

KASPress Ireland



News Summary

17.06.16 – 23.06.16

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

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Top Story

Voting is under way across Northern Ireland in the referendum on the UK's membership of the European Union. The future of the Irish border was a key issue in the campaign, with claim and counter claim on whether a UK exit would see a return to security and customs checkpoints. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Politics

Former European Parliament President Pat Cox fears a Brexit will spark the "disintegration" of the European Union (EU) and provide a stimulus to right-wing anti-political forces. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

After meeting with representatives of the Dublin Central area, Taoiseach Enda Kenny has committed to meeting more north inner city groups to hear the effect gangland crime has had on their communities. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Taoiseach Enda Kenny has urged the Irish in Britain to come out to vote claiming they may make the difference in the outcome of the Brexit referendum. With polls placing both the Remain and Leave sides neck and neck, Mr Kenny has urged the 330,000 Irish who are eligible to vote to use their ballot to keep Britain in the European Union. To read more on Ireland and Brexit, [click here](#).

The Government expects to have roughly €1 billion for spending increases and tax cuts in October's budget. This is nearly € 500 million more than projected at the start of the year and reflects the current strength of the economy. In the summer economic statement, Minister for Finance Michael Noonan said the State's budgetary position was now on a safe and sustainable path. To read more on the summer economic statement, [click here](#).

Taoiseach Enda Kenny has led special Dáil tributes to slain British MP Jo Cox who was killed in Yorkshire last Thursday. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The Government is facing a potentially serious defeat in the Oireachtas unless it can resolve the controversy over waste charges in the next 24 hours. The association representing private domestic waste management companies is meeting today to consider proposals put forward by Minister for Housing and Planning Simon Coveney at the weekend. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Irish EU Commissioner Phil Hogan has been dubbed 'Brussels secret weapon' in the campaign to persuade British voters to back the Remain campaign in Thursday's referendum. While other EU commissioners and bureaucrats have been kept at home, Mr Hogan has played a high-profile role on the canvass trail for the past two months. To read more Ireland and Brexit, [click here](#).

A Brexit would “test the capacity” of the Irish Government, Fianna Fáil’s finance spokesman has warned. Michael McGrath said a vote this week to leave the European Union would have major political ramifications for Ireland which the already fragile minority Government may not be able to withstand. To read more on Ireland and Brexit, [click here](#).

A British Irish organisation called Irish4Europe has released a video saying a vote to leave the European Union would risk Northern Ireland’s progress. To read on Ireland and Brexit, [click here](#).

Newly appointed junior justice minister, David Stanton, wants personal possession of all illegal drugs to be decriminalised as part of the Government's plan to tackle gangland crime. The Minister of State for Equality, Migration and Integration also plans to use his new position to convince Fine Gael colleagues to recognise the Travelling Community as a distinct ethnic minority group. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Fine Gael TD John Deasy has turned down Taoiseach Enda Kenny's offer to become a Dáil committee chairman, according the Irish Independent. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Taoiseach Enda Kenny suspended his Brexit campaigning after the atrocity which led to the death of British Labour MP Jo Cox. The Taoiseach had travelled to the UK on Thursday to encourage Irish communities in Liverpool and Manchester to vote to remain in the European Union. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The Dáil will later this month vote on a Bill that would allow for the termination of pregnancies in cases of fatal foetal abnormalities. For more news on this Bill, [click here](#).

