



## Dublin traders positive about visit

By Nicola Cooke

Traders in **Dublin city** centre have welcomed the visit of Queen Elizabeth II, despite a likely disruption to business during her trip, which begins on Tuesday.

The traders believe the long-term gains from the visit will outweigh short-term disadvantages. **Dublin City** Business Association (DCBA) chief executive Tom Coffey said he had not received "one complaint" from any trader about the restrictions.

"We have asked businesses to clean their shop fronts and get rid of any litter, graffiti or illegal signs," said Coffey. "It is inevitable that trade will be affected, but people are taking the view that short-term pain is worth long-term gain. Business is still very flat, a lot of people are unemployed and those in work do not want to spend. We need to attract visitors here for that very purpose."

**Richard Guiney** of the **Dublin City Business Improvement District (BID)** said people could still travel into private car parks in the city this week, or use public transport.

"There may be some inconvenience, such as detours, but everything is still open for business. The third-most popular thing tourists do on an overseas trip is shop, so we are hoping the combined visits of Queen Elizabeth and [US] president [Barack] Obama will help grow the important US and UK visitor markets."

Last Friday, gardai revealed details of the traffic plans that will prohibit parking on over 40 streets of the city centre up to Friday. Other routes that will be subject to temporary closures between Tuesday and Friday include the N7, N4, M50, Phoenix Park and the north and south quays of the Liffey.