

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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Politics

- Taoiseach Enda Kenny has warned that border controls will be brought back between Northern Ireland and the Republic if the United Kingdom votes to exit the European Union.
- Lucinda Creighton's new political party, Renua Ireland, has lost its fifth general election candidate inside of six months. Their Limerick City candidate, accountant and tax consultant, Desmond J Hayes has withdrawn from the contest for personal reasons.
- The Government has agreed a range of new measures in response to the floods. Local authorities will receive €10 million in addition to the €8 million agreed for the clean-up. The Cabinet heard the estimated cost of the damage to roads and bridges is €60 million.
- Revenue Commissioners have said a flat tax rate of 46 per cent, double Renua Ireland's proposed flat tax of 23 per cent, would be needed to replace all PAYE and USC income.
- Fine Gael general secretary Tom Curran has the full support of Taoiseach Enda Kenny, a spokesman has said. Mr Curran has come under pressure following Fine Gael's failed attempt to remove Sligo Leitrim TD John Perry from the party's election ticket.
- Renua Ireland leader Lucinda Creighton has said her party will outline its "red lines" for entering government in advance of the general election and accepted many party policies will not be implemented if in power.

- Renua Ireland has proposed the almost complete abolition of tax shelters in its general election manifesto, which was published last Thursday. The party has said it will be one of the main 'quid pro quos' for its headline proposal of a flat tax of 23 per cent.
- Renua Ireland leader Lucinda Creighton has pledged to move new public sector workers onto cheaper pensions.
- There will be no cuts to welfare payments over the next five years, if the Labour Party is returned to government, Public Expenditure Minister Brendan Howlin has declared.
- Tánaiste Joan Burton will seek to entice the middle-class and high earners to her candidates with a series of tax reforms that she says will raise the standard of living.
- There are concerns at the heart of Government that the Opposition will hold a majority in the Seanad if the Coalition is returned to power after the general election.
- The Social Democrats are targeting at least seven seats in the general election and are open to entering government with any rival party — provided it is not simply offered "crumbs from the table".
- Taoiseach Enda Kenny has pledged to provide further tax breaks for the self-employed if Fine Gael is returned to power.
- Taoiseach Enda Kenny visited Athlone on Thursday where he denied claims that he had been too slow in responding to the damage caused by extensive flooding across the country in December.

Economy

- Analysts have forecast that interest rates will remain low until as late as 2019, due to low eurozone inflation.
- Irish retail sales rose by 2.2 per cent in November and were up by 9.3 per cent on the year-earlier period, according to the Central Statistics Office.

- Unemployment remained unchanged on the month in December 2015 at a rate of 8.8 per cent, according to new figures from the Central Statistics Office.
- Irish shares were down 1.5% on Monday morning as European markets dropped on the first trading day of 2016.
- House prices outside of Dublin soared in 2015, while the national housing supply now stands at its lowest point in almost a decade.
- Almost half of Irish people believe 2016 will be a better year — as the country feels more positive about the economy.
- Household deposits fell in November along with home loans, but companies drew down more loans that they repaid, new data from the Central Bank showed.

Society

- Despite the damage caused by the latest floods to hit Ireland, the country is unlikely to qualify for aid under EU rules.
- Emergency department nurses are to strike next week after rejecting a deal to tackle overcrowding and staffing issues.
- At least five third-level institutions across Ireland are in financially vulnerable positions as they struggle to cope with cuts in state funding and rising student numbers.
- Charities are continuing to suffer as a result of the economic crash with many reporting a significant decline in funding despite improving economic conditions over the past year.
- Preliminary figures from weather stations around the country show temperatures were at least 3 degrees above normal almost everywhere and rainfall amounts were three times the December average.

Headlines

- [07.01.16] [Brexit would see return of border controls, Kenny warns](#) [Irish Times]
- [07.01.16] [Ireland unlikely to receive flood relief aid from EU](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [07.01.16] [Renua loses its fifth election candidate in six months](#) [Irish Independent]
- [06.01.16] [Record low interest rates here to stay, say analysts](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [06.01.16] [Retail sales rise by 9.3% on the year in November](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [06.01.16] [Nurses to strike after rejecting deal to tackle issues](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [06.01.16] [Cabinet agrees flood measures including extra €10m for councils](#) [Irish Times]
- [05.01.16] [Under-fire Fine Gael general secretary Tom Curran has 'full support' of Taoiseach Enda Kenny](#) [Irish Independent]
- [05.01.16] [Renua's flat tax policy takes hit](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [05.01.16] [Unemployment rate unchanged in December at 8.8%](#) [Irish Times]
- [04.01.15] [Renua to outline 'red line' coalition issues ahead of election](#) [Irish Times]
- [04.01.16] [European shares fall sharply as weak Chinese data hits markets](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [04.01.16] [House prices outside Dublin up 13% as supply at decade low](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [04.01.16] [Renua pledges to move new public sector workers onto cheaper pensions](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [04.01.16] [Renua Ireland manifesto commits to flat tax of 23%](#) [Irish Times]
- [04.01.16] [No welfare cuts for next five years if Labour return to government, pledges Howlin](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [04.01.16] [Labour plans to cut taxes for people earning up to €120k](#) [Irish Independent]
- [04.01.16] [Five third-level colleges financially vulnerable](#) [Irish Times]
- [03.01.16] [Fine Gael worried that FF and SF will control Seanad](#) [Irish Independent]
- [02.01.16] [Almost 40% of charities say income was down in 2015](#) [Irish Times]
- [01.01.16] [Social Democrats hope for seven seats in next general election](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [01.01.16] [Kenny promises to cut PAYE gap for self-employed](#) [Irish Independent]
- [01.01.16] [A warm December breaks Met Éireann records](#) [Irish Times]
- [31.12.15] [Almost 50% of Irish people believe 2016 will be a better year for the economy](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [31.12.15] [Household deposits, loans fall in November](#) [Irish Times]
- [31.12.15] [Kenny rejects criticism of slow flood response](#) [Irish Times]