

KASPress Ireland



News Summary

13.05.16 – 19.05.16

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

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

London Office

Top Story

The British Ambassador to Ireland, Dominick Chilcott, has warned that the special relationship between Ireland and the UK could be put in jeopardy if Britain votes to leave the European Union. To read more on the ambassador's comments, [click here](#).

Politics

Taoiseach Enda Kenny has said he is justified in his plans to serve a full term in office despite Fine Gael's performance in February's general election. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The credibility and balance of the European Union would be called into question if the UK decided to leave, according to the Foreign Affairs Minister, Charlie Flanagan. To read more on the minister's comments, [click here](#).

In its first defeat of the new Dáil, the Fine Gael-led minority Government will be forced to proceed with legislation designed to reduce mortgage rates even though Minister for Finance Michael Noonan has warned it contains serious flaws. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

It was confirmed this week that Vice President Joe Biden is to travel to Ireland next month for a final holiday before he leaves the White House. Mr Biden has said being Irish has "shaped" his entire life. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Taoiseach Enda Kenny has insisted he will remain in office for a full Dáil term but will not lead Fine Gael into the next general election. Mr Kenny said his position had not changed despite a bad election result for his party which returned 26 fewer deputies than it did in 2011. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Taoiseach Enda Kenny travelled to Washington DC on Tuesday to attend the biggest events outside Dublin to commemorate the Easter Rising. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

A constitutional referendum would be needed to ratify the proposed multi-billion euro transatlantic trade deal (TTIP) between the European Union and US, says a legal expert. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Renua leader Lucinda Creighton, who lost her seat in the general election in February, has resigned from the party leadership saying it was time to “allow new voices to be heard”. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Newly appointed Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform Paschal Donohoe has warned public sector unions that there will be no new wage deals for at least two years - dashing their hopes of a return to Celtic Tiger pay levels. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Labour TD and former minister for the environment Alan Kelly has said he hopes to run unopposed for the role of Labour Leader. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

According to the first Red C opinion poll published since the formation of the government, Fine Gael is on 27 per cent, followed by Fine Fáil on 25 per cent. Sinn Féin is on 16 per cent, down one; Labour is up one to five per cent; the Anti-Austerity Alliance- People Before Profit is up two to 6 per cent; the Independent Alliance is down two to 3 per cent; other Independents remain on 9 per cent, while the Social Democrats and the Greens are both up one to 4 per cent. Former TD Lucinda Creighton’s Renua Ireland is down one to 1 per cent. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Paschal Donohoe claims a referendum on the Eighth Amendment will go ahead in the near future. Mr Donohoe, Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, said it is his “expectation” that a vote will be held on the issue. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Economy

A measure of the mood of Irish business slipped back in the first three months of 2016 after hitting a nine-year high in the previous quarter, according to a survey compiled by KBC Bank Ireland and Chartered Accountants Ireland. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Business group IBEC has said some of the 'welcome aims' in the new Programme for Government must now be matched by firm investment commitments. IBEC called on the government to press for a political agreement in Brussels to ensure that EU fiscal rules were applied more flexibly. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Ireland has emerged as America's fourth-largest creditor following China, Japan and the Cayman Islands after the US government revised the way it reports the figures. Ireland's holdings are bigger than the size of its economy, which is worth about \$230 billion for a population of less than five million. One potential explanation is the large number of fund managers and other companies based in the country for its tax incentives. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Qatar Airways has announced that it has further increased its stake in the owner of IAG Group, the company which owns Aer Lingus and BA. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Ryanair boss Michael O'Leary has warned that the budget airline will be forced to scale back investment if Britain votes to leave the EU. To read more, [click here](#).

Global jobs site Indeed has published research which shows that [Brexit](#) could benefit Irish employers by making the UK less attractive job seekers. To read more on Brexit and Ireland, [click here](#).

The shock to the Irish economy if the UK were to vote next month to exit the EU would be "manageable", Moody's Investors Service said in a sparkling weekend report on the Irish economy. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The new Government received a boost this week as the last of three major credit rating agencies assigned an A-grade on Irish debt for the first time in five years. To read more on this news, [click here](#).

