

## More than 4 out of every 10 Dublin pubs planning on reopening as a restaurant in June

More than four out of every ten pubs in Dublin are planning on reopening 'essentially as restaurants' on 29<sup>th</sup> June, according to new figures released by the Licensed Vintners Association (LVA). In light of this data, the LVA has called on the Government to follow through on their promise to engage with the sector about the future of pubs.

The figures were revealed in a survey conducted by the LVA between Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May and Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May, with 44% confirming their intention to reopen on 29<sup>th</sup> June. When applied to the 750 pubs located across the capital, that means approximately 330 are planning to reopen. These pubs have restaurant certificates and accordingly are licensed restaurants.

The survey also revealed that food is available from more than seven out of every 10 Dublin pubs, with 72% confirming they serve food on their premises. The LVA are advocating that all pubs that serve food be allowed open on 29 June on the same basis as restaurants.

Speaking in reaction to the survey, LVA Chief Executive Donall O'Keeffe said, "This again highlights the urgent need for the Government to engage with the pub sector. More than four out of every 10 pubs across Dublin are gearing up to reopen as restaurants next month. This reflects the strong emphasis many pubs throughout Dublin have put on food service in recent years.

"These venues have restaurant certificates and are just as capable of following the public health guidelines as restaurants and cafes. Food is a major aspect of their business so why should they be treated differently to other venues serving food and alcohol? We expect there will be a strong demand for these venues, with many pubs reporting a significant public appetite for when they will be serving food again. Bord Bia research also shows more people eat out at pubs than they do at full service restaurants or cafes.\*

"We made it clear this would happen when the roadmap was announced, but we are still awaiting a meeting with Government to discuss the future for pubs, despite their public comments that they will meet the vintner organisations quickly. Our members cannot remain in limbo and are now actively planning for re-opening on the same basis and at the same time as restaurants," Mr. O'Keeffe concluded.

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*\*Taken from Bord Bia 2019 Irish Foodservice Insights Report which showed that Ireland's 'out of home' foodservice market consisted of 35% Limited Service Restaurants, 18% Hotels and Accommodation, 16% Pubs, 12% Full Service Restaurants, 6% Coffee shops and Cafes, 4% Other Commercial and 9% Institutional.*

Please see below details of the questions included in this survey. The survey was issued to members of the LVA on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020 and was closed on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2020. Responses were collected on an anonymous, aggregate basis. More than 300 pubs participated in the survey, which represents over 50% of the LVA membership.

### **QUESTION – Does your pub serve food?**

Response:

- Yes – 72%
- No – 28%

## **QUESTION – Do you plan to open your pub, essentially as a restaurant, on 29 June?**

*Response:*

- Yes – 44%
- No – 56%