

RE: **CORONAVIRUS – COVID 19**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I refer to ours of the 3rd and 12th inst respectively in the above regard.

As you would expect this union has been monitoring the evolving situation on a daily basis and at this stage we have established a number of issues which are the cause of increasing concern for our members' right across the retail sector. I want to take this opportunity to appraise you of these issues and whilst we accept they might not be happening in every store and business the frequency of reporting on same leads us to believe they are to a large degree common place and we would call on each employer to ensure if they are occurring that they are dealt with as a matter of urgency. The following are the main areas of concern;

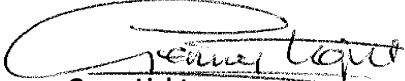
1. Customer overcrowding contrary to HSE guidelines for indoor gatherings
2. Non-compliance of social distancing guidelines
3. Non provision of hand sanitiser at checkouts
4. Shopping trolleys not being properly and regularly sanitised
5. Till points/registers not being cleaned on a regular basis
6. Unreasonable refusal to provide protective gloves and face masks
7. Staff returning from high risk areas being allowed to work

Where possible we advise that where there is an issue of concern that it is raised first instance in the store where it is occurring. It is a matter of concern that some retailers who are parented in the UK are taking advice/instructions from the management teams there and this is totally inappropriate given that such advice is likely to be influenced by the regularity guidelines prevailing in that jurisdiction and not here. Please ensure that the Republic of Ireland guidelines take precedence. In dealing with the various challenges that undoubtedly lie ahead we once again ask for a creative and flexible approach particularly when it comes to the application of our members' statutory and contractual entitlements.

Once again we wish to point out that this union in these unprecedented times seeks to proactively engage with all retail employers to ensure the health and safety of our members. In circumstances where their well-being is being purposefully jeopardised we remind our members of their shared obligation under current health and safety legislation and also their considerable power to ensure the enforcement of a safe work environment.

Yours sincerely

For Mandate



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