

# TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS IN THE MIDLANDS

Small businesses and entrepreneurs are being urged to register now for an event in Athlone that will provide advice on regulations and supports from over 25 State bodies and services on diversifying into new export markets in preparation for Brexit.

The ‘Midlands Taking Care of Business’ event on Wednesday 2 October at Athlone’s Sheraton Hotel will allow new business start-ups and entrepreneurs to meet experts from a range of public bodies.

This free half-day event is being organised by the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation in conjunction with the Health and Safety Authority and the Food Safety Authority of Ireland.

It will bring together more than 25 State bodies, and builds on the success of previous events in recent years, which have been attended by up to 2,700 people from across the country. In the context of Brexit, it is also an opportunity for businesses to seek advice from a range of experts.

The Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation, Heather Humphreys TD, who will open proceedings, is calling on businesses across the Midlands to register for one of the limited number of places at this event.

## REGIONAL ENTERPRISE PLANS

“Following very successful events in Dublin and the Mid-

State offices and agencies will provide information on:

- Tax, employment, health and safety obligations;
- Legal requirements for setting up and running a business;
- Requirements in areas such as food and environmental safety;
- Advice on government procurement and intellectual property;
- Assistance and supports from enterprise agencies, and;
- Brexit, plus help and supports that are available, including the Brexit Loan Scheme.

West, bringing ‘Taking Care of Business’ to the Midlands demonstrates our ongoing commitment to regional development. This commitment is shown across a range of activities and policy initiatives including the Regional Enterprise Plans to 2020, which take a ‘ground-up’ approach to maximise enterprise development.

“The plans aim to deliver an overall jobs uplift of between 10 and 15 per cent in each region by the end of 2020 and to bring or maintain unemployment levels in each region to within at least one percentage point of the State average.

“Taking Care of Business also provides an opportunity for businesses to gain vital information, advice and insights in the context of Brexit as a number of the presentations will deal with this important topic.”

The Minister said that Ireland remains a very good place to do business, evidenced in the World Competitiveness ranking, where Ireland has gone from 12th to 7th place, and 2nd position in the EU.

Minister of State for Trade, Employment, Business, EU Digital Single Market and Data Protection, Pat Breen TD, who will also address the event, said it will provide “an under-one-roof opportunity to engage with all the arms of Government” relevant to small business development.

For further details, the full list of State Bodies attending and to register for the event visit [www.takingcareofbusiness.ie](http://www.takingcareofbusiness.ie).



Ministers Pat Breen and Heather Humphreys will be ‘Taking Care of Business in the Midlands’ on 2 October in Athlone.