

Diageo Opens Littleconnell Brewery in Ireland

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Diageo officially opened its new Littleconnell Brewery in Newbridge, Co. Kildare, marking a significant milestone in the company's long-term commitment to brewing in Ireland. Representing an investment of almost €300 million, the state-of-the-art brewery forms part of Diageo's near €1 billion capital investment programme across the island of Ireland between 2020 and 2029.

Officially opened by Taoiseach Micheál Martin TD, the landmark brewery was constructed in under 18 months on a 40-acre site and is powered by 100 per cent renewable electricity. The project, supported by Enterprise Ireland, accommodated approximately 650 jobs during construction and has created more than 50 highly skilled permanent roles, underlining Diageo's contribution to regional development and skilled employment.

The Littleconnell Brewery will produce a range of ales and lagers, including Rockshore, Harp, Smithwick's and Kilkenney, alongside well-known licensed beers such as Carlsberg, supplying both Irish and international markets and strengthening Ireland's role within Diageo's global brewing network.

With planning permission secured, Diageo has also confirmed plans for an approximately €400 million investment to develop a second brewery at Littleconnell over the next three years, with work due to begin in 2026. The new facility, known as Brewery 2, will be dedicated to the production of Guinness and Guinness 0.0 and will more than double total site capacity, supporting the global growth of Guinness.

As part of the near €1 billion investment between 2020 and 2029, Diageo has already completed work at St James's Gate and its Belfast packaging site to increase capacity and support Guinness 0.0, and further work is planned to support the decarbonisation of St James's Gate.

Littleconnell incorporates advanced brewing and process technologies to reduce energy and water use. Its design is expected to avoid up to 15,000 tonnes of carbon emissions annually compared with a similar-scale facility, supporting Diageo's Spirit of Progress sustainability commitments.