

# Ministerial Update

## Pilot Live Events

One of my key priorities as Minister for Culture, Arts, and Sport is to ensure the safe return of live music, culture and sport to Irish audiences. It has been a challenging 16 months for so many musicians, artists, athletes, venue operators, crew and fans.

I was delighted to recently get agreement at Cabinet for a range of exciting pilot events for arts and sports across the country that will take place throughout the summer. These events will not only support artists and those working in large events to get back to work, but they will also inform how these types of events are run in the future.

## Pride Month

There were some brilliant exhibitions across the country to celebrate Pride Month.



In June I launched the National Library of Ireland's 'Living with Pride' photographic archive in Temple Bar. It was a joy to experience the life and work of LGBTQ+ activist Christopher Robson.



## Basic Income Guarantee Pilot Scheme for Artists

I have recently secured a commitment for Government to prioritise a basic income guarantee pilot scheme for artists in the Government's National Economic Recovery Plan.

This was the number 1 recommendation from artists and the sector through the Arts and Culture Recovery Taskforce Report - *Life Worth Living*.

This is unprecedented and the pilot scheme will involve a significant number of artists. I recognise bold steps are necessary for our invaluable and much treasured arts community to come back stronger than ever before.

Next step, I will bring forward a proposal for the basic income guarantee pilot scheme, working with my Cabinet colleague Minister Heather Humphreys in the Department of Social Protection.

## Supporting the tourism and hospitality sector as it reopens this summer

The tourism and hospitality industries have been among the hardest hit during the pandemic. Record levels of funding have been allocated to allow for additional supports.

These include:

- €55 million business continuity scheme introduced recently through Fáilte Ireland to help strategic tourism businesses survive the pandemic and drive recovery.
- A €26m adaptation fund for the tourism sector to adapt their premises to meet COVID-19 safety requirements.
- Extension of the 9% VAT rate to September 2022. This will continue to act as a stimulus for the sector as it moves towards recovery.
- Two separate funds of €10 million each were introduced for Coach Tourism Operators and Ireland Based Inbound Agents Business Continuity Scheme
- Funding of €5 million has been provided for upskilling training and to improve digital presence.



I recently announced with Fáilte Ireland €17 million in grants for tourism and hospitality businesses to transform outdoor dining, support jobs and help us enjoy a safe summer outdoors.

Up until the 30th September 2021, individual businesses can apply for up to €4k from their local authorities to help develop and increase their outdoor dining capacity.

## €50m Live Entertainment Supports

- €25m Live Performance Support Scheme
- €14m Music Entertainment Business Assistance Scheme
- €5m Local Authorities for outdoor live performances
- €5m Capital supports for live entertainment sector
- €1m St Patrick's Festival

## Additional updates I've been working on across Sport, Media and the Gaeltacht

- A key goal of mine as a member of government is to further gender equity within every sector under my remit. As part of this aim, I announced that female Gaelic games players will receive equity in funding to their male counterparts, tripling their funding allocation from last year.
- I established the Future of Media Commission to examine and chart the path for public service broadcasting and independent

media in Ireland that supports public discourse and provides platforms for our language, culture, creative arts and sport.

- Ós cionn €1.6m ceadaíthe do Thuismitheoirí na Gaeltachta thar 3 bliana chun tacú le teaghlaigh atá ag tógáil a bpáistí le Gaeilge.
- Tháinig an Bille na dTeangacha Oifigiúla trí chéim an choiste I nDáil Éireann freisin.