

18th September 2012

EBS announces extension to the availability of rates on savings accounts up until October 1st

- EBS Offices opening late every Thursday throughout September
- Free Financial Reviews Available in EBS Offices Across the Country
- EBS to exhibit at this years Ploughing Championships

18th September 2012 – EBS today announced that they will be extending the availability of rates on their savings accounts up until the 1st October. The accounts were launched to coincide with National Savings Week which took place between the 3rd and 8th of September and saw people all over the country revaluate their financial situations.

As part of National Savings Week EBS offices around the country opened their doors late on Thursday evening and some offices held family day activities on Saturday to encourage people with families and busy work schedules to avail of the extra opening hours to review their savings plans. Throughout September EBS offices will continue to open their doors till 7pm each Thursday evening for people to avail of the late opening hours and review their savings plans with a free financial review. The EBS team will also attend this year's National Ploughing Championships to talk to attendees about the best savings plan to suit their needs.

Speaking today, Savings Manager with EBS, Richard Kissane, said: "National Savings Week has shown that people are increasingly aware of the need to save, and are more conscious of their spending patterns. Over the past week people have been contacting their local offices to arrange a financial review to review their savings plans. It was encouraging to see that so many people have a focus on savings. People are saving for a range of circumstances from holidays, their children's education to their weddings. I hope that everyone will continue to save in the year ahead. A dedicated savings plan can give savers better control over their finances and I would encourage members of the public to avail of the options open to them by dropping into one of our EBS offices to avail of a free financial review."

Research released by EBS as part of National Savings Week showed that the savings ethos remains strong in this country with the proportion of adults claiming to save when they can, increasing by 5% from 47% to 52%. Half of those polled said that, while they have savings, they do not have a regular savings product or plan. However, those that have a regular saving plan save on average 60% more than those without a dedicated saving product. Regular savers save an average of \in 4,733 per year, whereas the figure for ad hoc savers is \notin 2,946.

For any queries on savings products please call into your local <u>EBS office</u> or log onto <u>www.ebs.ie</u>. Also for those looking to understand how to manage a budget or to start their savings plan they can log onto the website run by EBS and the National Adult Literacy Agency at <u>www.makingcents.ie</u>. By clicking on the 'Managing Your Money' tab you'll be brought to a series of videos focused around the topic.