

KASPress Ireland



News Summary

13.01.16 – 19.01.17

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

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

London Office

Top Story

British Prime Minister Theresa May's pledge to maintain a Common Travel Area with Ireland once Britain leaves the EU has been thrown in doubt by senior Irish Government ministers and key figures in Brussels. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Politics

British Prime Minister Theresa May has been invited to make a historic address to the Dáil during her state visit to Ireland later this month. An official invitation was sent by the Department of the Taoiseach to Number 10 Downing Street yesterday afternoon. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The statement on Brexit by British Prime Minister Theresa May has brought “clarity in a number of areas”, the Taoiseach has said. Enda Kenny told the Dáil that Theresa May’s statement was the start of the process of the United Kingdom leaving the European Union. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Taoiseach Enda Kenny has rejected opposition claims he has “no plan” to cope with the escalating Brexit fallout amid growing concerns about the free movement of goods and services between north and south. The Taoiseach insisted his Government remains in control of what is happening and accused opponents of a “blame everybody else” approach after being told he has “sat on his hands” throughout the crisis. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The Government has been urged to give thousands of businesses special funding after Britain confirmed ‘hard Brexit’ plans that could cause widespread job losses across Ireland. Opposition parties urged the protectionist move on Tuesday evening amid fears thousands of jobs are at stake after British Prime Minister Theresa May revealed some details of her Brexit plans. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Minister for Foreign Affairs Charlie Flanagan has warned against a “scorched earth” approach to campaigning in the Northern Ireland Assembly elections. He said Northern Ireland’s parties had to be mindful of their responsibility to re-establish the devolved institutions after polling day. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Taoiseach Enda Kenny has been urged to boycott the traditional St Patrick’s Day ceremony at the White House in protest against Donald Trump’s policies. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Fianna Fáil TD Dara Calleary says he is sceptical that Public Expenditure Minister Paschal Donohoe will achieve a 50:50 gender split in job appointments at the top of the civil service. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

More than half of Ireland’s households could still face domestic water charges if the expert commission’s recommendations are implemented, an Oireachtas committee has heard. The expert commission has proposed the State allow each household a free daily allowance and estimated it could be in the region of 123 litres per person per day. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

An election in Northern Ireland could clash with Brexit negotiations, Taoiseach Enda Kenny has warned. Calling on all sides in the North to engage in talks, Enda Kenny raised concerns that a general election would take place at the same time as UK Prime Minister Theresa May begins the process of Britain leaving the EU. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Economy

The head of the Irish employers' group Ibec has predicted that the UK will not be able to strike a trade deal with the EU in light of the priorities laid out this week by British Prime Minister Theresa May in her Brexit speech. This opens up the prospect of the UK switching to World Trade Organisation tariffs, which would result in significant costs being incurred by Irish exporters. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

New figures released today by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) show that new Irish housing supply continues to increase at a fast pace from a low level. There were 13,376 completions in the first 11 months of 2016 with the monthly total of 1,579 in November, the highest since December 2009. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

It's still "too soon" for Ryanair to make any decisions about its presence in the UK following last June's Brexit vote, according to the airline's chief financial officer, Neil Sorahan. But he said that despite announcing an expansion at Stansted Airport last week, Ryanair could reduce feed at some smaller airports in the UK or not grow as quickly there as it might otherwise have done. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

AIB is tipped to pay a €285m dividend within months, its first since the crash. Almost all of the money will go to the State. The money is in addition to an anticipated €3bn the State will raise by reducing its stake in the bank from more than 99.9pc through a stock market flotation. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

