

## KASPress Ireland



### News Summary

**18.03.16 – 24.03.16**

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

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### Top Story

**Acting Taoiseach Enda Kenny has expressed his deep sympathy to the victims of the Brussels bomb attacks and the victims of the drowning tragedy at Buncrana Pier, Co Donegal last Sunday.**

### Politics

- Five rural TD's believe that they have "called the bluff" of both Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil to become kingmakers in the new Dáil.
- The Lord Mayor of Cork, Cllr Chris O'Leary, on Wednesday opened a book of condolences at Cork City Hall for the victims of the Brussels terrorist attacks.
- Caretaker taoiseach Enda Kenny will try to freeze out Fianna Fáil by cutting deals with 22 opposition TDs and convincing Labour to abstain from the April 6 Taoiseach nomination vote.
- The National Security Committee met on Tuesday afternoon to assess the risk to Ireland in the wake of the Brussels terror attacks.
- Fine Gael negotiators have ruled out opening any talks with Fianna Fáil on government formation options until at least next month as the party focuses on maximising support for a vote for Enda Kenny as Taoiseach.

- The Social Democrats party says it could support a minority government on a case-by-case basis, despite last week ruling themselves out of serving in coalition.
- Denis Naughten, the de facto leader of the group of rural Independents Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil which are seeking to woo, has accused the two parties of acting irresponsibly.
- Northern Ireland's Justice Minister David Ford has refused an invitation from the Irish Government to attend an event to mark the 1916 Easter Rising centenary.
- Taoiseach Enda Kenny's "poor media performances" during the election campaign and the centralised powers of his close advisory team will form part of an independent review of Fine Gael's disappointing election result, conducted by Dr Marion Coy, who heads the Fine Gael-linked think-tank, the Michael Collins Institute.
- Ireland had the third highest rejection rate of asylum seekers in the EU between 2008 and 2015, EU figures show.
- Acting Taoiseach Enda Kenny is to offer Independents and smaller parties a five-year deal that will remain in force even if he leaves office, in a bid to win their support for a minority Fine Gael government.
- As EU leaders struggled to reach an agreement with Turkey on the migrant crisis as President Michael D Higgins warned that failure to respond would be "catastrophic".
- Acting Taoiseach Enda Kenny has described talks with the Green Party about the formation of a minority government as "very constructive".

## Economy

- Ireland has the fastest decreasing government debt in the euro zone, according to new analysis from Bloomberg.
- Republican candidate Donald Trump has said that countries like Ireland and Mexico are "outsmarting" the US by giving multinationals incentives to relocate their businesses there. He cited the example of pharmaceutical giant, Pfizer, who recently decided to relocate their corporate headquarters to Dublin.
- Ireland's largest companies are beginning to feel the effect of Britain's debate over whether to remain in the European Union, and it may be a taste of what's to come for the rest of the nation.
- The Irish food industry will continue to oppose any attempts to introduce a sugar tax such as the one planned for Britain in 2018.

- Central London's property market could be overheating, according to the UK boss of Bank of Ireland, making him cautious on lending against the most expensive homes in the capital.

## Society

- Noel Duggan, friend of Gerry 'The Monk' Hutch was gunned down on Tuesday evening – the latest incident in the escalating blood feud between two of Ireland's most powerful gangs.
- Hundreds of people are expected to attend a special vigil in memory of the victims of last Sunday's drowning at Buncrana Pier, Co Donegal.
- Second-level principals say ongoing staffing cuts in their schools are hitting mental health supports for students.
- Five Irish citizens — three of them children — have flown out of Turkey after being caught up in the Islamic State (IS) terror attack in Istanbul, which claimed four lives.
- Dáil Éireann should enact emergency legislation to prevent the eviction of families from properties owned by vulture capital funds, the Lord Mayor of Cork, Cllr Chris O'Leary urged.
- Agents in Cork, Limerick, Galway and Waterford say that the lack of housing supply is starting to push up rents for tenants.
- Anti-water charge campaigners protested outside the Fianna Fáil leader, Micheál Martin's, constituency office on Saturday in the first of a series of protests designed to hold politicians to account on their pre-election promises.
- Train drivers are seeking a pay increase of up to 25pc following a proposed pay hike for Luas drivers.

## **Headlines**

- [24.03.2016] [Rural Fine 'call FG and FF bluff' in effort to become kingmakers](#) [Irish Independent]
- [24.03.2016] [Locals' shock after 'Kingsize' is shot dead outside his home](#) [Irish Independent]
- [24.03.2016] [State's debt is falling at fastest rate in the euro zone](#) [Irish Times]
- [24.03.2016] [Donald Trump calls out Ireland for taking US jobs](#) [Irish Times]
- [23.03.2016] [Buncrana tragedy: Vigil will be held for victims](#) [Irish Times]
- [23.03.2016] [Taoiseach in move to cut deals with 22 non-party TDs](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [23.03.2016] [Ireland feeling the first Brexit chills as exporters pounded by slump in sterling](#) [Irish Independent]
- [23.03.2016] [Staff cuts hurting mental health aid to students](#) [Irish Independent]
- [23.03.2016] [Book of condolences for Brussels attacks victims opens in Cork](#) [Irish Times]
- [22.03.2016] [Consular hotline set up for concerned relatives as Dáil marks minute's silence](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [22.03.2016] [Taoiseach: National Security Committee to meet today \[...\]](#) [Irish Independent]
- [22.03.2016] [Fine Gael rules out talks with Fianna Fáil prior to taoiseach vote](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [22.03.2016] [Social Democrats alter stance on coalition support](#) [Irish Times]
- [21.03.2016] [Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil accused of acting irresponsibly](#) [Irish Times]
- [21.03.2016] [Election review to include Taoiseach's media role and his office structures](#) [Irish Independent]
- [21.03.2016] [NI minister refuses invite to 1916 State commemoration](#) [Irish Independent]
- [21.03.2016] [Irish family flee Turkey after IS suicide bomb attack](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [20.03.2016] [Rental squeeze begins to spread nationwide](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [20.03.2016] [Call for legislation to prevent evictions by vulture funds](#) [Irish Times]
- [20.03.2016] [Ireland third in the EU for rate of asylum seeker rejections](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [19.03.2016] [Fine Gael to offer Independents five-year deal for government](#) [Irish Times]
- [19.03.2016] [Anti-water charge campaigners to protest Micheál Martin's constituency office](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [18.03.2016] [Europe struggles to make migrant deal as President Higgins warns \[...\]](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [18.03.2016] [Kenny meets Greens for 'straightforward' talks](#) [Irish Times]
- [18.03.2016] [Irish food industry to oppose attempts to introduce sugar tax](#) [Irish Times]
- [18.03.2016] [Bank of Ireland fears London's housing market is overheating](#) [Daily Telegraph]
- [18.03.2016] [Train drivers seeking pay rises of up to 25pc following proposed Luas pay hikes](#) [Irish Independent]

### **Newspaper (average daily net circulation/political stance - February 2015)**

**Irish Independent** (circulation: 112,383) politically populist; Conservative

**Irish Times** (circulation: 76,194) politically Liberal/Progressive; centre-right on economic issues

**Irish Examiner** (circulation: 33, 198) politically Centrist

**Sunday Business Post** (circulation: 32, 498) politically Liberal