

KASPress Ireland



News Summary

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

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Top Story

Taoiseach Enda Kenny and British Prime Minister Theresa May have pledged to seek to avoid a hard border in Ireland, though both leaders spoke of the difficulties ahead as Britain prepares to exit the European Union. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Politics

Tánaiste Frances Fitzgerald has warned Fianna Fáil sustained criticism of the Government on Brexit could damage Ireland's international reputation.

"To continue to talk about lack of preparation, really, I think from a reputational point of view, as far as Ireland is concerned, I don't believe that is the approach the main opposition party should be taking," she said. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Prime Minister Theresa May's promises of a frictionless Border are "nice words", the former head of the European Commission's customs procedures has told MPs. Michael Lux told the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee that customs controls on the Border will be unavoidable if the United Kingdom leaves the EU customs union after Brexit. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The Taoiseach has said he will raise Donald Trump's travel ban when he visits the White House on St Patrick's Day. Enda Kenny said he would not write to the president in advance, "because I intend to visit him in the Oval Office and say my piece publicly, both before and then. I think president Trump is well used to disagreements and, obviously, is going to have many more in the times ahead." To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The British government has not yet defined exactly whether it wants full, associate or non-membership of the customs union and that will be crucial when Brexit negotiations start, Taoiseach Enda Kenny has said. The Taoiseach said "if we want a seamless, friction-free, trouble-free Border, that is the crucial area to be negotiated". To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The Irish Lobby for Immigration Reform in the US is urging the country's 50,000 undocumented Irish not to panic about President Trump's clampdown on immigration — as it will only impact undocumented immigrants with serious criminal records. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The European Commission will take infringement proceedings against Ireland due to dangerous levels of chemicals found in drinking water.

The commission wrote to the Department of Housing this month confirming that a pilot case it had initiated into the level of trihalomethanes (THMs) in the water system has been closed. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Taoiseach Enda Kenny is to ignore calls to forgo the annual St Patrick's Day visit to Washington DC following a weekend in which politicians around the globe denounced the actions of US president Donald Trump. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Minister for Social Protection Leo Varadkar has pledged full support for Fine Gael leader Enda Kenny and declined to say whether the Taoiseach should stand down from the role this year.

Mr Varadkar said Mr Kenny had said he would not lead Fine Gael into the next election. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Nearly three quarters of Irish people believe Taoiseach Enda Kenny should create a new Ministerial role to deal with Brexit, according to the findings of a new poll.

A Red C poll published by *the Sunday Business Post* on Sunday shows 74 per cent of respondents said Mr Kenny should create a specific role to deal with Britain's exit from the EU, rather than take on the duties himself. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Three Fine Gael TDs have voiced their opposition to the prospect of Fine Gael and Sinn Féin forming a coalition government in future.

Figures from the two parties have this week indicated such an agreement could be a possibility in the future.

Taoiseach Enda Kenny declined to rule a future alliance out, though he said he did not envisage such a scenario arising in the near future. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Taoiseach Enda Kenny will be relying on US President Donald Trump's "big heart" to ensure that illegal Irish living in America are not deported. It came after Mr Trump signed executive orders aimed at cracking down on illegal immigrants, including the recruitment of 10,000 new immigration and enforcement officers to carry out deportations. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

President Michael D Higgins is to make an historic visit to Cuba next month. He will become the first serving president of Ireland to make an official visit next month, as part of a trip to Latin America. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Economy

Ibec has today outlined a number of proposals to the Government appointed Commission on Public Service Pay and has called for greater analysis of the pay and pensions premium existing in public service pay. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

New research by Matrix Recruitment has found that more than two thirds (67%) of Ireland's workforce is expecting a pay rise in 2017 with 33% anticipating an increase of €2,500 or more. However, the Matrix Recruitment 2017 Benefits and Salary Survey shows that these expectations may not be met by employers, as only 36% of the 1,537 people surveyed by the recruiters actually received a pay rise in 2016. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Finance Minister Michael Noonan has told an Oireachtas committee that Ireland has asked for an extension of the deadline set by the European Commission for the state to recover more than €13 billion from Apple. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The Society of Irish Motor Industry (SIMI) has forecast a more difficult year for new car sales after a strong 2016. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Constructions companies are pleading with expats to come home to fill job vacancies fuelled by an anticipated construction boom. The Construction Industry Federation has forecast the industry will grow from €15bn to €20bn up to 2020, with an additional 112,000 employees needed to meet demand. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Guinness owner Diageo has announced plans for a €25m investment in a whiskey distillery at St James's Gate in Dublin. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Some firms considering moving operations as a result of Britain's vote to leave the European Union have confirmed they wish to move to Ireland and will make formal announcements in due course, Taoiseach Enda Kenny said on Tuesday. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Ireland looks set to lose out to Luxembourg in the race for major post-Brexit investment from AIG, one of the world's largest insurance companies. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Córas Iompair Éireann (CIÉ), Ireland's cash-strapped national public transport provider, has warned the government that it will lose over €1.3 million per year in revenue if the rules around alcohol advertising are changed. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Cork-based outsourcing provider Voxpro is opening a new office in Bucharest, Romania, and is expanding its operations at its two US sites. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

New figures from banks show a big jump in the volume and value of mortgage lending in the final three months of 2016 compared with the same period in 2015. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

New data from the Banking Payments Federation of Ireland (BPFi) has found that mortgage approvals for house purchase equalled €488m in December, up 39% on the year. In volume terms, approvals for house purchases were 2,255, up 28% on the year. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Society

A leading hospital consultant said he has seen people "needlessly die" in his emergency department as a result of hospital overcrowding in Ireland. Dr Fergal Hickey, a specialist in emergency medicine at Sligo University Hospital, said up to 350 people will die "needlessly" in the next year if the situation does not improve in the Irish health service. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Education and training boards have rejected suggestions that they will not act impartially in the new process proposed to speed up the transfer of Catholic primary schools to other patrons. Their representative body, Education and Training Boards Ireland (ETBI), said it was "concerned about certain information, which is being disseminated by other education providers and organisations which advocate for them". To read more on this story, [click here](#).