A hard Brexit would be a "double-edged sword" for Ireland according to Goodbody Stockbrokers. They warn that the impact will be dependent on both location and sector. Goodbody believe the return of customs controls will bring about significant trade frictions for Irish exporters, particularly affecting the agri-food sector. On the other hand, Goodbody claim there is now an increasing probability that financial firms will need to relocate their businesses in an EU country and this is an opportunity for Ireland, particularly Dublin. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Ireland's central bank has had over 100 inquiries from UK financial firms considering moving operations as a result of Britain's vote to leave the European Union, Finance Minister Michael Noonan said on Tuesday. "The Central Bank has had in excess of 100 inquiries from the City of London from people who are anxious to find out what the regulatory regime would be here if they were to move activity," Noonan told parliament. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Taoiseach Enda Kenny will meet a host of top business leaders at the World Economic Forum in Davos in a bid to lure more jobs to Ireland. The meetings include one with the chief executive of Lloyd's of London. The world's largest speciality insurance market is actively examining Dublin as an option for its European base in the wake of Brexit. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Irish business group Ibec has said it is "deeply concerned" at the increasingly hard line position of the British government on Brexit following Prime Minister Theresa May's speech this week. The organisation has warned that a departure from the customs union could seriously damage economic relations between Ireland and the UK. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The Irish Stock Exchange (ISE) has published its report for 2016, showing equity trading reached record levels last year while the number of securities listed on the exchange's markets grew to more than 35,000. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The latest figures from the Central Statistics Office (CSO) shows that exports were up 11% year-on-year in November, leaving the trade surplus at €4bn. CSO goods trade data show a 3.9% fall in export volumes in November but still up 11% year-on-year. This follows a sharp 7.2% monthly gain in October. To read more on the latest Irish export figures, [click here](#).

According to the 2017 Bloomberg Innovation Index, which scores economies using factors including research and development spending and the concentration of high-tech public companies, Ireland is the 17th most innovative country in the world, one place lower than last year. To read more on the Bloomberg Innovation Index, [click here](#).

According to a new report from the World Economic Forum, 'WEF Inclusive Growth and Development', Ireland places 12th out of 30 advanced economies for inclusive development, ahead of Germany (13); France (18); and the UK (21). To read more on this report, [click here](#).

Ireland should be granted an exemption from European Union state-aid rules to provide financial support to food and drink firms adversely affected by Brexit, Ibec has said. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Dublin risks developing a two-tier commercial property market with multinationals in the desirable city centre and indigenous businesses increasingly pushed to the margins, one of Ireland's biggest estate agents has warned. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Ireland is at risk of being thrown into the middle of a damaging "trade war" between the UK and the EU after Britain threatened to slash its corporate tax rate and seek a hard Brexit split from Europe. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Fitch, one of the world's three leading credit rating firms, stuck to its A rating on Ireland on Friday evening, saying while economy and State's finances are rapidly improving, risks surrounding Brexit and global policies on tax remain. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Society

There has been a broad welcome for a new system for allocating extra teachers to schools for children with special educational needs, but with a warning that it would have to be backed up by resources. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

A new deal on home care, to allow the elderly and disabled people stay in their own homes for as long as possible has been promised by the Government. It follows growing demands for more financial assistance from the State to provide home care packages as a statutory right and alternative to a place in a nursing home. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Almost 70 per cent of Travellers live in caravans or overcrowded housing, just 1 per cent has a college degree, 82 per cent are unemployed and their health worsens more dramatically than non-Travellers as they age. These are among the findings in a landmark study of the Traveller community, published this morning by the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI). To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Catholic bishops have been working on a compromise to the controversy over who gets priority admission to their schools. The proposal involves giving first choice to Catholic children within the local area, and second choice to children of a different, or no, faith within the area, ahead of Catholic children from elsewhere. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

More than 37,000 hospital operations were cancelled last year, almost 13,000 more than the figure recorded the previous year. The figures were released by the HSE to Fianna Fáil's health spokesperson, Billy Kelleher, who has "serious concerns" about hospitals being able to provide the necessary care and services. There were some 24,571 cancellations in 2015 and 37,491 last year, a 52% year-on-year increase. To read more on this story, [click here](#). [

