

‘Now more than ever Hospitality needs a professional institute to enhance the reputation of our industry’

**Irish Hospitality Institute welcomes Daragh O’Neill FIHI as 30<sup>th</sup> President**

The Irish Hospitality Institute (IHI), the professional body for hospitality and tourism managers in Ireland, is delighted to announce the appointment of Daragh O’Neill FIHI as the 30th President of the organisation.

Daragh is the general manager of The Talbot Hotel Stillorgan (formerly Stillorgan Park Hotel). A graduate of Hotel & Catering Management at the Dublin College of Catering (TU Dublin & Trinity College Dublin). He then travelled to the USA and gained 8 years’ experience with Medallion Hotels in Texas where he assumed his first general manager’s position. He returned to Ireland in 1998 to take up the position of general manager of The Castletroy Park Hotel, Limerick. In 2008 he returned to Dublin to assume his current post.

Daragh is passionate about the investment in people working in the hospitality industry. He firmly believes in providing his team with the necessary training and skills required for their overall success within the industry. In 2023 the Talbot Hotel Stillorgan has been recognized as a “Great Place to Work” and has also received the Failte Ireland Employer Excellence award. His team at the Talbot Hotel has also been previously recognized by the AA of Ireland when it was awarded the Annual Courtesy and Care award.”

With over three decades of experience in the hospitality sector, Daragh has actively participated in various industry and community organizations. While in the USA he was a board member of United Way and participated in the High School Junior Achievement mentor program. On home turf, while living in the Shannon Region he was Chairman of the Shannon Branch of the IHF and a member of the IHF national council. In 2015/16 Daragh was the Dublin President of SKAL International Ireland & has sat on the tourism strategic review committee for Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Chamber of Commerce.

A Fellow of the Irish Hospitality Institute, Daragh was appointed as a director to the IHI Board in May 2019 and was elected Deputy President in 2021.

Daragh said *“Having been a member of the Institute for many years before becoming a board member in 2019, it is a great honor and privilege to be elected as the 30th President of the Irish Hospitality Institute.*

Daragh added” *During a time of transition for the IHI and the Hospitality industry post pandemic, I really look forward to working with you all. Now more than ever Hospitality needs a professional institute to enhance the reputation of our industry as it strives to attract new people at all levels. As an institute, we must look at new and innovative ways of building membership, member engagement and professional development & support for our members.”*

To find out more about the Irish Hospitality Institute or to become a member, please visit [www.ihl.ie](http://www.ihl.ie).

**ENDS**

**For further press information, please contact:**

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**Notes to Editor:**

**The Irish Hospitality Institute** was founded on 16<sup>th</sup> September 1966 as the professional body for managers in the hotel, tourism and catering industries, collectively known as the hospitality industry.

Since its foundation, the key objectives of IHI have been to promote professional development through the organisation of seminars, conferences, training, networking opportunities.

IHI plays a key role in the promotion of careers within the sector, Ireland's most diverse, vibrant and indigenous area of employment.

The IHI is governed by a President and Board of Directors, elected bi-annually at the Annual General Meeting by its Members.

The IHI President and Board is responsible for deciding and ensuring the implementation of the IHI's overall strategy and business plans. IHI Board members play an important role as ambassadors for the Institute and the wider industry and are leading industry figures.