

Portlaoise Market Frequently Asked Questions



Where and when is the market?

The market is held every Friday from 9am to 3pm in Pepper's Lane, Portlaoise.

How can I apply for a stall?

Applicants can apply for either a permanent or seasonal spot in the market. Application forms are available from our website at www.laois.ie or can be requested by email on casualtrading@laoiscoco.ie or by phone to 057 – 8664000.

Do I have to sign a contract?

Yes. All traders must sign a licence in order to trade. There are no penalties for breaking a contract early but a minimum of 2 weeks' notice must be given to the Roads Department.

How much does a trading bay cost?

An annual fee of €250 is payable per trading bay of size 3m x 3m. A lesser fee of €150 is payable for smaller trading bays.

What is a Seasonal Trader?

Seasonal traders may be considered for trading bays in the market, if there is availability at the time. We select products that are seasonal growing and have seasonal selling periods, such as fresh fruits and berries in the summer and Christmas themed products in the winter.

Is there anything not allowed to trade in the market?

Laois County Council Markets do not allow religious groups, charities, politicians or promotional events to have a stall, hand out leaflets or hold an event in the markets or in the vicinity of the market. It is also prohibited to sell alcohol, cigarettes and counterfeit goods and other items at the discretion of the Council.

Will I be charged if absent from market for longer than 2 weeks?

Yes, UNLESS you are on sick leave or maternity leave. However, to ensure you are not charged you MUST have informed the Roads Department BEFORE you go on leave and then contact the Roads Department a minimum of 2 weeks before you wish to start back in market.

How long can I take for Maternity Leave or Sick Leave from market and will my space be kept?

Yes, your pitch/stall space is kept until your return. However, Sick Leave and Maternity Leave is only for 26 weeks/6 months, after this time if no contact made

your pitch/stall space won't be kept any longer and you will have to reapply if you wish to return to the market.

What does "Food Producer" mean?

Food producers are traders that grow, catch or farm their own produce.

I don't have my own gazebo, can I rent one from Laois County Council?

The Business Support Unit have a limited number of gazebos that may be available. Should there be one available, you must enter into a loan agreement with the Business Support Unit. The set up, removal and storage of the gazebo is the responsibility of the trader.

Do I need insurance?

Yes, traders cannot trade without valid insurance and it requires that Laois County Council is specifically indemnified on the trader's policy. The insurance company providing your policy will be able to advise you on the best cover for your individual stall and product.

What if I decide not to trade for a full year? Can I get a refund of my licence fee?

A licence holder may surrender his/her licence to the Council at any time prior to the expiry of the licence period. A person who surrenders a licence may apply to obtain a refund of that portion of the licence fee equivalent to the unexpired term of the licence, subject to a maximum refund of 50% of the total fee. The issuing of a refund is at the discretion of the Council.