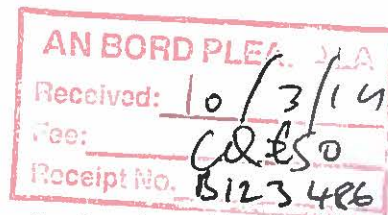




An Bord Pleanála  
64, Marlborough Street  
Dublin 1

Ref: 61.PA.0033

2<sup>nd</sup>. March 2014



RESTAURANTS  
ASSOCIATION  
OF IRELAND

I refer to the Planning Application from Galway Harbour Company regarding the extension of Galway Port.

The Restaurants Association of Ireland is very supportive of this planning application and commends the harbour company on their foresight in bringing this project to planning stage.

The Restaurants Association of Ireland represents over 1000 of the top restaurants, cafes, gastro pubs and hotel restaurants in Ireland. The association was formed in 1970 with the initial goal of forming a strong lobby that would represent the industry at Government level on current issues of importance on taxation, and restaurant liquor licensing in particular.

Branches were formed around the country, all of which still exist and indeed have expanded. The West of Ireland branch is particularly strong. The Association's efforts in 1986 to get VAT reduced from 25% to 10% was the result of the expert lobbying of a group of dedicated restaurateurs on behalf of themselves and their colleagues.

Such successes have been repeated over the years, particularly in the areas of taxation, licensing, standards, curriculum development both at Irish Government level and also at European level.

- 1) The restaurant sector employs 64,000 people (1 in 4 tourism jobs) and contributes a total of €2 billion to the Irish economy each year.
- 2) For every €1 spent in a local business, 45cent is reinvested back in the local economy. Of the many businesses that will benefit from this development in Galway, the 167 listed restaurants in Galway will benefit substantially. Hence, the economic ripple created within our industry will be substantial within the local community.
- 3) Approx. 15,000 jobs have been created in the hospitality industry since the VAT reduction in July 2011
- 4) A further 5,000 jobs are to be created in the next 12 months
- 5) Official data from the Central Statistics Office (CSO) indicates that overseas visitors to the Republic of Ireland grew by +7.2% in 2013 when compared to 2012.



FEBVRE  
Original thinking to meet



Keelings  
Whiskey Irish

CALOR



vodafone



NuaRange.com

frylite



ACQUA PANNA



S.PELLEGRINO  
THE FINE DINING WATER



[http://www.facebook.com/  
RestaurantAssociationofIreland](http://www.facebook.com/RestaurantAssociationofIreland)



@RAI\_ie

Restaurants Association of Ireland,  
11 Bridge Court,  
Citygate, St. Augustine Street,  
Dublin 8, Ireland.

t: +353 1 6779901  
f: +353 1 6718414  
w: www.rai.ie  
e: info@rai.ie

Registered In Ireland No: 56224IE, VAT No: IE4803163P



# RESTAURANTS ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND

As is evident, The restaurant industry is strong in Galway and is a key factor in Galway's attractiveness as a tourist destination.

This is not to say that the industry is performing well. Restaurants need a consistent footfall in order to survive. The proposed port extension will create this badly needed footfall and consequently secure the existence of many great restaurants as well as allow new restaurants to open successfully. The following are key points of note:

- This will provide a huge boost to job creation not just within the local restaurant industry but also with the whole community at many levels.
- The contribution from the cruise tourism ( 10,000 visitors expected to visit the city on cruise ships this year- recent survey for Port of Cork suggests that 80% of cruise visitors availed of tour opportunities with the crew opting to remain near the port). This will provide the much needed footfall our local restaurants crave.
- Development of the maritime tourism industry- Using the inner harbour ( town quays) to attract maritime festivals such as the Volvo Ocean Race, Tall Ships Race, Galway Sea Festival and the SB20 National Sailing Championships
- Opening up of the town quays for future expansion of the city and developing Galway a waterfront city of excellence- additional revenue from city centre marina as a tourist attraction & destination
- Development of offshore energy sector which will aid our restaurant industry.
- A more efficient and cost effective import/ export of materials via the port to the city and region
- Huge economic benefit to the city, region and country as a whole

On behalf of the restaurant and tourism industry as a whole, I look most forward to this most wonderful milestone in Galway's development.

Yours Most Faithfully

Fergus O' Halloran  
Western Branch Chairperson, The Restaurants Association of Ireland  
Managing Director, The Twelve Hotel, Bearna, Galway



ENCL: €50 cheque  
P/B Forward receipt  
*(Signature)*

