

The Office of Public Works is seeking tenders for the Provision of Tearoom and Courtyard Café Services at National Botanic Gardens of Ireland, Glasnevin, Dublin 9



Ireland's National Botanic Gardens are located in Glasnevin and are one of Dublin's oldest visitor attractions. Opened in 1795, they lie just 3km from the city centre, and are serviced by four bus routes. The National Botanic Garden's 20 hectare gardens combine a beautiful venue with a role in education, research and horticultural knowledge. It has a high footfall at weekends especially, and the historic glasshouses which are of international significance, ensure the site is visited in almost any weather. Visitor numbers in 2022 exceeded 500,000.

The National Botanic Gardens boasts excellent visitor facilities. The Main Tearooms is located just inside the main pedestrian entrance and located within the Visitor Centre.

There is also a small Courtyard Café which provides a service to the public, the staff of the National Botanic Gardens as well as students attending the Teagasc-run School of Amenity Horticulture.

The Tearoom is approximately 20m². The Courtyard Café is approximately 45m². It is expected that the successful tenderer will operate both the Tearooms and the Courtyard Café on a daily basis.

The National Botanic Gardens is open year round, except for Christmas Day. Entry is free, with a pay-by-the-hour car park.

The majority of visitors to the site are domestic and many are from the locality. Some visitors return daily or weekly for a regular walk. The second-largest group of visitors come from Great Britain,

Europe and Australia. These are usually gardening enthusiasts but are also attracted by the historic glasshouses and pastoral setting of the gardens.

For international visitors during the busy summer season, menus with a focus on traditional freshly prepared Irish food are preferable. Given the strong garden focus of visitors, consideration should be given to the use of organic, locally produced food.

For domestic visitors and midweek customers, children's menus, offers, loyalty schemes, and smaller plates should be considered. Given the range of events for children, a strong offering for families is important. A strong offering of coffee, hot drinks and tray bake/scone/baked goods is expected.

International visitors are more frequent in the summer months (June-August inclusive). This period, coinciding with Irish school holidays, is the busiest time of the year for the gardens, especially at weekends and on bank holidays. As the visitor profile changes seasonally, tenderers should note that menus and purchasing strategies should be adapted to serve the visitors most effectively year-round. OPW will share details of bookings for coach tours (c.50 visitors per coach) with the local Tearooms management team to allow for planning.

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Winter Opening Hours (mid-October to mid-March):

9am to 4.30pm weekdays

10am to 4.30pm Sat, Sun & Public Holidays

Summer Opening Hours (mid-March to mid-October)

9am to 5.00pm weekdays

10am to 6.00pm Sat, Sun & Public Holidays

If this opportunity is of interest to you then the Office of Public Works invites you to tender. Full details of the Tender Request are available on eTenders at www.etenders.gov.ie Tender ID no. **2882186. Closing date for tenders is **12:00 noon 14/02/24**.**