

## KASPress Ireland



### News Summary

### Top Story

17.03.17 – 23.03.17

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

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

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Taoiseach Enda Kenny has promised there will be an “orderly transition” to the next Fine Gael leader, with the contest to succeed him now expected to begin after the May bank holiday weekend. Regarding his plans to stand down as party leader, Mr Kenny also told the weekly meeting of the Fine Gael parliamentary party on Wednesday night he knew what he was going to do. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

### Politics

British Prime Minister Theresa May has said an Irish person was among the 40 people injured in Wednesday’s fatal terrorist attack in Westminster, the worst attack in the UK for more than a decade. Four people were killed in the incident yesterday afternoon which saw dozens of people knocked down by an assailant in a car before he got out and stabbed police man Keith Palmer to death inside the grounds of the British parliament. The injuries suffered by the Irish person are not considered life-threatening, Tánaiste Frances Fitzgerald has said. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Fianna Fáil leader Micheál Martin has praised Taoiseach Enda Kenny’s speech on immigration in Washington and said he “did well” on his St Patrick’s week visit to the US. To read more on Mr Martin’s comments, [click here](#).

Taoiseach Enda Kenny has been urged to do more to help those coming to Ireland for a better life, following his comments on immigration in the US last week. Wednesday was International Day Against Racism, and a number of groups marked the occasion by gathering at the gates of Leinster House to back a Dáil motion to bring about an end to direct provision. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams has led tributes to former deputy first minister of Northern Ireland Martin McGuinness, who has died aged 66. Taoiseach Enda Kenny described Mr McGuinness as “one of the chief architects of the Good Friday Agreement and he worked resolutely in the years that followed it in pursuit of its full implementation”. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

As preparations for Brexit talks prepare to step up a gear in coming weeks, the Government believes it can secure agreement that the future of the Border should be left to Dublin and London. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Taoiseach Enda Kenny has said the families of the crew of Rescue 116 need to know what happened to the helicopter, to bring closure to the tragedy. Mr Kenny was speaking as he visited Blacksod, Co Mayo, where he met with rescue workers from across the agencies involved in the search for the downed Coast Guard aircraft. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Taoiseach Enda Kenny has said the restoration of the Northern Executive and the agreement of an EU position for the Brexit negotiations “take precedence” over giving a timetable for his departure as Fine Gael leader and Taoiseach. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Enda Kenny has invited US president Donald Trump to visit Ireland during his presidency, in a move that could be one of the defining decisions of his tenure as Taoiseach. Mr Kenny, who last year described language used by Mr Trump as “racist and dangerous”, said he took the decision to invite the controversial US president because, in Ireland, “invitations are always returned, and returned in kind”. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Taoiseach Enda Kenny has pressed US president Donald Trump on the need to cut a deal for law-abiding undocumented Irish to remain in America, despite failing to raise Mr Trump’s attempted travel bans and anti-immigrant policies. Mr Kenny confirmed the move in a short media briefing at the White House moments after holding a detailed meeting with Mr Trump, Vice-president Mike Pence, and other senior officials at the Oval Office. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Speculation about Taoiseach Enda Kenny’s future continued on Friday as he suggested that he would not step down until a government has been formed in Northern Ireland. Speaking at the St Patrick’s Day Parade in New York, Mr Kenny said he had a number of priorities on his agenda. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

## Economy

Ulster Bank plans to close 22 of its branches in the Republic by the end of this year as part of a major restructuring of the business that will also result in 220 redundancies. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Shares in financial services group IFG fell sharply in Dublin this morning after it reported a fall in profits last year. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The renewed boom in construction will drive the Irish economy to full employment next year, two years earlier than expected, the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) has predicted. However, it warned that the disproportionate role being played by the construction sector had the potential to overheat the economy similar to what happened during the boom. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The Central Bank says an investigation into how banks and other lenders treated customers on tracker mortgages has found that almost 10,000 customer were affected. So far, Central Bank has paid out €78m to compensate customers. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Retailers in Ireland are planning a major injection of investment in people, skills, store refurbishments and technology to address the significant competitive threats facing the industry from global online trading and Brexit. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The Nevin Economic Research Institute (NERI) has today released their latest Quarterly Economic Report for Spring 2017. The report shows that Employment growth averaged just under 3% in 2016 with end-year total employment reaching an estimated 2,048,100. This was the highest fourth quarter total since 2008, though employment is still 100,000 below its 2007 level. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The Dublin region had the highest average disposable income per person in the State in 2014, figures from the Central Statistics Office (CSO) show. On a per person basis, the average disposal income in Dublin in 2014 was €21,963, compared with a nationwide average of €19,178. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Fenergo, provider of Client Lifecycle Management software solutions for investment, corporate and private banks, has this week announced the creation of 200 new jobs due to rapid global expansion, bringing its total global employee base to 500. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Unions and Government face a collision course in upcoming negotiations over working hours. While the restoration of pay will be a priority for public sector workers, many employees say getting back hours is equally important and will be a “major issue” in the renegotiation of the Lansdowne Road Agreement. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Irish companies are not adequately prepared for the economic fallout the UK’s departure from the European Union may bring, with just one in 10 companies having a Brexit readiness team in place, according to a new survey. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The first indication of major firms moving to Ireland because of Brexit has emerged with the global investment bank JPMorgan poised to double its workforce in Dublin and at least three giant law firms are ready to create hundreds of jobs. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Whirlpool, the world's largest home appliance maker, is preparing to close its European shared services centre in East Wall in Dublin, threatening 105 jobs. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

AIB has warned that its ability to retain key executives is in jeopardy if an influx of bankers due to Brexit places upward pressure on pay rises. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

