

# KASPress Ireland



## News Summary

27.05.16 – 02.06.16

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

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

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## Top Story

**President Michael D Higgins would attract “cross-party” support if he decides to seek a second seven-year term in Áras an Uachtaráin, Fine Gael Minister Leo Varadkar has said. To read more on this story, [click here](#).**

## Politics

The Government has sought the Attorney General's advice on suspending water charges amid warnings that scrapping the bills would breach EU laws. To read more on Irish Water, [click here](#).

The Labour Party has claimed the first casualty of the new Government has been workers' rights. Brendan Howlin last night proposed a motion in the Dáil that would result in a series of new protections for workers. To read more on the Labour leader's proposals, [click here](#).

A new Garda task force to fight organised crime has been announced by the Government in response to the recent spate of gangland killings. The Cabinet has also agreed to strengthen the powers of the Criminal Assets Bureau (CAB) in an effort to clamp down on drug dealers. To read more on this new development, [click here](#).

Border controls between the island of Ireland and Britain are inevitable if there is a Brexit, according to official sources on both sides of the Irish Sea. A strict new regime for travel between the two islands is already under consideration if the UK votes next month to leave the European Union. To read more on Ireland and Brexit, [click here](#).

Irish republican socialist group Éirígí has started erecting Vote Leave posters in the North urging voters to support Britain and Northern Ireland exiting the European Union on June 23rd. To read more on this story, [click here](#). [

Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil are neck-and-neck in their level of public support, according to the latest Red C poll. Both parties hold 26 per cent of public support, marking a one point rise for Fianna Fáil and a one point drop for Fine Gael since the last Red C poll held two weeks after the general election. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Renua Ireland is to undergo a radical rebrand as part of a move to reposition the party on the political spectrum after Lucinda Creighton stepped down as leader. To read more on the future of Renua, [click here](#).

Taoiseach Enda Kenny has relinquished three of his Seanad nominees to Fianna Fáil as part of a special deal with Micheál Martin. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

A proposed increase in college and university fees to €4,000 per year will not be enough to solve the funding shortfall in the third level sector and student contributions should be raised even further, an official briefing document prepared by officials for Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform Paschal Donohoe, has said. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Labour Party leader Brendan Howlin has called a meeting of councillors and former candidates this weekend. On Saturday Mr Howlin met those who stood in the general election. This was followed by a meeting of the elected councillors. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today announced the appointment of Major General Michael Beary as the Head of Mission and Force Commander of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). To read more on this story, [click here](#).

## Economy

The latest figures from the Central Statistics Office show that there were 309,200 people on the Live Register in May, a drop of 3,600 from the previous month. The figure is adjusted to take seasonal variations into account. To read more on the latest Irish employment figure, [click here](#).

Accountancy firm EY has announced plans to create 270 jobs in Dublin, Cork, Limerick, Waterford and Galway. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The KBC/ESRI consumer sentiment index for May showed the third monthly decline in the past four months. The index fell to 98.1 in May from 102.7 in April and the weakest reading since March 2015. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The unemployment rate fell to an eight-year low of 7.8 per cent in May from 7.9 per cent in April and 9.6 per cent a year ago, the Central Statistics Office said. To read more on the Irish economy, [click here](#).

The number of arrivals and departures through Irish airports soared to almost 30m last year, although Cork and Knock actually had a drop in passenger numbers. Figures issued by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) showed a national increase of 12.5% over the previous year in passenger numbers using the airports, with the number of departing passengers marginally exceeding those arriving for the main airports in 2015. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The Government will slash the rate of Capital Gains Tax (CGT) for new start-ups to 10pc from next year, bringing the environment more in line with the UK. To read more on this story, [click here](#). [

Ireland is the seventh most competitive economy in the world, according to the IMD World Competitiveness Centre research group, whose ranking has been published every year since 1989. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Amazon is to create 500 new jobs at its European hub in Dublin over the next two years. To read more on this, [click here](#).

Some 1,200 Dublin Airport Authority (DAA) staff are set for a €7 million bonus this year after the company promised it would fully restore their pay to pre-recession levels. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Retail sales rose by 0.8 per cent in April as consumers splashed out on electrical goods and home décor. The latest figures from the Central Statistics Office (CSO) indicate retail sales have risen by 5.1 per cent year-on-year. To read more on Irish retail sales, [click here](#).

