



Annual Family Business Gathering
**10 Years of Stories, Generations
of Impact**

**CELEBRATING
10 YEARS CONNECTING
FAMILY BUSINESS IN
NORTHERN IRELAND**

Date **Friday 17th October 2025**
Venue **W5 Belfast**
Time **9am – 2pm**

Hosted by





CELEBRATES 10 YEARS CONNECTING FAMILY BUSINESS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Why Attend?

This special 10th anniversary gathering brings together family business leaders from across Northern Ireland to celebrate a decade of shared learning, collaboration, and community. Whether you're part of a legacy business or leading a new generation forward, this event is your place to:

- Hear authentic, behind-the-scenes stories from family businesses
- Learn from real-world challenges and successes
- Connect across industries and generations
- Explore the future of family enterprise in a changing world

The Plan For The Day



09:00 – 09:30 | REGISTRATION & REFRESHMENTS

Enjoy locally sourced breakfast treats while connecting with fellow family business leaders and supporters.

09:30 – 09:45 | A WARM WELCOME

Hosted by: Susan Hayes Culleton with Darren McDowell, Chair of the NIFBF
A warm welcome and a look back at 10 years of the NI Family Business Forum – and what lies ahead.

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**09:45 – 10:15 | IN CONVERSATION WITH VICKI O'TOOLE, FORMER
MANAGING DIRECTOR OF JJ O'TOOLE LTD.**

Vicki will share honest reflections on what the last decade has taught her- from leading Ireland's oldest packaging company through significant challenges and growth, having taken over from three generations before her and the emotional impact of leaving the business in new hands in 2023.



**10:15 – 10:45 | IN CONVERSATION WITH MARK HUTCHINSON, CEO,
HUTCHINSON ENGINEERING**

Mark joined the family business after completing his A Levels, working alongside his father, who was his role model. Taking over the business from his father stands out as a significant personal achievement, symbolising his dedication and commitment to the company's legacy. Mark will share his story of succession and setting the vision for its future.



10.45 – 11.15 COFFEE & CONNECTION BREAK

Chat, share, and reflect with peers over coffee.



**11:15 – 11.45 | IN CONVERSATION WITH STEPHEN MCCORMACK,
MANAGING DIRECTOR OF MCCORMACK FAMILY FARMS**

Stephen McCormack is the Managing Director of McCormack Family Farms, Ireland's leading producer of baby leaf salads, leafy vegetables, herbs, microgreens, and edible flowers. Based in County Meath, the business has been proudly family-run for two generations. What began in the 1980s with Eddie McCormack's vision to grow locally and reduce reliance on imports is now led by his son, Stephen.

He continues to drive the farm forward with the same commitment to quality and sustainability. Today, the farm spans over 300 hectares, produces more than 60 tonnes of leaves each week, and employs over 160 staff.

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**11:45 – 12:30 | KEYNOTE PRESENTATION – CHRISTIAN MAJGAARD,
FORMER MEMBER OF GLOBAL TOP MANAGEMENT TEAM AT LEGO**

Christian Majgaard worked for Lego, a now 4th generation family business, for 25 years.

He is a former head of global brand and business development and was a member of Lego's top global management team.

In addition to Lego, Christian has worked as a consultant and board member with many European family led companies.

Now in his "3rd career" Christian will be sharing his leadership experience with family businesses, which includes pioneering LEGO's brand and businesses innovation.



12:30 – 1 PM | OPEN FLOOR – Q&A SESSION

An open Q&A session offering the chance to ask candid questions, share challenges, and gain practical insights from experienced family business leaders in a safe space.



1 PM LUNCH AND NETWORKING

Who Should Attend?

- Founders & owners of family-run businesses
- Next-gen leaders & successors
- Senior leadership teams, whether family or non family working in the business. The event would be particularly relevant to finance, marketing and HR leaders

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Why This Event Is Just for Family Businesses

This isn't just another business conference. It's a gathering of people who understand the unique experience of building, running, and sustaining a family business – the pride, the pressure, the legacy, and the late-night conversations around the kitchen table.

We've chosen to keep this event exclusively for family-owned businesses because the challenges and triumphs you face are different. From succession planning and sibling dynamics to shared values and long-term thinking, no one gets it quite like another family in business.

This is a space where:

- Stories don't need explaining – because others live them too
- Conversations go deeper – because trust comes easier in shared experience
- Advice feels relevant – because it comes from those walking a similar path
- Success looks familiar – because it's rooted in purpose, people, and passing it on

By keeping this event just for family businesses, we create space for honest dialogue, connection, and mutual support. Whether you're a founder, a next-gen leader, or somewhere in between, this is your room. This is your community.

We're here to celebrate 10 years of shared stories – and look ahead to generations more.

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Book Your Place

All tickets include access to all sessions, networking opportunities, refreshments throughout the day, and lunch. Spaces are limited and this event is open exclusively to family businesses – so early booking is recommended.

Individual tickets are £95 each.

Group tickets (more than 4 from the same firm) are £75 each



RESERVE YOUR PLACE NOW

**JOIN US AS WE
CELEBRATE 10 YEARS OF
STORIES, CONNECTION,
AND IMPACT.**

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