

CIARAN CUFFE TD LENDS HIS SUPPORT FOR GETTING WORKERS ON THEIR BIKES

17th June 2009



Green Party Transport spokesperson Ciaran Cuffe TD today attended the launch of The Gift Voucher Shop Bikes4work scheme - which offers support and encourages Irish companies to avail of a government tax break that gives employees savings of up to 51%* on a bike supplied through their employer. Under this scheme, bicycles and safety equipment can be purchased tax-free up to the value of €1,000.

Now The Gift Voucher Shop home of the One4all Gift Voucher has developed a special Bikes4work Voucher which helps employers with the management and execution of the

scheme and makes it easier for employees to both understand their options and choose the particular type of Bike and equipment they need.

Since the Government introduced this benefit-in-kind tax break in January 2009 The Gift Voucher Shop's "Bikes4work" road show has already been visiting companies up and down the country promoting the scheme, their services and demonstrating a very impressive range of bicycles and safety equipment.

The Gift Voucher Shop has already demonstrated to over 50,000 employees in companies as diverse as Irish life and Permanent, Manpower, CRH, Crganna Medical Devices, Tourism Ireland and Ernst & Young who are all facilitating the purchase of bicycle for their staff. The interest and take up has been much greater than expected in the first six months of the scheme and now looks likely to exceed the Governments target for its first year.

As well as providing demonstrations to the employees , The Gift Voucher Shop Bikes4work team provide a full support service to employers around how the scheme works including their legal responsibilities and will help employers promote the benefits of the scheme to their staff.

Speaking at the launch Ciaran Cuffe said: "The Greens in Government have been working to improve cycling rates across Ireland. The Government's Cycle to Work Scheme has proven a huge incentive in encouraging people to leave the car at home. We must continue to do everything we can to support those who are willing to take up the benefits of cycling to work every day."

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Gift Voucher Shop CEO, Michael Dawson, said: "Bikes4work is a great way to save money on transport and parking and to reduce fuel costs while getting fit into the bargain. When an employer chooses The Gift Voucher Shop "Bikes4work" we do all the work without any administration charges, it's that easy."

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Notes to the editor

How Much Will I Save?

Below are examples of how savings are made for basic and higher Tax rate payers for bike and accessories packages. Costs are spread over a 12 month period. To find a more accurate calculation, please check out savings calculator below. Bikes and accessories can be purchased to a maximum value of €1,000 through the scheme. Any excess value cannot avail of this tax exemption.

| Bike and Accessories Value | €300.00 | €500.00 | €1,000.00 |
|-----------------------------|---------|---------|-----------|
| Gross 12 monthly reduction* | €25.00 | €41.67 | €83.33 |
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| HIGHER RATE TAXPAYER | | | |
| PAYE Tax Savings at 41% | €10.25 | €17.08 | €34.17 |
| PRSI at 4% | €1.00 | €1.67 | €3.33 |
| Levies at 4% | €1.00 | €1.67 | €3.33 |
| Income Levy at 2% | €0.50 | €0.83 | €1.67 |
| Net Cost Per month | €12.25 | €20.42 | €40.83 |
| Total Cost over 12 Months | €147.00 | €245.00 | €490.00 |
| Total savings made | €153.00 | €255.00 | €510.00 |
| | | | |
| BASIC RATE TAXPAYER | | | |
| PAYE Tax Savings at 20% | €5.00 | €8.33 | €16.67 |
| PRSI at 4% | €1.00 | €1.67 | €3.33 |
| Levies at 4% | €1.00 | €1.67 | €3.33 |
| Income Levy at 2% | €0.50 | €0.83 | €1.67 |
| Net Cost Per month | €17.50 | €29.17 | €58.33 |
| Total Cost over 12 Months | €210.00 | €350.00 | €700.00 |
| Total savings made | €90.00 | €150.00 | €300.00 |
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* Please note that savings depend on rate of tax