



# Minutes: 36th Meeting of the Retail Forum

## 18 September 2024, 11.00-13.00

*(hybrid meeting held in Room 110, Kildare St and online)*  
*Meeting held under Chatham House Rules*

**Chair:** Emer Higgins T.D., Minister of State for Business, Employment and Retail  
Attendance at Appendix 1.

### **Item 1: Welcome and Opening Comments**

The Chair welcomed attendees and presenters. The Chair updated the Forum on a number of items including the Increased Cost of Business Scheme, Dublin City Transport Plan and the National Enterprise Hub. The Chair added that she wants to ensure that the Retail Forum meetings are beneficial and asked members to engage with the secretariat on agenda items.

### **Item 2: National Payments Strategy**

Representatives from the Department of Finance presented on the National Payments Strategy.

Comments focused on plastic card fees and transaction Fees.

### **Item 3: EU Legal Tender Regulation**

Representatives from the Department of Finance presented on the EU Legal Tender Regulation.

Comments raised by members included access to Banks and bank charges.

### **Item 4: SME Test**

Presentation from the Entrepreneurship and Small Business Unit, Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment on the SME Test.

Comments focused on the level of consultation with SME bodies/sectoral groups and the need for training.

### **Item 5: General Product Safety Regulations**

Presentation from the Competition and Consumer Policy Unit, Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment on the General Product Safety Regulations.

Comments raised by members included the cost to retailers arising from CCPC market surveillance and inspections.

## **Item 6: AOB**

### **a. Meanwhile use of vacant commercial properties**

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) are currently examining meanwhile use legislation for vacant buildings and asked Retail Forum members for their observations on this to be sent directly to DHLGH by Friday 27 September.

Comments raised included requests for data on the number of vacant properties from each local authority.

### **b. Retail Crime**

An Garda Síochána (AGS) updated the Forum on developments since the last Retail Forum meeting.

Comments focused on response times and AGS resources.

### **c. Tobacco Control Issues**

The Chair advised that this matter will be discussed at the next Retail Forum meeting.

### **d. Retail Sector Conference**

The Department advised the Forum that the feasibility of a retail sector conference for 2025 is being considered. Members were asked to revert with their views on the conference.

## **Actions under Items 2-6**

- Copy of presentations to be forwarded to the Retail Forum members.
- Department of Finance to forward a link to the Finance (Provision of Access to Cash Infrastructure) Bill 2024. Link to be forwarded to Retail Forum members.
- Department of Finance to provide update on price increases for payment processing.
- SME Test to remain as an agenda item.
- CCPC liaison unit to engage with retailers regarding matters raised.
- AGS to attend and provide an update at the next Retail Forum meeting.
- Tobacco Control issues to be discussed at the next Retail Forum meeting.
- DHLGH agreed to revert with commercial vacancy data per local authority to the Retail Forum.
- The proposed retail sector conference to be discussed at the next Retail Forum meeting.

## Appendix 1 – Attendees – Retail Forum members

Company	Name
An Garda Síochána	Damien Boland
Basecamp Outdoor Store	Jack Layden
Bookselling Ireland	Cian Byrne
Brown Thomas Arnotts	Mark Limby
Chambers Ireland	Shane Hughes
CSNA	Vincent Jennings
Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (D/ETE)	Pauline Mulligan
D/ETE	Brian Walsh
D/ETE (Secretary to the Retail Forum)	Marian Cassidy
Department of Finance	Michael Flanagan
Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage	Áine Friel
Department of Justice	Annemarie McNulty
Department of the Taoiseach	Fiona Curran
Dublin Town (BID)	Richard Guiney
Hardware Association Ireland	Martin Markey
Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU)	Gerry Light
Irish Petrol Retailers Association (IPRA)	Orla Allen
Irish Pharmacy Union	Jim Curran
ISME	Neil McDonnell
Musgrove Group	Edel Clancy
Network of Local Enterprise Offices	Padraic McElwee
Primark	Aidan O'Connor
Retail Excellence	Jean McCabe
Retail Ireland	Arnold Dillon
Retail Ireland	Elizabeth Young
Retail Ireland Skillnet	Oran Doherty
Sligo BID	Finbarr Filan
Small Firms Association	Jonathan McDade
Technological University Dublin	Damian O'Reilly
Tesco	Rosemary Garth
Waterford City and Co. Council (Local Government Management Agency Rep)	Michael Quinn

## Presenters and additional attendees

Company	Name
Department of Finance	Robert Devereux
Department of Finance	Diarmuid Angland
Department of Finance	Sarah Ní Ruairc
D/ETE	Patrick Sinnott
D/ETE	Emma Geraghty
D/ETE	David Seery
D/ETE	Lisa O'Riordan

## Apologies

Company	Name
Enterprise Ireland	Teri Smith
Enterprise Ireland	Anne Lanigan