

# **Minister English announces €5.3m in grants to retail sector through COVID-19 Online Retail Scheme administered by Enterprise Ireland**

From [Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation](#)

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**145 retailers will receive funding via the scheme which aims to drive Irish retailers' online sales at home and abroad**

**70% of successful applicants located outside Dublin**

Minister of State for Business, Employment and Retail at the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Damien English TD, has today announced the successful applicants approved for funding through the second call of the COVID-19 Online Retail Scheme, which is administered by Enterprise Ireland. 145 retailers have been approved €5.3 million in funding as part of the scheme, which is targeted at retailers who already have an online presence to strengthen their online offering and enable them to reach a wider customer base.

The scheme, which was announced in the government's July Jobs Stimulus package, received 204 applications. 70% of the successful applicants are located outside Dublin with 102 retailers from these regions approved for funding.

Under this COVID-19 competitive call, the successful applicants will receive funding ranging from €16,000 to €40,000 to strengthen their online offering. The average grant value is €36,700 and covers up to 80% of project costs.

Minister Damien English TD said:

"I was very pleased by the positive response from the Irish retail sector to the second call for applications under the COVID-19 Online Retail Scheme as Government continues to help Irish businesses deal with the impact of the pandemic. The economic value of operating in the e-commerce space and its convenience for customers has come to the fore in 2020 and this scheme aims to help companies improve and maximise digital sales prospects.

"We know that consumers are keen to support their local retailers, even when shopping online, and these grants will help businesses to really maximise the opportunities in the e-commerce market. Of course, this market is not limited by geography and physical location and we know that Irish businesses with strong online resources also have their eyes on the international marketplace.

"The government continues to focus on helping businesses to get back on track in the coming months and as more of our workplaces and businesses can reopen in the coming weeks, in line with public health guidelines, we will do everything we can to support retailers in creating safe shopping spaces, in store and online, for customers and staff."

Stephen Creaner, Executive Director, Enterprise Ireland added:

"The COVID-19 Online Retail Scheme has proven to be a very attractive scheme for retailers and it's clear that Irish businesses are keenly aware of the growing e-commerce opportunities both at home and abroad for online retail. They also understand the necessity of operating an updated and efficient online sales platform that complements their physical stores.

"Grants through this scheme are being used by retailers to upgrade their systems to improve their digital presence and to become more competitive in the virtual marketplace. This is helping to broaden their customer base and grow sales with some companies reporting that they are recruiting extra staff as result.

"Ultimately, retailers who are investing in their online presence now are also strengthening their offering to help deal with the uncertainty and challenges that lie ahead."

Conor Moran, Online Marketing Manager, The 1933 Furniture Company commented:

"We are delighted to be approved for the COVID-19 Online Retail Scheme. Our customers are spending an increased amount of time online, so the digital landscape is becoming an ever more important channel for us. We believe that the grant support will offer us the opportunity to create a new online platform that complements and integrates with our existing business model.

"The Online Retail Scheme was open to Irish-owned retailers with a physical store and a pre-existing online presence who employ 10 or more people. In addition, the scheme focuses on retailers predominantly selling products to individual consumers as opposed to those selling mainly to business customers. Grants can be used to fund fees for service providers, develop and implement a digital strategy supported by in-house training and enhance the retailer's website.

"The scheme is complementary to the €2,500 Trading Online Vouchers, provided through the Local Enterprise Offices for companies with up to 10 employees.

"Enterprise Ireland will be opening a new call under the COVID-19 Online Retail Scheme in early 2021.

"The 145 retailers awarded funding, operate across a broad spectrum of sectors including healthcare, jewellery, fashion, sports, homeware and furniture, electrical goods and equipment."

**ENDS**

**Notes**

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## **About Enterprise Ireland**

Enterprise Ireland is the Irish State agency that works with Irish enterprises to help them start, grow, innovate and win export sales in global markets. Enterprise Ireland partners with entrepreneurs, Irish businesses, and the research and investment communities to develop Ireland's international trade, innovation, leadership and competitiveness. In this way, we support sustainable economic growth and regional development, and help create and sustain employment in Ireland. [www.enterprise-ireland.com](http://www.enterprise-ireland.com)

## **About the COVID-19 Online Retail Scheme**

Supporting the Irish retail sector to embed a more sophisticated online trading (e-tailing) strategy in its business model can contribute to the continued viability of a cohort of retail companies affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and help position them for recovery. Applicant companies must be an Irish-owned retail enterprise that had 10 or more employees on or before 29 February 2020 and has the potential to sustain or create jobs, generate growth in online transactions and with an ambition to internationalise their business in future.

