

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

- British politicians need to recognise that the referendum on UK membership of the EU is not just about them, MEP Brian Hayes has said. He told a committee that if a 'Brexit' took place it would cause "enormous disruption to British-Irish relations".
- The European Commission has sharply criticised Finance Minister Michael Noonan and Public Expenditure Minister Brendan Howlin. A new report says they risked the economic recovery in order to deliver a "political" budget ahead of the general election.
- Taoiseach Enda Kenny has said he is looking forward to working with the Northern Ireland's new First Minister, Arlene Foster, as she was elected to the role at an important time for the North ahead of elections in May.
- Opinion polls suggest tax rises and spending cuts will not benefit leftwing politicians in the general election.
- Fine Gael has agreed to add four female candidates to its general election ticket to ensure it meets gender quotas.
- In a major pre-election pledge, Taoiseach Enda Kenny will announce his intentions to slash the top rate of Universal Social Charge (USC) by at least 1 per cent in October's Budget in a bid to court the support of low- and middle-income earners.

- Sinn Féin leader Gerry Adams has insisted he will lead the party into the general election.
- Refugees being relocated to Ireland should be screened in light of last week's horrific sex attacks in Germany, according to Renua leader Lucinda Creighton.
- A study by accountants KPMG has estimated Renua Ireland's core policy of a 23 per cent flat tax rate would give a boost to the Exchequer worth almost 5 billion Euros per year.
- Tánaiste Joan Burton said any possible coalition with Fianna Fáil has been "absolutely" ruled out, thus all but ending Micheál Martin's hopes of being Taoiseach.
- There will be no question of an Irish referendum on membership of the European Union even if Britain decides to leave, Taoiseach Enda Kenny has said.

Economy

- Oracle is to add 450 sales jobs at its Dublin offices in a European-wide expansion to support the growth of its cloud computing business.
- One of the country's largest recruitment consultancies has predicted average salary hikes for the Irish workforce of around 10% — at least double what is even being sought by the trade union movement.
- Irish consumer sentiment rose to a 10-year high in December as a stronger jobs market and increased spending power meant consumers faced into 2016 on a positive note, a new survey showed.
- The government has launched its latest action plan for jobs for the mid-east region, aimed at delivering 10 to 15 per cent employment growth in Meath, Kildare and Wicklow.
- House prices in Ireland are expected to rise by up to 5 per cent this year, according to the latest house price survey from property website myhome.ie.

- The average cost of servicing Ireland's national debt fell to 3.3 per cent at the end of last year, according to figures from the National Treasury Management Agency, a drop from 3.5 per cent in June 2015.

Society

- Minister for Children James Reilly this morning faces questioning before a United Nations committee on Ireland's children's rights record.
- A whistleblower in social services has claimed that homeless figures in Dublin are being deliberately under-reported, according to a report seen by the Irish Examiner.
- The "Legal framework on abortion" should be revised to protect the human rights of girls experiencing crisis pregnancies, the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission has said.
- The Irish Cancer Society has this week reversed its decision to cut financial support for children battling cancer and their families.
- Garda numbers are still in decline as retirements and other departures far exceeded the level of recruitment over the past two years.
- The Office of Public Works (OPW) has identified 70,000 Irish homes as potentially at risk of flooding by rivers or the sea. However, it has also emerged that 30,000 of these are not covered by the government's €430 million flood defence plan which the agency is currently finalising.

Headlines

- [14.01.16] ['People afraid to upset British ahead of Brexit vote' – Hayes](#) [Irish Times]
- [14.01.16] [Budget 2016 criticised as 'pro-cyclical'](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [14.01.16] [Jobs boost for Dublin with 520 new positions announced](#) [Irish Independent]
- [14.01.16] [Ireland to face questions on children's rights record](#) [Irish Times]
- [14.01.16] [Homeless figures are deliberately being under-reported claims Whistleblower](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [13.01.16] [Human rights body recommends revision of abortion laws](#) [Irish Times]
- [13.01.16] [Irish Cancer Society reverses decision to axe financial support for children with cancer](#) [Irish Independent]
- [13.01.16] [Garda numbers decline despite resumption of recruitment](#) [Irish Times]
- [12.01.16] [Irish centre parties hold firm as voters put faith in recovery](#) [Financial Times]
- [12.01.16] [Pay hikes of up to 20% for specialist sectors with skills shortages](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [12.01.16] [Irish consumer sentiment at 10-year high in December](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [12.01.16] [Foster becomes first woman selected to lead Assembly](#) [Irish Independent]
- [11.01.16] [Fine Gael adds four women to general election ticket](#) [Irish Times]
- [11.01.16] [Workers to save up to €500 next year under FG tax plan](#) [Irish Independent]
- [11.01.16] [Government aims to create 25,000 jobs in the mid-east by 2020](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [10.01.16] [Gerry Adams says he will lead Sinn Féin into general election](#) [Irish Times]
- [10.01.16] [Lucinda Creighton: Refugees coming to Ireland should be screened](#) [Irish Independent]
- [10.01.16] [House prices predicted to rise by up to 5% in 2016](#) [Irish Times]
- [10.01.16] [FLOOD WARNING: 30,000 at risk homes won't be protected](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [09.01.16] [Servicing national debt drops to 3.3%](#) [Irish Times]
- [08.01.16] [Study finds 23% flat tax could boost Exchequer revenue by €5bn](#) [Irish Times]
- [08.01.16] [Joan Burton rules out coalition with Fianna Fáil, delivering blow to Micheál Martin's Taoiseach hopes](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [08.01.16] [No Irish referendum after Brexit vote – Kenny](#) [Irish Independent]