

As representatives of Ireland's publicans, the Vintners Federation of Ireland advocates for policies that support pubs and the communities they serve. The following issues are key to the survival and growth of our pub sector:

1. Labour Costs:

The increasing cost of labour, driven by Government's unsustainable rate of increase in the minimum wage, is a huge concern. While we strive to provide fair wages and good working conditions, the move to a living wage must be slowed and accompanied by supports to allow businesses time to integrate these changes. The trade cannot move to a Living Wage without supports.

2. Increase in Cost of Doing Business:

We are experiencing unprecedented increases in operational costs, including utilities, insurance, and supplies which is making it harder for businesses to survive.. Government need to:

Reduce Excise Duty & VAT

Ireland has one of the highest levels of excise duty on alcohol within the EU, which significantly inflates the cost of doing business for pubs and impacts our price competitiveness. We are calling for a 15% reduction in excise over the next two years to alleviate financial pressures and support the sustainability of local pubs. Publicans also pay the highest possible VAT rate at 23%, an emergency rate introduced during the financial crisis. This needs to be reduced to 21%.

Hospitality VAT Rate 9%

Pubs serving food benefitted from a reduced VAT rate of 9% for most of the last decade, which has been crucial in helping businesses recover and sustain themselves post-pandemic. A permanent reduction in the VAT rate for hospitality services would provide much-needed stability and help maintain viability.

3. Transport

There is a huge shortage of taxis across Ireland. We need more public service vehicles and a licensing system that allows drivers work part-time when demand is highest.

4. Insurance

While reforms have been introduced, premiums remain high and publicans struggle to secure cover or competitive rates. Insurance companies must be forced to reduce premiums.

We believe that addressing these issues effectively will not only benefit the hospitality sector but will also enhance the economic and cultural vitality of the country.

Contact Information: VFI House, Rathfarnham, D14 N8N8, Email: enquiries@vfipubs.ie