

## RESTAURANTS ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND

Cllr. Daniel McLaughlin  
South Dublin County Council  
County Hall  
Tallaght  
Dublin 24

Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> October 2013

Dear Daniel,

On behalf of the Restaurants Association of Ireland, I would like to express sincere gratitude for lobbying efforts which strengthened our campaign to retain the 9% VAT rate on hospitality and tourism services in Budget 2014. We greatly appreciate that South Dublin County Council passed a motion in support of this campaign.

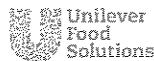
We welcome Budget 2014 as Pro-Jobs, Pro-Tourism and Pro-Ireland, primarily through the retention of VAT on hospitality and tourism services at 9%. We appreciate the many difficult decisions the Government were faced with in framing this year's Budget. We, too, recognise the importance of the tourism sector to the overall economy, principally in terms of job creation and economic competitiveness. For this reason, we applauded Government in May 2011 when the Jobs Initiative was first implemented and now, more than ever, we commend the decision to retain this truly effective job stimulus measure.

As Minister for Finance, Michael Noonan T.D. mentioned in his Budget speech, "it is important that we reinforce success when possible" - we wholeheartedly agree with this view and we believe that the hospitality sector will continue to grow and create jobs, because of the continuation of the VAT rate at 9%.

Once again, on behalf of the Restaurants Association of Ireland, I would like to thank you for the commitment you have made to the tourism and hospitality sector, which is evident in Budget 2014.

Yours Sincerely,

Adrian Cummins, Chief Executive



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