

KASPress Ireland



News Summary

20.05.16 – 26.05.16

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

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

London Office

Top Story

The Government had a comfortable victory of 60 votes to 39 in the Dáil on its proposal to suspend water charges for nine months while a commission deals with the issue. Fianna Fáil abstained, securing the Government's victory. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Politics

Sinn Fein has accused Fianna Fail of acting in coalition with Fine Gael by abstaining in a motion to scrap water charges. This gave Fine Gael a comfortable winning margin to push through the deal reached with Fianna Fáil during negotiations to form a new minority government. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The majority of people in Northern Ireland want to see the UK remaining in the EU, according to a new poll published today. The poll, conducted online by LucidTalk and published in this morning's Northern Ireland edition of the Sun newspaper, finds that 57 per cent of respondents intend to vote to remain in the EU while 35 per cent wish to leave. Those who are undecided but say they are planning to vote are at 9 per cent. To read more on Brexit and Ireland, [click here](#).

Minister of State at the Departments of the Taoiseach and Defence Paul Kehoe was in Birmingham on Wednesday to urge a remain vote in the upcoming EU membership referendum. To read more, [click here](#).

Taoiseach Enda Kenny has been criticised for saying he "can do nothing to stop" the current spate of gangland murders, which has claimed seven lives in 100 days. Mr Kenny made his admission in the Dáil yesterday after Gareth Hutch was gunned down in Dublin's North inner city. Mr Hutch was the nephew of Gerard 'The Monk' Hutch. To read more on the on-going gang warfare blighting Dublin, [click here](#).

Taoiseach Enda Kenny has increased the number of junior ministers from 15 to 18 and allocated four of them to the Department of Health. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Chartered Accountants Ireland, which represents more than 4,000 accountants in Northern Ireland and nearly 2,000 British-based accountants, has backed the campaign for the UK to remain in the EU and called on its members to contribute to an informed debate in their communities. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Europe's policy of "ever-closer union" does not benefit Ireland, Tim Martin, the chief executive of British pub giant JD Wetherspoon has said. To read more on his comments, [click here](#).

Brendan Howlin has been chosen by the seven members of the parliamentary party to succeed Joan Burton. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

In an interview with The Irish Times, President Michael D Higgins has questioned why reform of the direct provision system was missing from discussions on the formation of Government. To read more on this report, [click here](#).

Fianna Fáil leader Michael Martin has vowed to succeed Enda Kenny as Taoiseach. When asked the question in an interview with the Irish Independent, he replied "That's the whole objective. [...] Well, no the whole objective. But, of course, it's a legitimate objective for any opposition leader". To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The Government faces a €144m bill if it decides to pay back water charges after figures show the utility took €33.4m in payments this year before the payments were axed. The figures, published by Irish Water, show it has taken in a total of €144.2m in charges across four different billing cycles. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Economy

Facebook, Google, Twitter and other multinational tech giants in Ireland face new uncertainty with the Irish Data Protection Commissioner saying that their data transfers may not be in compliance with European law. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

A new €500,000 fund, the Enterprise Ireland Competitive Start Fund (CSF), has been set up to help start-up companies which provide technology aimed at the financial services sector. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Dublin has been selected to become a base for developing services using new blockchain technologies by Deloitte, the professional services and consulting firm. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Irish employment rose by an annual 2.4 per cent, or 46,900, in the first quarter to 1,976,500 as the unemployment rate fell to 8.3 per cent from nine per cent over the quarter, new figures show. The latest data from the Central Statistics Office also show that the jobless rate for April was revised down to 7.9 per cent from a previously-reported 8.4 per cent. To read more about the latest employment figures from Ireland, [click here](#).

The Dublin Airport Authority (DAA) will begin an investor roadshow this week as part of its plans to refinance its current debt before it starts the long mooted second runway in Dublin. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

As the economy shows signs of recovery, lawyers are set to demand fee hikes for representing free legal aid clients in the criminal courts — just as the justice minister plans to tighten up the scheme and perhaps even disband it. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

An Irish rival to taxi app Hailo is expanding into the US. Lynk is working with thousands of drivers in New York, Washington and Boston and will launch in those cities before the end of 2016. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The Department of Finance is looking at the possibility of introducing a tax-advantaged share options scheme for small and medium-sized businesses. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Society

Garda recruitment must be immediately accelerated as numbers of new recruits will not fill gap left by those retiring, the head of the [Garda Representative Association](#) (GRA) has warned. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Homeless children are being accommodated on blow-up beds in adult hostels as the number of families in emergency accommodation has passed 1,000 for the first time. To read more, [click here](#).

