



## **NEWS RELEASE issued on behalf of Punch**

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### **Manchester bar makes finals of prestigious awards**

A renowned Manchester Irish bar has become one of a handful of pubs from throughout the country to make it through to the finals of a prestigious award scheme.

O' Shea's on Princess Street is one of just six pubs nationally, and the only one in the North of England, to make it through to the finals of the Great British Pub Awards in the *Best Live Entertainment Pub* category.

O'Shea's successfully made it through to the final after two rounds of vigorous judging. The bar will now be personally inspected by judges before the winner is announced on Thursday 7 September during a ceremony at the London Hilton on Park Lane.

General Manager Paul Mackey, who operates the bar with partner Dominic Winters, said: "We are thrilled to have got this far and are looking forward to showing the judges what makes O'Shea's so special.

"We have built a reputation for delivering fine Irish music and a warm Irish menu for more than 20 years and this accolade is great recognition for all of the hard work that the team here has put in."

Earlier this year O'Shea's underwent a major £250,000 investment in partnership with pub operator, Punch. Its re-opening coincided with The Manchester Irish Festival and St Patrick's Day, when the bar ran live entertainment from 12 noon until 2am with three bands and a performance of Irish dancing.

The venue has built a reputation around delivering live Irish music and has hosted performances from bands such as The Pogues, Bagatelle and Stockton's Wing, as well as local Irish Mancunian groups. Judges were particularly impressed with the fact that O'Shea's hosts four live music nights each week as well as its participation in the city's *Indie Week* last October when it played host to Project ATX6 - a collection of musicians from Austin, Texas.

Partnership Development Manager for Punch, Jon Harris, said: "The Great British Pub Awards is well known for having one of the most rigorous judging processes in the pub

sector. Only the very best bars and pubs in the country get through to the final and I congratulate Paul and his team on this great achievement.”

**Ends**

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