

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

Fianna Fáil may be willing to commit to allowing Fine Gael to introduce three budgets as part of a deal to allow a minority government to take office.

Advisers from both met on Wednesday to finalise a deal, which should allow a Fine Gael-led minority government take office next week.

Under the terms of the deal, an expert commission will be established to examine funding models for a national water system along with charging and conservation incentives. To read more, [click here](#).

Politics

Under the proposed deal between Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil, householders who did not pay water charges are unlikely to be pursued, while those that did stump up the money are set to be denied a refund. To read more on Irish Water, [click here](#).

Several of Enda Kenny's loyal senators lost their seats or were last night fighting for their survival. Leader of the Seanad, Fine Gael's Maurice Cummins, lost his seat on the Labour panel, while Pat O'Neill, Cait Keane and Michael Commiskey also were unsuccessful. Fine Gael whip in the Seanad, the popular and well respected Paul Coghlan, was also in trouble late last night. To read more on the Seanad elections, [click here](#).

People who have paid their water charges may get a refund if the levies are eventually abolished under proposals being discussed by Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil. To read more on the ongoing negotiations, [click here](#).

Suspending water charges could be seen as Fine Gael and Enda Kenny seeking to hold on to power “at all costs”, a party backbencher said last night. For more on this story, [click here](#).

Two Fine Gael politicians who lost their Dáil seats in the general election have been elected to the Seanad. Former TDs Kieran O'Donnell and Gabrielle McFadden will join Fianna Fáil's Lorraine Clifford-Lee and Keith Swanick and Sinn Féin's Fintan Warfield on the Cultural and Educational panel in the Upper House. [Click here](#), to read more.

Fianna Fáil leader Micheal Martin said he believes that the chances of the current talks between his party and Fine Gael leading to a minority Fine Gael led government are “very much 50/50” but that they have to be concluded within days if they are to be successful. To read more, [click here](#).

President Michael D Higgins has criticised the austerity programmes placed on EU states as “asking the impossible” of ordinary working Europeans. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Sinn Féin's Martin McGuinness has contended his party is the only one committed to achieving Irish unity. To read more, [click here](#).

Thirty-nine opposition TDs have backed a Dáil motion to immediately scrap water charges and hold a referendum to prevent water services from privatisation, pressurising Fianna Fáil to refuse any deal that ignores their pre-election promises. To read more, [click here](#).

Sinn Féin is to review its policy of paying party members the average industrial wage. The party is seeking to reconsider its long-standing position after a number of members raised issues surrounding it. To read more, [click here](#).

Foreign Affairs Minister Charles Flanagan has warned that there is no certainty a ‘Brexit’ wouldn't impact on the border with the North, casting doubt on remarks by Northern Ireland secretary Theresa Villiers that it is likely to remain unchanged. To read more the potential implications of Brexit for Ireland, [click here](#).

Economy

Income tax receipts came to €45.79 billion in 2015 – up 10.6 per cent on 2014 and the second highest figure in the history of the Irish state. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

A leading economist has expressed concern at the “dangerously high” level of personal debt being carried by the Irish public, with almost a doubling since 2001. Ireland ranked 12th out of 24 OECD countries on household debt in 2001 – It is now third. To read more, [click here](#).

The Central Bank said it generated a profit of €2.24 billion last year, of which €1.79 billion was transferred to the Exchequer, up from 1.7 billion in 2014. To read more, [click here](#).

The number of trips to Ireland by overseas visitors rose by 16.6 per cent in the first quarter to 1,785,300, new figures show. To read more on tourism in Ireland, [click here](#).

Irish residential property prices rose by 0.3 per cent in March as they posted their first monthly rise this year and were 7.4 per cent higher than a year ago, new figures show. To read more on Irish house prices, [click here](#).

The retail sector grew by nearly five per cent in the first quarter but the expansion was primarily led by Easter trading rather than a sound economic recovery, a new report says. To read more on the Irish retail sector, [click here](#).

Irish wholesale gas prices have fallen to six-year lows, driven down by abundant supply and the strong euro, a new report shows. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) – the California-based tech-to-life-sciences lender – has lent well over \$50m to Irish tech start-ups in recent years and now, for the first time, has a permanent representative in Ireland. To read more, [click here](#).

Bord Bia, the Irish food board, together with officials from the Department of Agriculture and 17 Irish food companies, began a three-day trade mission to Iran over the weekend. To read more on this, [click here](#).