A three-day recruitment drive held by the HSE after Christmas succeeded in attracting only 115 nurses and midwives to express interest in taking a job in Ireland. To read more on this story, [click here](#). [

Ireland's healthcare system last year ranked below that of lower-income countries Macedonia and Slovenia - despite a big increase in spending. Ireland ranks 21st out of 35 countries and hospital waiting lists continue to be among the worst in Europe, according to the Euro Health Consumer Index. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Minister Richard Bruton is outsourcing decisions about which of the country's 2,880 Catholic primary schools will remain under Church control and which will become either multi-denominational or non-denominational. Under his latest business model, up to 150 schools will be leased as "going" concerns, but under new management. Teachers and parents who want the traditional brand of Catholic schools will go elsewhere, or they can stay if they wish. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The State is owed more than €5.1m in outstanding payments from the estates of elderly nursing home residents who have passed away, according to the Irish Independent. The funds are due under the Fair Deal scheme for the care of 221 people who opted to defer payment for their nursing home stay until after death. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Up to 500 hospital consultants have lodged High Court cases to secure back-pay in a campaign which could cost the HSE at least €350m. However, the Department of Health insisted that the cases will be "vigorously" and "robustly" defended in the "public interest". A "worst case scenario" cost was put at €700m last year. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Seven more people have died of the flu - bringing the death toll to 36 this winter. However, there appear to be signs that flu is on the wane, according to the HSE. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Headlines

- [02.02.2017] [Tánaiste: FF's Brexit criticism could damage Ireland's reputation](#) [Irish Times]
- [02.02.2017] [Assessment of public service pay must be evidenced based says Ibec](#) [Business World]
- [02.02.2017] [67% of Ireland's workforce is expecting pay rise in 2017](#) [Business World]
- [02.02.2017] [Ireland seek more time on Apple tax](#) [Sunday Business Post] [Paywall]
- [02.02.2017] ['I have seen people needlessly die because of overcrowding' – A&E consultant](#) [Irish Independent]
- [01.02.2017] [May's Border promises are 'nice words', says ex-EU customs head](#) [Irish Times]
- [01.02.2017] [Taoiseach to raise US travel ban 'directly' with Trump](#) [Irish Times]
- [01.02.2017] [Building firms plead with expats to come home for construction boom](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [01.02.2017] [Brexit effect may put brakes on car sales](#) [Sunday Business Post] [Paywall]
- [01.02.2017] [Education boards hit out at divestment 'bias' claims](#) [Irish Independent]
- [31.01.2017] [UK decision on customs union 'crucial' to seamless Border, Kenny says](#) [Irish Times]
- [31.01.2017] [US Travel Ban: 50,000 undocumented Irish urged 'not to panic'](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [31.01.2017] [Diageo bids for share of growing whiskey market](#) [Sunday Business Post] [Paywall]
- [31.01.2017] [Some firms have confirmed plans for Irish moves post-Brexit says Kenny](#) [Business World]
- [31.01.2017] [Just 115 nurses at HSE fair interested in job here](#) [Irish Independent]
- [30.01.2017] [No return to hard Border post-Brexit, says Theresa May](#) [Irish Times]
- [30.01.2017] [EU to take action over State's 'dangerous' drinking water](#) [Irish Times]
- [30.01.2017] [Enda Kenny to ignore calls to cancel trip to Donald Trump](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [30.01.2017] [Wait times here for A&E are the worst in Europe](#) [Irish Independent]
- [30.01.2017] [Decision time for cautious bishops on transfer of 150 schools](#) [Irish Independent]
- [29.01.2017] [Varadkar fully supports Kenny, says 'no vacancy' for FG leader](#) [Irish Times]
- [29.01.2017] [Ireland may miss out as insurance giant eyes Luxembourg](#) [Sunday Business Post] [Paywall]
- [29.01.2017] [CIE warns of impact of alcohol advert ban](#) [Sunday Business Post] [Paywall]
- [29.01.2017] [Strong majority want a Minister for Brexit, according to poll](#) [Irish Times]
- [29.01.2017] [Voxpro expands with a move into Romania](#) [Sunday Business Post] [Paywall]
- [28.01.2017] [€5.1M due to State in outstanding fees as residents warned over hidden costs](#) [Irish Independent]
- [27.01.2017] [Fine Gael TDs opposed to any future coalition deal with Sinn Fein](#) [Irish Times]
- [27.01.2017] [Enda Kenny to rely on Donald Trump's 'big heart' to ensure illegal Irish are not deported](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [27.01.2017] [President Michael D Higgins to make official visit to Cuba](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [27.01.2017] [Home buyers are taking on more debt](#) [Sunday Business Post] [Paywall]
- [27.01.2017] [Mortgage approvals up 39% in year to December](#) [Business World]
- [27.01.2017] [500 consultants join the €350m back-pay fight](#) [Irish Independent]
- [27.01.2017] [Seven more flu deaths takes toll to 36](#) [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