

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

- Up to 330,000 residents of Ireland could have an influence on the outcome of Britain's decision on European Union membership as they will be entitled to a postal vote in the upcoming referendum. UK citizens living in Ireland, as well as Irish citizens who lived in the UK during the past 15 years and registered to vote can cast a ballot in the referendum, which could take place as early as June.
- Ireland should get alerts about potential terrorists and suspect passports identified by other EU countries once the country is linked up to the Schengen Information System, according to Justice Minister Frances Fitzgerald.
- The Cabinet this week formally approved plans to provide two weeks paid paternity leave for fathers.
- Taoiseach Enda Kenny and British Prime Minister David Cameron met in Downing Street on Monday to discuss Britain's negotiations on remaining in the European Union, with London's ambassador to Dublin warning that support for remaining in is "wafer thin".
- The UK Ambassador to Ireland has conceded during his speech at the Fine Gael Party Convention (ard fheis) a so-called Brexit from the European Union is likely to be felt more profoundly in Ireland than in other member states.

- Taoiseach Enda Kenny has invited the British Prime Minister David Cameron to Ireland as part of the commemoration of the centenary of the 1916 Rising.
- Taoiseach Enda Kenny has said if Fine Gael is not part of the next government after the general election it could jeopardise Ireland's economic recovery.
- Taoiseach Enda Kenny has promised tax cuts worth €1,750 to working families if re-elected to government. And in an attempt to target public sector votes, he said that his party would hire 10,000 extra Gardaí, teachers, doctors, nurses and other front-line staff by 2021.
- Taoiseach Enda Kenny has insisted he will serve a full second term if re-elected to Government but did not confirm whether he will lead the party into another general election.
- Minister for Finance Michael Noonan has said that a coalition between Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil will not be necessary after the general election.
- The country would have never recovered under a Fianna Fáil government, Taoiseach Enda Kenny has said.

Economy

- Employers have warned about election promises to abolish the Universal Social Charge, urging instead for higher earners to get a 5% reduction in the top tax rate.
- The Multilateral Competent Authority Agreement, the OECD's bid to tackle tax evasion and avoidance by big multinational companies by sharing country-by-country information, has been signed by 31 countries including Ireland.
- Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg has been defending his decision to build a new data centre in Ireland against claims the move is a tax dodge. The social media mogul announced the start of construction of the €200m facility at Clonee on the Meath-Dublin border on his own Facebook page, quickly attracting 800 responses.
- The government launched its jobs plan for Dublin this week, aimed at delivering 10 to 15 per cent employment growth or 66,000 extra jobs by 2020 and turning the capital into a "smart city".

- Google will pay less tax in Ireland on the profits from its lucrative British business after the company settled a UK tax audit for £130 million (€171.8 million) and agreed to pay higher tax in future to the London authorities.
- Four technology firms have announced plans to create up to 160 new jobs in Cork and Galway.
- Irish SMEs are paying more than twice the eurozone average for credit and are faced with the highest interest rates of any country in the currency union.

Society

- The age at which children can legally leave school will be raised from 16, as part of the new strategy to boost education and skills levels in the economy.
- The World Health Organisation (WHO) has joined those calling for a sugar tax on soft drinks. Health Minister Leo Varadkar last week said the imposition of a sugar tax on drinks and snacks is a good idea. He was responding to a move by the National Health Service in England to impose a sugar tax in its hospitals.
- Local authorities are to be given funding for 1,000 new social housing units, it has been announced.
- Two reports will consume a lot of the time and energies of the next coalition's Minister for Education. One dealing with the future funding of higher education is still being finalised and may not see the light of day until after the election while the other outlining a new National Skills Strategy will be launched next Wednesday.
- Margaret Murphy, a key World Health Organisation (WHO) expert has blasted the government for reneging on commitments it made on patient safety.
- The overwhelming majority of Irish people would be in favour of legalising abortion in circumstances beyond what is currently allowable, a new study shows. A Red C poll for Newstalk radio reveals 78% of people surveyed think abortion is an appropriate course of action in the case of rape or incest; while 76% support it in cases of fatal foetal abnormalities.

Headlines

- [28.01.16] [Ireland signs up to OECD concord on multinational taxes](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [28.01.16] [Irish voters could influence Brexit referendum](#) [Irish Times]
- [28.01.16] [Ibec calls for 5% reduction to top rate of tax](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [28.01.16] [School-leaving age to rise in drive to boost skills](#) [Irish Independent]
- [27.01.16] [Ireland seeks Schengen alerts on terrorists](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [26.01.16] [WHO: Put sugar tax on soft drinks](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [26.01.16] [Kelly to announce funding for 1,000 new social homes](#) [Irish Independent]
- [25.01.16] [Two weeks paternity leave for fathers to get formal approval](#) [Irish Independent]
- [25.01.16] [Brexit would affect Ireland most, warns ambassador](#) [Irish Independent]
- [25.01.16] [Enda Kenny and David Cameron to discuss Brexit](#) [Irish Times]
- [25.01.16] [Taoiseach invites British PM to 1916 Rising commemoration](#) [Irish Independent]
- [25.01.16] [Jobs plan for Dublin aims to create 66,000 new jobs by 2020](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [25.01.16] [Loans cost Irish SMEs twice the Eurozone average rate](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [25.01.16] [Up to 160 technology jobs announced for Cork and Galway](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [25.01.16] [Funding dilemma for next government as student loans proposed](#) [Irish Independent]
- [25.01.16] [Google to pay less tax in Ireland on British profits after deal](#) [Irish Times]
- [24.01.16] [World Health expert blasts Ireland over patient safety record](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [24.01.16] [Only Fine Gael can protect economic recovery, warns Kenny](#) [Irish Times]
- [23.01.16] [Taoiseach promises tax cuts for working families and extra public sector jobs](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [23.01.16] [Kenny insists he will serve full second term as Taoiseach](#) [Irish Times]
- [22.01.16] [78% of Irish people in support for abortion change](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [22.01.16] [Fine Gael-Fianna Fáil coalition will 'never arise', Noonan says](#) [Irish Times]
- [22.01.16] [State would never have recovered under Fianna Fáil – Kenny](#) [Irish Times]