## Society

The National Bus and Railworkers Union (NBRU) has announced an immediate all-out strike at Bus Éireann from midnight. Talks between five unions lasted for more than three hours with unions saying it is indefinite. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The shortage of qualified teachers for second-level schools is getting worse for a number of subjects, including the critical area of maths. It means that growing numbers of students are being taught by teachers who are not properly trained in the subjects affected. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The rollout of free GP care for all that was first promised in 2011 will not be possible for another decade. The timetable was set out by Health Minister Simon Harris today when he outlined proposals for the overhaul of the health service. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Brexit represents a major opportunity for Ireland's higher education system, provided it gets the necessary State supports. The potential benefits include attracting more investment for research, more foreign students and more quality academics, but it will require investment and the right initiatives, the Oireachtas Education Committee was told. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The plight of waiting list patients in need of surgery, including cancer operations, is revealed in new figures this week. The figures reveal hospitals were operating on 15,374 patients from waiting lists in January 2012, but this plummeted to just 6,743 in January 2016 as they struggled with lack of beds and staff. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Doctors have expressed "grave concern" at figures showing only half of teenage girls are getting the vaccine to prevent cervical cancer. At the beginning of the school year, only 50pc of girls had started the recommended vaccine dose - far short of the 80pc target. The warning was issued by senior medics in the Royal College of Physicians. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Cancer patients are now having their surgery cancelled "in significant numbers" as hospitals struggle to cope with overcrowding and a lack of beds and doctors. They are among a growing number of patients whose essential surgery is suffering in over-burdened hospitals, Dr Tom Ryan, president of the Irish Hospital Consultants Association (IHCA), said. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

More than 120 volunteers converged on the tiny village of Aughleam near Blacksod Bay in Co Mayo on Saturday to assist in the search for the crew members of the ill-fated helicopter R116. They were greeted by warm smiles and boundless hospitality in spite of the palpable sadness that has hung over the Erris Peninsula since tragedy struck in the early hours of last Tuesday morning. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Dublin Institute of Technology has defended a move to make garda vetting a condition for adult students applying for entry to a "second chance education" course. Applicants for the DIT Access Foundation Programme, which prepares students for third-level study, have been advised that vetting is an entry requirement for next September's intake. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

## Headlines

- [23.03.2017] [Westminster attack: Irish person's injuries not life threatening](#) [Irish Times]
- [23.03.2017] [Kenny promises 'orderly transition' to next FG leader](#) [Irish Times]
- [23.03.2017] [Ulster Bank to close one in five branches in Republic](#) [Irish Times]
- [23.03.2017] [Why IFG shares have slumped in Dublin](#) [Sunday Business Post] [Paywall]
- [23.03.2017] [Tracker probe latest: almost 10,000 now affected](#) [Sunday Business Post] [Paywall]
- [23.03.2017] [92% of Irish retailers say Brexit is having negative impact on business](#) [Business World]
- [23.03.2017] [Irish employment is still 100,000 below its 2007 level](#) [Business World]
- [23.03.2017] [All-out strike at Bus Éireann will begin at midnight](#) [Irish Independent]
- [23.03.2017] [Teacher shortage worsens for STEM subjects](#) [Irish Independent]
- [23.03.2017] [Another decade before 'free GP care for all' promise is phased in](#) [Irish Independent]
- [22.03.2017] [Micheal Martin says Taoiseach 'did well' in Washington on immigration](#) [Irish Times]
- [22.03.2017] [Enda Kenny urged to ease migrants' burden](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [22.03.2017] [Irish company Fenargo announces 200 new jobs](#) [Business World]
- [22.03.2017] [Dubliners have the highest disposable incomes, CSO says](#) [Irish Times]
- [22.03.2017] [Higher education 'can thrive in Ireland after UK exit'](#) [Irish Independent]
- [21.03.2017] [Government believes it can secure Brexit deal on Border](#) [Irish Times]
- [21.03.2017] [Martin McGuinness: Tributes paid to 'passionate republican'](#) [Irish Times]
- [21.03.2017] [Collision course on public sector hours issue](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [21.03.2017] [Patients suffering as surgeries plummet by over 50pc in four years](#) [Irish Independent]
- [21.03.2017] ['Grave concerns' as just half of teenage girls get cancer vaccine](#) [Irish Independent]
- [20.03.2017] [Families need to know what happened to Rescue 116 to bring closure, Taoiseach says](#) [Irish Independent]
- [20.03.2017] [Irish companies unprepared for Brexit, survey shows](#) [Irish Times]
- [20.03.2017] [Cancer patients having surgery cancelled, warns top consultant](#) [Irish Independent]
- [18.03.2017] [Brexit and North more vital than departure date, says Kenny](#) [Irish Times]
- [18.03.2017] [Rescue 116 tragedy: Islander braves the sea to join volunteers](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [19.03.2017] [The law firms, banks and insurers eyeing Dublin after Brexit](#) [Sunday Business Post] [Paywall]
- [19.03.2017] [105 jobs at risk as Whirlpool's Dublin centre set to close](#) [Sunday Business Post] [Paywall]
- [19.03.2017] [AIB: pay cap puts us on Brexit back foot](#) [Sunday Business Post] [Paywall]
- [17.03.2017] [Taoiseach invites Donald Trump to visit Ireland](#) [Irish Times]
- [17.03.2017] [Kenny hints he will stay as Taoiseach until NI Executive is formed](#) [Irish Times]
- [17.03.2017] [Enda Kenny presses US on behalf of Irish migrants](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [17.03.2017] [DIT defends garda vetting for students applying for course entry](#) [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