The business must also:

- have an existing online presence (for example: website or social media)
- have a retail outlet and derive the majority of revenue from retailing products directly to individual consumers

Where a company provides both products and services, the applicant must provide a breakdown of sales revenue showing that products account for more than 50% of total revenue for a recent trading period, which may be up to the call close date.

Where a company has a mixture of business-to-consumer (B2C) and business-to-business (B2B) operations, the applicant must provide a breakdown of sales revenue showing that sales from B2C activities account for more than 50% of total revenue for a recent trading period, which may be up to the call close date.

A company must employ at least 10 employees in the Republic of Ireland (on a full-time equivalent basis on or before 29 February 2020).

The Scheme originated in the work of the Retail Consultation Forum which is chaired by the Minister of State for Business, Employment and Retail, Damien English TD.

Building on two previous successful calls of the pilot Online Retail Scheme, introduced by the department arising from the work of the Retail Consultation Forum, applications for the two 2020 schemes were open to indigenous retailers to develop a more competitive online offer in response to the COVID-19 crisis and to strengthen business resilience.

## **List of 145 approved companies under COVID-19 Online Retail Scheme**

<b>Company</b>	<b>County</b>
Abbey Convenience Retail Ltd	Dublin
Acepharm Ltd	Dublin
Annacotty Consulting Ltd t/a Green Cross Pharmacy	Limerick
Anthony Ryan Ltd	Galway
Bellasy Ltd t/a University Pharmacy	Galway
Blackberry Hearing Ltd	Kildare
Bluebell Pharmacy Ltd	Dublin
Brett Supplies Ltd	Meath
Briarcroft Ltd t/a Lambert's Homevalue	Carlow
Bushell Interiors Ltd	Dublin
Butlers (Chemists) Ltd	Cork
Callistoy Ltd	Dublin
Carey's Pharmacy Ltd	Dublin
Carroll Newsagents Ltd	Louth
Castle Davitt Furniture Ltd	Mayo
Castleblayney Plant Hire Ltd	Monaghan
Cavanagh Nets Ltd	Donegal
Cell Again Ireland Ltd	Dublin
Chapter and Verse Books Ltd	Meath
Conways Sligo Bookshop Ltd	Sligo
Corcorans' Furniture & Carpets Ltd	Kerry
Cordar Pharmacy Ltd t/a Molloy's Lifestyle Pharmacy	Mayo
Cordners Shoes Ltd	Sligo
Cullinan & Sons Ltd	Clare
Custcare Ltd t/a The Bookmark	Donegal
DAGG Procurement Ltd t/a Johnstons Pharmacy	Longford
Daverns (Cashel) Ltd	Tipperary
Declan Dowling Ltd	Waterford
Deks Opticians Ltd	Dublin
Dingle Fashion and Gifts Ltd	Kerry
Doonshean imaginings Ltd	Kerry
Eason Ltd	Dublin
Edward Slevin and Company Ltd	Donegal
Electro City Ltd	Kilkenny
Ennis Electrical and Gas Supplies LTD	Clare
Eurasia Ireland Distribution Ltd	Dublin
Explore Marketing Ltd t/a Trespass	Wicklow
Facet Ltd	Dublin
Fennariv Designated Activity Company	Waterford
Flanagans Interiors Ltd	Wicklow

