

KASPress Ireland



News Summary

24.12.15 – 30.12.15

Welcome to **KASPress Ireland**, our weekly summary of relevant and interesting news from the Irish press.

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Politics

- Taoiseach Enda Kenny is likely to make history next year by becoming the first Fine Gael taoiseach in the history of the State to win re-election, The Irish Times 'Inside Politics' podcast has been told.
- Taoiseach Enda Kenny has backtracked on a promise to deliver full employment by 2018, pushing the target date back by two years.
- Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform Brendan Howlin has said Labour must achieve a "critical mass" of deputies to re-enter government but stressed he believed the party would achieve such a level.
- Minister for Education Jan O'Sullivan has called for new laws to ensure denominational schools set aside places for local children who are not baptised.
- Frank Flannery, former Fine Gael chief strategy guru and a close confidant of Taoiseach Enda Kenny, believes the party is on course for an overall majority.
- Taoiseach Enda Kenny has said he intends to have equal numbers of men and women in his next cabinet if he retains power.
- Republican terror groups are capable of carrying out "one-off" attacks on the British mainland, the UK Government has warned, and are sufficiently armed to pose an "enduring threat".

- Fine Gael is in a race against time to find two more female candidates to run in the general election after the party was forced to allow sitting TD John Perry the chance to defend his Dáil seat.
- Sinn Féin has decided to campaign for the United Kingdom to remain a member of the European Union because it fears a British exit could further divide the island of Ireland.
- Minister for Health Leo Varadkar has said he is committed to outlawing the sale of cheap alcohol. The minister will press ahead with the legislation for minimum unit pricing which has already come before the Seanad.

Economy

- Thousands of fathers could be forced to forgo the new paid paternity leave entitlements being introduced next year after employers warned employees they will not be paid by them while off work.
- Ireland will be a net contributor to the EU budget within the next five years according to Fine Gael's MEP for Dublin Brian Hayes.
- Fianna Fáil will promise every citizen of the country a minimum welfare income in excess of current basic welfare rates which average €188 per week.
- Minister of State Simon Harris has described calls for a new benchmarking process as "extraordinarily premature". Senior civil servants have been demanding a new process in 2016 to bridge what they describe as a pay gap between private and public sectors.
- Property prices in Ireland dropped by half a per cent in November, the first decrease since last February, according to the Central Statistics Office.

Society

- 3,800 homes and businesses are without power on Wednesday morning after Storm Frank lashed the country over night. The areas affected are the south-west, south-east and north-west coastal areas.
- Muslims in Dublin have formed a new group to encourage the community to become more politically active and to ensure greater engagement with politicians.

- Prince Charles has donated £2,000 (€2,700) to a Catholic Church at the centre of bitter marching disputes involving Protestant loyal orders in Northern Ireland.
- More than 350 volunteers helped serve Christmas dinners and deliver food to those in need for the 91st Annual Knights of St Columbanus Christmas Day dinner in Dublin.

Headlines

- [30.12.15] [Inside Politics: Enda Kenny on course to make history for FG](#) [Irish Times]
- [30.12.15] [Taoiseach backtracks on plan for full employment](#) [Irish Independent]
- [30.12.15] [Fathers may be forced to forgo paternity leave as some employers warn they won't pay](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [29.12.15] [Thousands without power as Storm Frank batters Ireland](#) [Irish Independent]
- [29.12.15] [Ireland to become net contributor to EU budget: Brian Hayes](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [28.12.15] [Labour will not re-enter coalition 'at all costs'](#) [Irish Times]
- [28.12.15] [Fianna Fáil to promise every citizen €188 every week](#) [Irish Independent]
- [28.12.15] [Minister calls for new laws for unbaptised pupils](#) [Irish Times]
- [28.12.15] [New Muslim group in Dublin to encourage engagement with politics](#) [Irish Times]
- [28.12.15] [Prince Charles gives €2,700 donation to Catholic Church at centre of marching disputes in Belfast](#) [Irish Independent]
- [27.12.15] [Harris squashes public sector pay rise pleas](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [27.12.15] [Fine Gael on course for majority – Flannery](#) [Irish Independent]
- [26.12.15] [Taoiseach wants equal number of men and women in next cabinet](#) [Irish Times]
- [26.12.15] [Real IRA could launch one-off attacks on Britain, UK ministers warned](#) [Irish Independent]
- [25.12.15] [Hundreds fed by charity at Christmas Day dinner](#) [Irish Times]
- [24.12.15] [House prices in Ireland drop for first time since February](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [24.12.15] [Varadkar to press ahead with ban on cheap alcohol](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [24.12.15] [Fine Gael in race to add two female candidates to run in general election](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [24.12.15] [Sinn Féin to campaign against Brexit in EU referendum](#) [Irish Times]