As Focus Ireland figures show another 74 families became homeless in Dublin last month, the Housing Agency has called for grants to refurbish the hundreds of thousands of homes lying vacant. Using 2011 census figures, the Housing Agency has estimated that 230,056 houses are unoccupied in this country. Meanwhile, there are 6,000 homeless people, including 2,000 children, and 150,000 on the local authority housing waiting lists. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Forecourt retailer Maxol is to create 50 new jobs in Mayo after a €2m investment that will see the firm restore its station on Newport Road and open a new outlet in Castlebar. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The government should introduce tax cuts and a grants scheme to encourage people to refurbish vacant homes to help alleviate the housing crisis, says the Chairperson of the Housing Agency, Conor Skehan. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Baggage fees and fares at Irish airline Ryanair are set to fall in the coming year after profits at the firm soared in 2015. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Politicians, families and Yes campaigners gathered in Dublin Castle on Sunday to celebrate the one-year anniversary of the passing of the marriage equality referendum. For more details on this story, [click here](#).

The HSE's recruitment suspension at a time when hospitals are already suffering a manpower crisis will make it impossible to deliver safe care, unions have warned. The Irish Medical Organisation (IMO) said the move was a "hammer blow" to efforts to tackle serious staffing shortages in hospitals. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The row between secondary teachers and the Government has escalated with a decision by the ASTI to ballot for strike action if there is any interference with members pay and conditions when they stop working the 33 Croke Park hours in September. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Headlines

- [26.05.2016] [Government amendment on water charges carried](#) [Irish Times]
- [26.05.2016] [Fianna Dáil must explain decision to side with the Government on Irish Water, says SF](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [26.05.2016] [New fund to help finance technology start-up](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [26.05.2016] [Garda recruitment must be 'accelerated' to fill retirement gaps](#) [Irish Times]
- [26.05.2016] [New threat to Facebook as Irish commissioner questions key data law](#) [Irish Independent]
- [25.05.2016] [Brexit: Majority of NI voters want to remain in EU](#) [Irish Times]
- [25.05.2016] [Minister Paul Kehoe visits Birmingham to urge Britain to remain in EU](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [25.05.2016] [Enda Kenny admits defeat on gang murders](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [25.05.2016] [Deloitte to develop fintech in Irish 'lab', 50 jobs to be created](#) [Irish Independent]
- [24.05.2016] [Irish Q1 employment rises by 2.4% to 1.98 million](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [24.05.2016] [Maxol to create 50 jobs in West of Ireland with €2m investment](#) [Irish Independent]
- [24.05.2016] [Homeless children given beds in adult hostels](#) [Irish Times]
- [24.05.2016] [230k houses like vacant as thousands wait for housing to become available](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [23.05.2016] [All-island accountancy body backs UK remaining in EU](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [23.05.2016] [DAA to clear the runway on €550 million debt refinancing](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [23.05.2016] [Ryanair fares and baggage costs to fall as profits soar 43pc](#) [Irish Independent]
- [23.05.2016] [Lawyers demand increase in fees for free legal aid as economy recovers](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [22.05.2016] [Wetherspoon boss: Brexit would be good for Ireland](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [22.05.2016] [Irish taxi app firm rolling out to US](#) [Irish Independent]
- [22.05.2016] [Crowds celebrate anniversary of marriage equality vote](#) [Irish Times]
- [21.05.2016] [Brendan Howlin chosen to be new Labour leader](#) [Irish Times]
- [21.05.2016] [President Higgins criticises lack of asylum seeker reform](#) [Irish Times]
- [21.05.2016] [Micheal Martin vows to succeed Kenny as Taoiseach](#) [Irish Independent]
- [21.05.2016] [Tax-free stock options on the way to boost Irish start-ups](#) [Irish Independent]
- [21.05.2016] [Recruitment embargo 'risks safe hospital care'](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [20.05.2016] [Taoiseach appoints 16 Fine Gael TDs as junior ministers](#) [Irish Times]
- [20.05.2016] [Government could face €144m in water charge payments](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [20.05.2016] [ASTI to ballot for strike action if extra working hour leads to pay cut for teachers](#) [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