

EUROPE SET TO REQUIRE COMMON CHARGER FOR (MOST) CONSUMER PRODUCTS

If you're tired of managing different charging cables, relief may be on the way – at least in Europe. After giving the consumer electronics industry 10 years to propose their own solution, the European Union is pushing forward plans to standardize all charging ports to USB-C. Enacting a common charger across mobile phones, cameras, headphones, speakers, and more would serve two goals.

- **First, waste reduction.** Electronic waste (aka, e-waste) is the fastest growing waste stream in the E.U. with less than 40% recycled. Disposal of unused chargers results in roughly 11,000 tonnes of e-waste *annually*.
- **Second, increase consumer convenience.** European consumers spend €250 million a year on unnecessary charger purchases. The proposal not only limits the number of chargers needed, but also ensures consumers can easily determine the correct charger through simple labelling of power requirements.

Why USB-C? USB-C was ultimately chosen for its wide adoption (nearly all Android devices) and support of the latest technology standards.

Business Tip:

Identify the one thing you want to be known for and include it in two conversations a day.

RENT TO BE CAPPED AT 2% IN RENT PRESSURE ZONES

Rent Pressure Zones are located in parts of the country where rents are highest and rising, and where households have the greatest difficulty finding affordable accommodation. A new Bill published recently aims to cap rent increases at 2% per year in Rent Pressure Zones (RPZs). The Bill will also provide for tenancies of unlimited duration – a key reform under the government's recently published plan to create a sustainable housing system in Ireland. The new cap will only operate when general inflation is higher than 2%.

These changes will be enacted under the Residential Tenancies Act once passed by the Oireachtas. The legislation proposes to provide enhanced tenancy protection by making a 'Part 4' tenancy one of unlimited duration after a tenant has been in place for six months and not subject to expiry at the end of a six-year term.

It is intended that this would apply to new tenancies commencing six months or more after enactment of this Bill. In addition, where any existing tenancy is renewed after this time, it will become a tenancy of unlimited duration.

Further information on these zones can be found on www.rtb.ie/rent-pressure-zones



CHRISTMAS LAST POSTAL DATES 2021

Christmas season is always a busy time for postal services around the world. Christmas postal dates are listed below for your convenience. Along with this, AnPost have also published last dates for distribution of commercial flyers/advertising.

SERVICE	REPUBLIC OF IRELAND	NORTHERN IRELAND	GREAT BRITAIN	REST OF EUROPE	USA	REST OF THE WORLD
STANDARD POST LETTERS	DECEMBER 21	DECEMBER 21	DECEMBER 20	DECEMBER 18	DECEMBER 09	DECEMBER 04
STANDARD POST PARCELS	DECEMBER 21	DECEMBER 21	DECEMBER 20	DECEMBER 13	DECEMBER 09	DECEMBER 04
REGISTERED POST	DECEMBER 21	DECEMBER 21	DECEMBER 20	DECEMBER 13	DECEMBER 08	DECEMBER 04
EXPRESS POST	DECEMBER 21	DECEMBER 21	DECEMBER 20	DECEMBER 13	DECEMBER 10	DECEMBER 08
INTERNATIONAL COURIER			DECEMBER 20	DECEMBER 20	DECEMBER 16	DECEMBER 16

International mail delivery times are estimates and subject to local postal operator delays.