



# City groups clash over litter report

A DUBLIN business group has called on the Department of the Environment to 'consider their support and funding' of Irish Businesses Against Litter after it accused Ibal of continuously presenting 'misleading' and 'untrue' findings on the city centre.

Ibal's 2011 survey, results of which were published yesterday, deemed Dublin City to be littered – the second worst rating – and the north inner city to be a litter blackspot.

The Dublin City Business Improvement District said the findings were 'deeply misleading' and 'jeopardised tourism revenues and jobs in the city at an already vulnerable time'.

Richard Guiney, CEO of Dublin City BID, claimed the methodologies used in the Ibal survey do not meet industry standards and should be changed.

He said: 'Because of dramatic media-grabbing statements like this, a tourist considering visiting Dublin could be misled into believing that Dublin City is 'dirty' when this is not the case.

'The majority of Dublin's main tour-

ist areas are recorded as clean. While there are areas outside the Business Improvement District area which are regarded as unclean, we note again that these are mainly in private or residential areas.'

Dublin City BID said it will contact the Minister for the Environment to suggest surveying particular areas over a number of weeks for a truer picture.

In a statement, Ibal said: 'For several years we have made it quite clear that the high footfall tourist areas of the city – such as Grafton Street – are 'Clean to European Norms'. 'Our issue is with the areas of the city centre where residents of Dublin live, such as Gardiner Street and Smithfield. These have been found to be littered. Have not the residents of Dublin the same right to a litter-free environment as its visitors?'

It added that the survey is carried out by An Taisce 'in accordance with internationally accepted standards'.