The Archbishop of Armagh is leading an almost 30-strong Irish delegation on a visit to Rome. Over the next 10 days, there will be an exchange of views between the visiting bishops and the heads of nearly all the major departments of the Roman curia. The high point of the visit will come on Friday when the pope receives the Irish delegation in audience. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The Irish Refugee Council says the public's response to refugees has been quite positive, with various offers of support. The support came after it was announced that Ballaghaderreen, Co Roscommon will welcome 82 Syrian refugees in early March. The group is comprised of families, which includes 37 children. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

If members reject the latest proposals on pay and junior cycle reform, industrial action is back on the agenda, according to the president of the secondary teachers' union, Ed Byrne. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Headlines

- [19.01.2017] [Enda Kenny invites Theresa May to make historic Dáil address on visit](#) [Irish Independent]
- [19.01.2017] [Ibec chief predicts that UK and EU will not agree Brexit trade deal](#) [Irish Times]
- [19.01.2017] [Taoiseach rejects criticism by Sinn Fein over Brexit](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [19.01.2017] [Irish housing starts accelerating](#) [Business World]
- [19.01.2017] [AIB tipped to pay €285m dividend to the State – its first since the crash](#) [Irish Independent]
- [19.01.2017] [“Too soon” for Ryanair to make any decisions about its presence in UK after Brexit](#) [Irish Independent]
- [19.01.2017] [Schools to get extra teachers for pupils with special needs](#) [Irish Independent]
- [18.01.2017] [Brexit open border plan is “an illusion” and “unrealistic” – say key figures](#) [Irish Independent]
- [18.01.2017] [Fears for jobs as ‘hard Brexit’ looms](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [18.01.2017] [Hard Brexit will be a double edged sword for Ireland warns Goodbody](#) [Business World]
- [18.01.2017] [Ireland has fielded over 100 inquiries from UK financial firms](#) [Business World]
- [18.01.2017] [Taoiseach meets top bosses in bid to lure jobs](#) [Irish Independent]
- [18.01.2017] [Promised deal will see elderly cared for in their homes](#) [Irish Independent]
- [17.01.2017] [May’s Brexit speech brings ‘clarity in number of areas’, Kenny says](#) [Irish Times]
- [17.01.2017] [North’s parties warned against ‘scorched earth’ election campaign](#) [Irish Times]
- [17.01.2017] [Irish business “deeply concerned” at May’s hard Brexit](#) [Sunday Business Post] [Paywall]
- [17.01.2017] [Key points from the Irish Stock Exchange’s annual review](#) [Sunday Business Post] [Paywall]
- [17.01.2017] [Ireland is less innovative than it was last year – Bloomberg index](#) [Irish Times]
- [17.01.2017] [Bishops try to find new compromise in ‘baptism barrier’ row](#) [Irish Independent]
- [17.01.2017] [Travellers suffer ‘extreme disadvantage’, report shows](#) [Irish Times]
- [17.01.2017] [More than 37,000 hospital ops cancelled last year](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [16.01.2017] [Enda Kenny urged to boycott St Patrick’s Day Trump meeting](#) [Irish Times]
- [16.01.2017] [Ireland is better than France, Germany, UK for pay and living standards](#) [Irish Times]
- [16.01.2017] [Ibec: Ireland should get exemption from state aid rules](#) [Irish Times]
- [16.01.2017] [Commercial rent hike threatens to push Irish firms out of capital’s centre – Linsey](#) [Irish Independent]
- [16.01.2017] [UK-EU trade war may hit Irish recovery](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [15.01.2017] [Irish bishops to meet Pope Francis on 10-day visit to Vatican](#) [Irish Times]
- [14.01.2017] [Irish Refugee Council praises offers of support from the public](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [13.01.2017] [Over half of households could still face water charges](#) [Irish Times]
- [13.01.2017] [North election may clash with Brexit talks, Taoiseach Enda Kenny warns](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [13.01.2017] [Fitch leaves Irish rating untouched, warns of Brexit risk](#) [Irish Times]
- [13.01.2017] [Union: ‘No’ vote on pay deal may lead to more school closures](#) [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