Ferry company Irish Continental Group (ICG) is not preparing for a British exit from the EU, as the firm's chief executive declares it as a "waste of time". To read more, [click here](#). [

Ireland has been ranked as the third safest country in the world in which to do business, according to a new survey by international risk management and insurance company FM Global. To read more, [click here](#).

Society

Both Siptu and the body representing ambulance staff have demanded urgent action following a review of the National Ambulance Service which highlighted a range of shortcomings and targets it said were unachievable. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Ireland's third-level system has fallen again in comparison with other countries — despite expanding access to university places. Ireland was placed 25th out of 50 — slipping from 24th a year ago and 20th in 2013 — in the latest ranking of national higher education systems by QS. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

NUI Galway is to introduce gender quotas to ensure that more women are promoted to senior academic posts. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Plans to introduce plain packaging for tobacco products next year have been thrown into serious doubt as a result of the length of time it has taken to form the new Government. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Growing numbers of students are receiving guidance from unqualified staff as cracks in school counselling services deepen following the cutbacks of 2012. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Householders are liable for water charges bills up to the end of March, Irish Water has said. The statement follows inquiries by one customer who received a bill on May 10th. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

GPs are developing a radical plan that would see doctors dispense medicines directly to patients, cutting pharmacists out of the supply chain. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Stress has now overtaken back pain as the number one health hazard in the workplace - leaving employees in a minefield that can trigger absenteeism and a loss of productivity. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Headlines

- [19.05.2016] [Anglo Irish relations could suffer if Britain votes for Brexit](#) [Irish Independent]
- [19.05.2016] [Enda Kenny defends plan to serve a full term as Taoiseach](#) [Irish Times]
- [19.05.2016] [Global demand fears dent Irish business mood](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [19.05.2016] [Action by health minister urged after ambulance service review](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [18.05.2016] [Government facing first legislative defeat of new Dáil](#) [Irish Times]
- [18.05.2016] [US Vice-President Joe Biden to visit Ireland next month to trace his roots](#) [Irish Independent]
- [18.05.2016] [IBEC wants EU deal on budget flexibility](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [18.05.2016] [Third-level system slips further in latest world rankings](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [17.05.2016] [Enda Kenny insists he will serve full Dáil term as Taoiseach](#) [Irish Times]
- [17.05.2016] [Gulf airline ups stake in Aer Lingus owner](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [17.05.2016] [Ireland emerges as the fourth-largest creditor of the US](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [17.05.2016] [Ryanair issues Brexit warning](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [17.05.2016] [NUI Galway to introduce gender quotas to ensure more women promoted to senior posts](#) [Irish Independent]
- [17.05.2016] [Plain tobacco packaging plan at risk due to delay in forming government](#) [Irish Independent]
- [16.05.2016] [Taoiseach to attend Easter Rising commemorations in Washington](#) [Irish Times]
- [16.05.2016] [‘Referendum required’ in transatlantic trade deal](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [16.05.2016] [Brexit ‘could be boost for Irish employers’](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [16.05.2016] [Cuts rob students of career guidance](#) [Irish Independent]
- [16.05.2016] [Irish Water says households are still liable for bills](#) [Irish Times]
- [16.05.2016] [Ireland ‘can weather a Brexit storm’](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [15.05.2016] [Lucinda Creighton resigns as leader of Renua party](#) [Irish Times]
- [15.05.2016] [Celtic Tiger pay ‘will not return’ for public sector](#) [Irish Independent]
- [15.05.2016] [GPs to slash drug prices by cutting out pharmacies](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [14.05.2016] [Alan Kelly eyes unopposed run for Labour leadership](#) [Irish Times]
- [14.05.2016] [Ireland regains coveted A-grade credit rating](#) [Irish Times]
- [14.05.2016] [Preparing for Brexit a ‘waste of time’ says Irish Continental chief](#) [Irish Independent]
- [13.05.2016] [52% have no confidence in Government to run country – poll](#) [Irish Times]
- [13.05.2016] [Ireland ‘third-safest country’ in the world for business](#) [Irish Times]
- [13.05.2016] [Warning for bosses – as stress is now top health hazard in workplace](#) [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