## Society

Almost a thousand high priority cases involving potentially at risk children were not assigned a social worker by the end of 2015, a new report has revealed. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Refugees' difficulties integrating into Irish society are compounded by obstacles they face accessing the labour market, a report from the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) says. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Treatment for drug addiction continues to rise in Ireland, with a significant increase in new cases involving cannabis, tranquillisers, and cocaine. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Talks between management and unions at Oberstown youth detention centre will go ahead on Wednesday in an attempt to resolve an industrial dispute over safety issues. To read more on this ongoing industrial dispute, [click here](#).

Luas strikes on Thursday and Friday are set to be called off as drivers ballot on a pay rise up to 18.3 per cent by 2020. The thirteenth and fourteenth days of strikes at the light rail network were due to take place later this week. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

A special drugs group in the HSE is expected to meet on Wednesday to consider funding for two new cancer medicines. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Some patients who are too sick or injured to leave their trolley in hospital emergency departments are suffering thirst and possible dehydration because staff are failing to bring them a glass of water. [Click here](#) to read more on this story.

Labour Relations Commission chairman Kieran Mulvey is to be drafted in to mediate a dispute between St Vincent's Hospital and The National Maternity Hospital. [Click here](#) to read more on this story.

## Headlines

- [02.06.2016] [AG examining if suspending water bills would breach EU law](#) [Irish Independent]
- [02.06.2016] [Number signing on down another 3,600 in May](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [02.06.2016] [No social worker for thousands of child protection cases](#) [Irish Times]
- [01.06.2016] [Higgins would have 'cross-party' support for second term](#) [Irish Times]
- [01.06.2016] [Law change sought to protect workers](#) [Irish Independent]
- [01.06.2016] [Accountancy firm EY to create 270 new jobs](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [01.06.2016] [Refugees face specific employment obstacles, says ESRI](#) [Irish Times]
- [01.06.2016] [Cases of drug addiction treatment continue to rise](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [31.05.2016] [Garda task force set up to fight crime in wake of gang murders](#) [Irish Times]
- [31.05.2016] [Irish consumers show nervousness as macro picture grows more uncertain](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [31.05.2016] [Jobless rate falls to 7.8% in May](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [31.06.2016] [Airport traveller numbers soar to hit 30m but Cork suffers decline for third year](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [31.05.2016] [Oberstown youth detention centre talks geared to end dispute](#) [Irish Times]
- [30.05.2016] [Border controls on Irish entering Britain 'inevitable' post-Brexit](#) [Irish Times]
- [30.05.2016] [Éiríú backs Brexit with Northern Ireland poster campaign](#) [Irish Times]
- [30.05.2016] [Ireland makes top ten in competitiveness rankings](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [30.05.2016] [Amazon to create 500 new jobs in Dublin](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [30.05.2016] [Irish start-ups to get UK-style tax regime](#) [Irish Independent]
- [30.05.2016] [Luas strikes on Thursday and Friday set to be called off](#) [Irish Independent]
- [29.05.2016] [Fianna Dáil and Fine Gael both at 26% in latest Red C poll](#) [Irish Times]
- [29.05.2016] [Renua after Lucinda set for radical rebranding](#) [Irish Independent]
- [29.05.2016] [HSE group to consider funding for two new life-saving cancer drugs](#) [Irish Independent]
- [28.05.2016] [Enda Kenny relinquishes three Seanad nominees to Fianna Fáil](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [28.05.2018] [Call for third-level students to pay more than €4,000 a year](#) [Irish Times]
- [28.05.2016] [Patients on trolleys left at risk of dehydration](#) [Irish Independent]
- [27.05.2016] [DAA workers to receive €7 million bonus from scheme to restore pay to pre-recession levels](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [27.05.2016] [Howlin calls meeting of Labour candidates and councillors](#) [Irish Times]
- [27.05.2016] [Irish officer appointed head of UN mission in Lebanon](#) [Irish Independent]
- [27.05.2016] [Retail sales rise as consumers splash out on electrical goods](#) [Irish Times]
- [27.05.2016] [Labour Relations Commission head to chair maternity hospital row talks](#) [Irish Examiner]

### 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