

# CSNA NEWS



**JOHN PAUL LONERAGAN**  
National President, CSNA

## PRESIDENT'S OPINION

### Compliance industry is exhausting SMEs' resources

There are dozens of individual pieces of legislation that retailers are obliged to not only be aware of, but they must actively create policies to demonstrate their compliance to an ever-increasing body of state agencies and officers.

If you were to draw up a list of which laws you needed to adhere to over other laws that you may tend to ignore, it would be a foolish exercise, and not recommended, but it begs the question, how did we get to this stage? There is a full-scale compliance industry in place throughout the country and it isn't getting any better. There is without doubt an anti-enterprise culture at play in numerous influential corners of Irish society who consider profit to be a dirty word.

The amount of time expended by employers in maintaining records

and ensuring that their legal obligations are met is causing very real anger for the owners of businesses that are finding it increasingly difficult to find staff willing to work in their stores. Consequently, they are spending an inordinate amount of time carrying out additional work in addition to managing the business.

There needs to be an understanding at Cabinet level, in the various government departments and from those charged with agreeing European Directives, that small and medium sized businesses cannot afford to meet the exhausting requirements of all legislation and need derogations to allow them to compete.

We can only hope that 2023 will be better for all of us.



**The amount of time expended by employers in maintaining records and ensuring that their legal obligations are met is causing real frustration for retailers**

## CSNA NEWS

### CSNA seeks meeting with new Minister for Retail

The association recently made contact with the newly appointed Minister for Retail and Employment Affairs, Neale Richmond TD.

We congratulated him on his elevation and sought to remind him that there is a wider body of social partner stakeholders than IBEC, and that any future round table discussions, consultations and briefings on the Living Wage, adoption of the National Minimum Wage Directive and aspects of Auto Enrolment necessitate the inclusion of representatives such as CSNA, ISME, Retail Excellence etc.



**Newly appointed minister Neale Richmond TD, Minister of State at the Department of Enterprise pictured at his first event as a minister, at Showcase - Ireland's International Creative Expo at the RDS (Photo: Leon Farrell/Photocall Ireland)**

## CSNA NEWS

### CSNA Deals partner Dubco signs CSNA member, Barack Obama Plaza

Dubco Ireland has partnered with CSNA member, Barack Obama Plaza in Moneygall Co. Offaly, on its staff benefits and wellness programme. The association would like to extend our thanks to Henry Healy, operations manager of Obama Plaza, for inviting Dubco and organising the announcement event.

As members are aware, CSNA and Dubco Ireland recently announced their innovative and exciting partnership. The CSNA represents retailers big and small nationwide, and we always focus our efforts to benefit all members. This new partnership is giving CSNA members and their families the opportunity to access a range of financial services such as the Income Tax Plus Low-Rate Loans and other financial services such as a Current Account and Budget BillPay.

The absolutely great part of this deal is that not only is it available to you, the CSNA member, it is also available to your family at market-leading rates. Perhaps equally important, considering that staff

retention and the need to maintain good working relationships has never been as crucial, the deal is available to all of your staff.

Dubco Ireland is the Credit Union for CSNA members.

For more information on becoming a member of Dubco Credit Union please contact CSNA on 045-535050.



**Henry Healy, operations manager at Barack Obama Plaza, with Paul O'Grady of Dubco Ireland**

## CSNA REMINDER

### TBESS reminder: Apply by 28 February

We continue to urge all members to apply for the Temporary Business Energy Support Scheme (TBESS) as soon as possible as the cut-off date to apply for October 2021 is 28 February.

To assist members, we have created a booklet that should make the process of applying easier and quicker, which is available to download from the CSNA website. If you have any queries at all in relation to your claim, please contact CSNA on 045-535050.



**The TBESS cut-off date to apply for October 2021 is 28 February**

IF YOU WISH TO **JOIN THE CSNA**,  
PLEASE CONTACT THE ASSOCIATION ON **045 535050**



## CSNA OPINION

### Leap Cards: Who pockets the difference?

Is it the NTA? No.  
Is it Cubic - the distributor? No.  
Is it the commuter? No.

The CSNA believes the answer is very clear - the holder of this dominant position, the company that the State and NTA has facilitated to get an exclusive contract to supply the retail network are the only ones that will profit from this change to the Leap Card contract.

Retailers do not deserve to be treated in what in the CSNA's opinion, is a disgraceful manner. There are a number of eminent and respected members of the board of AnPost that need to be made aware that this behaviour towards our sector is not acceptable.

We believe in competition and suggest that Payzone and An Post/PostPoint be allowed to make Leap

products available to any retailer willing to sell them. It works for a multiplicity of products and services already available through the two networks. There isn't a good reason it can't be done with these products which are ultimately fully owned and funded by the Irish State/taxpayer.



**The CSNA suggests that both Payzone and An Post/PostPoint should be allowed to make Leap products available to any retailer willing to sell them**

## CSNA NEWS

### Association receives clarification on the reversal of VAT on antigen tests



**Previously attracting 23% VAT, antigen tests are now a 0% VAT product**

Recently CSNA sought clarification from Revenue with regard to products bought at 23% VAT after 1 January. We asked if it is possible that suppliers may be required to provide credit notes and to reissue invoices with the correct VAT. We also sought to have Revenue's opinion on whether a retailer is obligated to refund any customer who had the 23% legitimately applied to the product up until the 20 January.

This is the response that we received from Revenue to our queries:

"The backdating of the zero rate has been done on an administrative

basis until the appropriate legislation is enacted.

"The change in the VAT rate can be dealt with by way of a credit note, so your members could seek a credit note from their suppliers. If they don't seek a credit note, they can reclaim the VAT they were charged in their VAT return. However, they cannot amend their output VAT without first reimbursing the customers who may have borne the cost of the overpaid tax. On that basis, the only benefit of getting a credit note from the suppliers is a cash flow one for the retailer (i.e. they don't have to fund the VAT upfront)." ■

## CSNA NEWS

### Safeguards required in Minister Naughton's bill to "denormalise" tobacco sales

We note that the Chief Whip Hildegard Naughton, who is also the Minister of State attached to the Department of Health with responsibility for Public Health, Well Being and the National Drugs Strategy, has announced her intention to include a bill designed to further restrict and "denormalise" the sale of tobacco through a variety of mechanisms, including annual licencing, a ban on all self-service tobacco vending machines, the elimination of sales from mobile or non-permanent outlets and the introduction of significantly increased penalties for breaches, many of which can be applied as Fixed Notice Penalties by Environmental Health Officers. While most of the "noise"

surrounding the bill will no doubt be directed towards its application as a vape-controlling piece of legislation, the reality is that it is a Tobacco Control Bill and it is our belief that there will need to be a number of safeguards inserted to ensure that all retailers of these legal products are not unfairly treated. ■



**Minister Hildegard Naughton intends to bring forward a bill to further restrict tobacco sales**

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