

# Supporting Tourism & Hospitality

## Programme for Government - Key Policy Priorities

### Seeking Your Support for Tourism & Hospitality Businesses

As Ireland's largest indigenous employer, the long-term sustainable development of tourism and hospitality is vital for the country's economic well-being, supporting over 270,000 livelihoods. Given the enormous challenges facing our industry, an urgent change in direction is required from the next Government to put the sector on a more stable footing.



### Four key policy priorities to support tourism & hospitality

#### Reduction in VAT on hospitality food services

An immediate reduction in the VAT rate for hospitality food services is required to help offset the impact of exceptionally high operating costs. We are calling on the incoming Government to commit to a permanent VAT rate of 11%.

#### Tackling cost of business challenges

Addressing unsustainable increases in the cost of doing businesses within Irish tourism and hospitality must be a major priority. This must include meaningful, sector-specific measures including an across-the board reduction in Employers' PRSI within the sector.

#### Removing the Dublin Airport passenger cap

Enhanced air access is vital for the long-term development of our economy. The passenger cap at Dublin Airport is a major barrier to further recovery and growth. An urgent legislative intervention by Government is required.

#### Economic Department for Tourism & Hospitality

Given the enormous economic importance of our industry, tourism and hospitality would be best placed within a Government Department with an economic portfolio, such as a reconfigured Department of Enterprise, Tourism, Trade and Employment.



**270,000 livelihoods** supported by Irish tourism & hospitality



**Regional employment** – some 70% of tourism & hospitality jobs are outside of Dublin



**€10bn in revenue** generated by tourism annually for the economy



**Over €2.3bn in taxes** generated annually for the State by tourism-related activity