

An update from the island of Ireland September 2020

I hope that you, your teams and your families are all doing well during this prolonged period of uncertainty for the tourism and travel industry across the world. The tourism industry right across the island of Ireland re-opened over the summer for domestic visitors. While there were very many wonderful staycations enjoyed, I know the industry are very much looking forward to welcoming back your clients from overseas when the time is right.

Earlier this week the Irish Government announced that they are now working towards the adoption of the proposed new EU 'traffic light' system that aims to open up international travel across Europe. It is hoped that this will be finalised in time for decision at the EU's General Affairs Council meeting on October 13th. In the meantime, they have updated a 'Green List' of countries from where people arriving into Ireland do not need to restrict their movements. This list, which aligns to the proposed EU system, comes in to effect from Monday 21st September and does not currently include Australia and New Zealand. This list will be updated weekly. Unfortunately, as I write, Ireland similar to many other countries is experiencing an increase in cases. You can find more detail on the official Government website [here](#).

In Northern Ireland, there are also restrictions in place and visitors from outside a designated list of countries are required to self-isolate for 14 days. Both Australia and New Zealand are on this exempted list currently. This list is under continuous review and can be found [here](#).

Our colleagues in Fáilte Ireland and Tourism Northern Ireland have been working closely with the tourism industry as they re-opened and I'm pleased to share a [video](#) with you that shows all the measures that have been put in place to ensure that your clients will have a great vacation on the island of Ireland in 2021. The health and safety of all our visitors will be the priority, but we will ensure they are protected alongside a very warm Irish welcome and a great holiday experience.

But while the tourism industry has re-opened, the restrictions and currently rising number of cases mean it will be a while longer before we can welcome overseas holidaymakers. We look forward to welcoming international visitors back to the island of Ireland as soon as the time is right.

We know and understand the very great difficulty this uncertainty causes for your business and will continue to do everything we can to help and will update you on any developments as they take place.

Many thanks for your ongoing support for Tourism Ireland and the tourism industry on the island of Ireland. We very much value your business and look forward to working with you to rebuild it in the months and years ahead.

Best wishes



Niall Gibbons
Chief Executive
Tourism Ireland