work if they have any COVID-19 symptoms. Employees need to avoid any gathering forming at lunchtime, at breaks and in smoking areas. Everyone needs to continue to follow the basic Public Health advice around social distancing, wearing a mask if this is not possible, covering *coughs* and sneezes and keeping hands clean to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Further advice on the measures you should encounter to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 in your workplace are outlined in the [Work Safely Protocol](#).

Technology Insights - Essential technical tools to enable a successful bioeconomy - Webinar

Enterprise Ireland will host a Technology Insights webinar on **Thursday 25th March from 11.00 – 11.45 am**. This webinar is being presented by **Dr Tim Yeomans**, Manager of the **Shannon ABC Technology Gateway** (Applied Biotechnology Centre). Enterprise Ireland Technology Gateways work in partnership with Institutes of Technology and Technological Universities across Ireland. The 15 specialised Gateways and 3 sectoral clusters deliver innovation expertise and solutions for Irish industry.

The bioeconomy describes the sustainable production and use of renewable biological resources from land and sea, like crops, forests, fish, animals and micro-organisms; to produce food, materials and energy. To do this successfully, technical and scientific tools are essential in terms of defining what is in the resource, what its function is and the commercial process to achieve this.

This webinar will outline a range of technologies that can contribute to these goals. [Register here](#)

The Ideas Powered for Business SME Fund

The Ideas Powered for Business SME Fund is a €20 million grant scheme created to help European small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) develop their IP strategies and protect their IP rights, at national or EU level.

The scheme is operated by the EUIPO in conjunction with the national IP Offices including [the Intellectual Property Office of Ireland](#).

Commencing on 1 March 2021, Irish SME's can receive [50% off the basic application fees](#) of national and EU trade marks and designs.