

# Bringing Culture into the Heart of Communities

## Bookshops and the Irish Economy



Bookselling Ireland's members are proud to have **over two hundred outlets** with a presence in every county in Ireland.



Bookshops function as cornerstones of Ireland's town centres, **attracting customers and visitors** who in turn spend in neighbouring retail and hospitality settings.



In 2021 they paid almost **€10 million** in taxes to the Revenue and generated **€189 million** to the economy.

## Bookshops and Irish Culture

Bookshops are an integral part of Ireland's literary landscape and infrastructure, supporting a wide range of writers, from internationally acclaimed novelists, to budding authors and local historians.

**Bookshops are powerhouses of cultural enrichment and community engagement:**



**95%**

of bookshops provide author events



**97%**

run events that are free of charge to their communities.



Bookshops are also vital in supporting Irish language and culture with **94%** stocking Irish language titles.

## What Bookshops Need to Continue Supporting Irish Communities

### Culture Voucher

We are asking for the Government to give teenagers a voucher they can use to buy books, attend concerts, visit museum exhibitions and take part in other in-person cultural activities.

As well as having a significant economic impact, helping the creative sector including bookshops, access to the expertise of booksellers in Irish bookshops will also give young people the opportunity to access a broad range of titles relating to Ireland's social and political history. This will complement their education, improve literacy levels, and expose them to a broad range of ideas and opinions.

### Library Procurement

School book purchasing has gone through significant changes resulting in fewer bookshops selling to that market and leading to bookshop closures. To help offset these changes, library procurement could be improved to better serve libraries, booksellers and readers.

Bookselling Ireland recommends an immediate change to public library funding, specifically the ringfencing of a piece of discretionary funding for the purchase of books of local interest from local bookshops.

At present, books of particular local interest – for example local history or genealogy which are published locally on a small scale – simply cannot be sourced by libraries as the current large suppliers do not have access to them. This small modification would be a much needed support for bookshops and open up more books to readers in every county across Ireland.

**To find out more about how we can work together to support bookshops, please contact Laura McCormack ([laura.mccormack@booksellers.org.uk](mailto:laura.mccormack@booksellers.org.uk))**