



Photo by Adam Rory Porter

## **DEAR TOURISM PROVIDERS**

Welcome to the June edition of our Newsletter. We hope you are all keeping well under the current circumstances.

We have been working closely with IDP and Inishowen skillnet promoting the various seminars on how to get your business up and running safely following the current quidelines. government These sessions - Overview of Considerations by 3 Panel Expert, Health & Safety Risk Assessments, Deep Clean and Protect and HR Employment Law. Organisations from the community, voluntary, tourism & hospitality sector attended and noted the positive content therein.

### #HELPDONEGALGROW

Letterkenny Chamber of Commerce has launched a new campaign inviting the people of Donegal to simply share their ideas on how to help Donegal grow. The campaign is a novel way of gathering thoughts and ideas on how best to benefit the county. Everyone has an opportunity to support the campaign by simply sharing details through digital platforms handle and by using the #HelpDonegalGrow

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### FAILTE IRELAND TASKFORCE

On 20th May Fáilte Ireland welcomed the establishment of the Tourism Recovery Taskforce announced by Ministers Shane Ross and Brendan Griffin.

Paul Kelly, CEO of Fáilte Ireland who is a member of the Taskforce, said the Taskforce is a critical and urgent working group dedicated to ensure the tourism sector recovers from this crisis as quickly as possible. Fáilte Ireland's online COVID-19 Business Support hub for the tourism industry is available at www.failteireland.ie

### FAILTE IRELAND WELLBEING

Fáilte Ireland continues to work directly with thousands of businesses across the country to provide the supports and advice that they most urgently need. The impact that this crisis is having on the mental health and wellbeing of employees has been identified by tourism and hospitality businesses as an area of significant concern. In response, Fáilte Ireland has developed a range of new and free Employee Wellbeing supports to help those in the tourism industry through this difficult time, on both a professional and personal level.

Speaking about the importance of looking after our mental health, Martina Bromley, Head of Enterprise & Hospitality Development at Fáilte Ireland, said: "The anxiety and worry that COVID-19 is causing is immense so in response, we have launched wellbeing supports to help tourism businesses and their employees, as well as those who have unfortunately lost their jobs, through this difficult period."

The new Wellbeing Supports include:

#### I Am Here

The I Am Here: Rapid Response service, in partnership with PulseLearning, offers a programme of mental health support and learning within the workplace and beyond to empower employers and employees to have courageous conversations about mental health.

#### Employee Assistance Programme: Counselling and support

To provide more formal supports to those who need it, Fáilte Ireland has partnered with Inspire Workplaces to offer free and confidential access to an Employee Assistance Programme. This is available widely to tourism business owners, employees and people who are self-employed in the industry.

## FAILTE IRELAND WELLBEING (CONT'D)

Through a Freephone Helpline, offered 24/7/365, businesses and employees can access this full range of services: Freephone Helpline on 1800 201346: You will need to quote Fáilte Ireland when accessing the service to ensure the services are provided to you free of charge. Visit inspiresupporthub.org: On the homepage, click the purple 'Sign Up' icon, top right. Where prompted, enter your company PIN, which is unique to Fáilte Ireland: COFIHUB!

For more information on these Employee Wellbeing Supports and how to access them, visit the Employee Wellbeing section of the COVID-19 business support hub on the Fáilte Ireland website. If there is an area of support you think the tourism industry urgently needs, contact business.supports@failteireland.ie or Lo Call 1800-242 473 (Mon-Fri 09:00-17:00).

### DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL RE-START GRANT

Re-Start – a Fund to Reconnect Small and Micro Businesses

Direct grant aid of between €2,000 minimum and €10,000 based on commercial rates bill from 2019. Scheme applies to small businesses with a turnover of under €5m and employing 50 people or less. Scheme opens for applications on Friday 22 May through the Local Authorities.

The Re-start Grant will give direct grant aid to micro and small businesses to help them with the costs associated with reopening and re-employing workers following COVID-19 closures. The Grant will be available to businesses with a turnover of less than €5m and employing 50 people or less, which were closed or impacted by at least a 25% reduction in turnover out to 30th June 2020.

Apply for the grant using the link at the bottom of this email.

Closing date for receipt of applications is 31 August 2020. Please send queries to: restartgrant@donegalcoco.ie

## LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

The next online information session about the Trading Online Voucher scheme takes place on Wednesday, 17th June from 9.30 - 11am via Zoom. It's compulsory to attend if you want to make an application for a Trading Online Voucher, which can help you develop your website and potentially increase your online trading capacity. Click on the link at the bottom of this email to find out more and book your place.

# STAY SAFE, STAY HEALTHY AND STAY POSITIVE



Thank you for taking the time to read our Newsletter.

Stay safe, stay healthy and stay positive.



Photo by Aoife Crawford