Ireland’s central bank has earmarked around €1.7 billion for a payment to the government, sources have revealed. To read more, [click here](#).

Europe’s largest investment bank, Deutsche Bank, has put in a bid for one of the last big portfolio sales at the National Asset Management Agency (NAMA). To read more, [click here](#).

Society

Criminals are offering money for personal information about gardaí and also using social media sites to intimidate and threaten the lives of officers, the Garda Representative Association (GRA) has been told. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The majority of frontline garda detective units are receiving no tactical training in how to deal with terrorist attacks and are not equipped with the firepower to counter them. To read more, [click here](#).

There has been a 20pc jump in the number of CAO applicants seeking to enter college on reduced points. It follows changes in the rules for a scheme for students with a significant ongoing illness, a mental health issue or a physical disability. [Click here](#), to read more.

Rank and file gardaí are set to demand the restoration of 22% of pay lost since the recession and the end to a two-tier system which saw new entrants to the force hit with even more swingeing cuts to wages and allowances. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

GPs in Ireland have expressed concern about the potential risks of a new scheme which will allow medical card patients to bypass their doctor and receive drugs and treatment from pharmacists for minor illnesses. To read more, [click here](#).

The number of people needing hospital admission for dental infections has soared by more than a third after cuts to the medical card scheme, dentists warned this week. To read more, [click here](#).

A team of Irish scientists has found an agent that can be baked into everyday items like smartphones and door handles to combat bacterial infections such as MRSA and E.coli. To read more on this ground-breaking discovery, [click here](#).

Headlines

- [28.04.2016] [Fianna Fáil set to support Fine Gael for three budgets](#) [Irish Times]
- [28.04.2016] [Irish Water latest: Non-payers will not be pursued for water bills](#) [Irish Independent]
- [28.04.2016] [Income tax reaches second highest figure in history of state](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [28.04.2016] [Clear-out of Seanad 'old-guard' a blow to Enda Kenny](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [27.04.2016] [FF-FG talks to focus on potential water charge refunds](#) [Irish Times]
- [27.04.2016] [Personal debt has doubled to 'danger levels'](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [27.04.2016] [Central Bank transfers €1.79 billion of its profit to the Exchequer](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [27.04.2016] [Number of visits to Ireland rose by 16.6% in first quarter](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [27.04.2016] [Criminals offer cash for private information on gardai](#) [Irish Independent]
- [26.04.2016] [Dissent in Fine Gael over proposal to suspend Irish Water charges](#) [Irish Times]
- [26.04.2016] [Seanad election: FG, FF, take two seats each on Cultural panel](#) [Irish Times]
- [26.04.2016] [Irish home prices rose by 7.4% in March from a year earlier](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [26.04.2016] [Early Easter boosts first quarter retail sales](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [26.04.2016] [Frontline gardai have no terror training](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [26.04.2016] [Applications rise for college disability route](#) [Irish Independent]
- [25.04.2016] [Micheal Martin: Talks have 50/50 chance of success](#) [Irish Times]
- [25.04.2016] [Austerity asks the impossible of EU workers, says President](#) [Irish Independent]
- [25.04.2016] [Irish wholesale gas prices drop to six-year low](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [25.04.2016] [Gardai demand end to two-tier pay rates](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [24.04.2016] [McGuinness says Sinn Féin only party committed to Irish unity](#) [Irish Times]
- [24.04.2016] [GPs voice concerns at scheme to let pharmacists treat patients](#) [Irish Independent]
- [23.04.2016] [39 TDs back motion to immediately scrap water charges](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [23.04.2016] [Sinn Féin to review 'industrial wage' policy for all party members](#) [Irish Times]
- [23.04.2016] [Silicon Valley Bank lends over \\$50m to Irish tech start-ups](#) [Irish Independent]
- [22.04.2016] [Minister warns of Brexit border impact](#) [Irish Independent]
- [22.04.2016] [Irish Central Bank plans €1.7 billion payment to state](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [22.04.2016] [Bord Bia begins trade mission to Iran as sanctions are lifted](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [22.04.2016] [Deutsche bank bids for last big sale at NAMA](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [22.04.2016] [People 'having teeth extracted because it's cheaper than fillings](#) [Irish Independent]
- [22.04.2016] [Irish scientists develop agent to fight superbugs](#) [Irish Examiner]

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