

1 July 2021

An Taoiseach
Michael Martin TD
Government Buildings
Merrion Street

By email

Re: Lack of clarity for the business community poses risk to Ireland's economic recovery

An Taoiseach

I am writing to you again, following my letter last week on the impact of the postponed reopening of Ireland's Experience Economy.


We are very concerned for the many businesses and people working in the Experience Economy, especially those most impacted by the decision not to go ahead with the next phase of planned reopening due to start on 5th July. We support the restaurants and vintners' associations who have been placed in an impossible position by the lateness in the decision and the lack of clarity within it. We all need certainty on a reopening plan as quickly as possible and additional financial support for the extra costs that the mishandling of events in the past week has caused.

Furthermore, it is important not to lose sight of the impact of the Government's decisions this week on the wider business community and the stability of Ireland's economy. Confidence amongst consumers and businesses generally in the Government's wider reopening plan has been damaged. Ibec is concerned that this could materially impact Ireland's economic recovery.

Much greater certainty and information are needed for all businesses on the Government's modelling data, timelines and milestones for the revised vaccine rollout, the use of antigen testing, and the GDPR issues for employers generally on requesting and holding information in relation to vaccination status.

The events of this week clearly illustrate that a more effective stakeholder engagement model is badly required. I implore the Government to improve its communications to business. We want to work collaboratively with your Government on the ongoing challenges posed by Covid but this requires a comprehensive approach to engagement on key decisions. As always, Ibec remains ready and willing to engage with you on these important matters.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Danny McCoy". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Danny McCoy
CEO
Ibec