Fonez Ltd	Galway
Formwave Ltd t/a Hifihut	Dublin
Foy and Company (Ballyfofey) Ltd	Donegal
Franks Interiors Ltd	Louth
Freezer Queen Ltd t/a Redmond Electric	Wexford
Fun Tech Ltd	Dublin
Future Forests Ltd	Cork
Gardiner Grain Ltd	Wexford
Ger Gavin Home Interiors Ltd	Tipperary
Gerard Anthony Ltd	Roscommon
Gleeson Sport Scene Ltd	Limerick
Glendalough Craft Centre Ltd	Wicklow
Greenes Letterkenny Ltd	Donegal
Hals Golf Ltd	Dublin
Hanley's Garden Sheds Ltd	Cork
Healthplus Ltd	Galway
Healthwave Ltd	Dublin
Hickey & Company Ltd	Dublin
Hillcastle Sales Ltd t/a The Gift and Art Gallery	Louth
Industry Lifestyle Ltd	Dublin
Jabez Holdings Ltd t/a Stacks Pharmacy	Dublin
James E. Hegarty and Co. Ltd	Donegal
John Atkins & Co. Ltd	Cork
John P. Hopkins & Sons Ltd t/a Hopkins Toymaster	Wicklow
Joyces Wexford Ltd	Wexford
JPD Pharmacy Ltd	Monaghan
Keanes Jewellers UnLtd Company	Cork
Ken Black Ltd	Laois
Kennys Bookshop & Art Galleries (Holdings) Ltd	Galway
Kerrigans Factory Shop Ltd	Dublin
KETA Products Ltd	Cork
Kintbury Ltd t/a 53 Degrees North	Dublin
Landers Outdoor World Ltd	Kerry
Lemap Ltd	Dublin
Limegreen Ltd t/a Jim McLoughney Menswear	Tipperary
Little Italy Ltd	Dublin
Livy Issue Ltd t/a McGuirks Golf	Dublin
Louis Copeland & Sons Ltd	Dublin
Lovely stuff Ltd t/a Kinvara Skincare	Galway
Luxury Treats Ltd	Meath, Carlow
Mac Eochagain Ltd	Mayo

Magees Pharmacy (Letterkenny) Ltd	Donegal
Mahers Chemists Ltd	Louth
Maurice Graham Ltd	Monaghan
McDaid Pharmacy Ltd	Cavan
Meadows & Byrne Ltd	Cork
Melfer Ltd t/a McCormacks Pharmacy	Tipperary
MGM Interiors Ltd	Dublin
MICHAEL BEATTY & CO LTD	Galway
Mods & Minis Holdings Ltd	Kerry
Montekin Ltd t/a Town Centre Pharmacy	Louth
Moran's Homezone Ltd t/a The 1933 Furniture Company	Meath
Morrisseys Medical Hall Ltd	Carlow
Murphy and O'Connor Unltd Company	Cork
Murphy Larkin Timber Products Ltd	Waterford
Murphy's Ice Cream Ltd	Kerry
N17 Discount Electrical Ltd	Galway
O'Connor Pharmacy (Cork) Ltd	Cork
O'Mahonys Booksellers Ltd	Limerick
OSG Property Developments Ltd	Kerry
O'Sullivan's Pharmacies and Beauticians (Sarsfield Street) Ltd	Limerick, Wicklow
Patrick Rogers Ltd	Sligo
Patrick Sweeney (Chemists) Ltd t/a Roches Chemist	Dublin
Paul Lynam	Offaly
Queenpharm Ltd	Cork
Quills Retail Ltd	Kerry
Radharc Concepts Ltd	Galway
Ranove Investments Jervis ltd	Dublin
Ratoga Systems Ltd	Dublin
Records & Discs Ltd t/a Tower Records	Dublin
Rolsford Ltd t/a McSport	Dublin
Ronaghan's Pharmacy Ltd	Monaghan
Seagreen Ltd	Dublin
Seahorse Aquariums Ltd	Dublin
Serena Boutique Ltd	Dublin
Simon Hart Ltd t/a Korkys	Dublin
Siopa Rince Teoranta	Dublin
Skinfull Affairs (Dublin) Ltd	Dublin
Solar Spa Ltd	Dublin
Soma Clothing Ltd t/a Carousel	Dublin
Sortatron Ltd t/a McGorisks Pharmacy	Westmeath
South Link Road Pharmacy Ltd	Cork

Standum Teoranta	Galway
Stephen Murtagh and Sons Ltd	Meath
Sullivan's Quay Health Co Ltd	Cork
The Edge Sports Ltd	Cork
The Elms Furniture Ltd	Kildare
The Greedy Pig Ltd t/a Hen's Teeth	Dublin
The Outdoor Scene Ltd	Dublin
The Templecrone Cooperative Agricultural Society Ltd	Donegal
Thomas Archer (Ballina) Ltd	Mayo
Thomas H. Kean Ltd	Mayo
Tilestyle (Irl) Ltd	Dublin
Torpedo Construction Ltd t/a Grange Builders Providers	Dublin
Treshar Ltd	Galway
Triona Crafts Ltd	Donegal
Tynestyle Trading Ltd t/a Here's Health	Cork
United Retail Trading Ltd t/a Eurocycles Eurobaby	Dublin
Vibes & Scribes Ltd	Cork
Villa Rotunda Ltdt/a The Garden House	Dublin
Walsh Brothers, Ltd	Kerry
Wolrac Ltd	Carlow
Zest At Ltd	Clare