The Water Services Amendment Bill, which will be debated in the Dáil next week, will implement the decision to pause the levies for nine months. The Legislation, which will allow for the suspension of water charges, provides for their re-introduction from March 31st next year. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Economy

A UK vote in favour of leaving the European Union could prompt Morgan Stanley to move its local headquarters to Dublin or Frankfurt from London, bank President Colm Kelleher has warned. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Shopkeepers and locals in the rural Border town of Belleek, which straddles the Fermanagh-Donegal boundary, fear that a UK exit from the European Union could bring on economic woe. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Demand for new houses is expected to far outstrip supply again this year with just 11,000 new houses expected to be completed in 2016, according to a new report. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Irish companies with big business interests were among the big gainers this week as markets soared on renewed speculation Britain will vote to remain in the European Union this Thursday. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Ireland's investment in the European Space Agency is expected to double employment over the next four years. The ESA has signed an agreement establishing a Space Business Incubation Centre which will support 25 Irish start-ups in space-related technologies by 2020. This is expected to yield 1,000 high-value technology jobs. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland (SBCI) has supported 17,000 jobs in Irish SMEs through its lending this year. SBCI's loan rates were on average 1.5 per cent lower than market rates. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The government has drawn up contingency plans for the economy if Britain votes to leave the EU this week, a move that could make the budgetary situation far tougher. To read more on the potential implications of a Brexit for the Irish economy, [click here](#).

The number of overseas trips to Ireland by non-residents increased from 1.531 million in quarter one 2015 to 1.785 million trips in quarter one this year, a jump of 16.6 per cent. Nights spent in Ireland by overseas travellers were up 16.2 per cent in the first quarter this year compared with 2015, up from 10.0 million to 11.6 million. To read more on the latest tourism figures from Ireland, [click here](#).

Society

Health experts have urged the Government to introduce long-promised minimum pricing laws in a bid to break the Irish love affair with alcohol. It comes as a report from the Health Research Board (HRB) shows drinkers aged between 15 and 34 had the highest increase in liver disease, which was linked to the Celtic Tiger boom. To read more on this report, [click here](#).

After an eight-year pay freeze, the roles of hundreds of health service staff are to be re-evaluated to establish whether their posts should be upgraded and salaries increased. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Three people a day die from drinking alcohol in Ireland as the health costs from the drug continue to rise, a new report shows. Hospital discharges solely attributable to alcohol have doubled in the past 20 years, and alcoholic liver disease has risen three-fold, according to the study from the Health Research Board. To read more on this report, [click here](#).

The number of homeless children and families continues to increase with the latest figures for last month showing there were 2,177 homeless children in 1,054 families homeless across the State last month. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Social Protection Minister Leo Varadkar has rowed in over the growing controversy about who should run primary schools. Mr Varadkar has given a ringing endorsement to Educate Together, the multi-denominational body that does not offer any religious education within the school day. However, his Fine Gael colleague, Education Minister Richard Bruton, has signaled clear support for community national schools. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The Government has been called on to immediately implement changes to address the housing crisis, including rolling out stronger controls on rents and putting a stop to repossessions. Rent supplement should also be increased in line with market rates and some 10,000 social housing units need to be supplied annually, a new report recommends. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Headlines

- [23.06.2016] [Northern Ireland voters go to the polls on EU referendum day](#) [Belfast Telegraph]
- [23.06.2016] [Cox: 'Brexit could spark disintegration of European Union'](#) [Irish Independent]
- [23.06.2016] [Belleek residents fear Brexit may bring economic woe](#) [Irish Times]
- [23.06.2016] [Brexit: Morgan Stanley eyes Dublin and Frankfurt if Britain leaves EU](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [23.06.2016] [Health experts seek law on drink pricing](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [22.06.2016] [Three people die from alcohol a day in Ireland, report shows](#) [Irish Times]
- [22.06.2016] [Taoiseach commits to meeting more Dublin inner city groups worried about gangland crime](#) [Irish Independent]
- [22.06.2016] [Property group expects only 11,000 new houses to be completed this year](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [22.06.2016] [HSE posts to be re-evaluated](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [21.06.2016] [Taoiseach urges Irish in Britain to 'Remain'](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [21.06.2016] [Government to have €1bn for tax cuts and spending in budget](#) [Irish Times]
- [21.06.2016] [Irish among the biggest gainers as markets bet on UK to stay](#) [Irish Independent]
- [21.06.2016] [Taoiseach leads special Dáil tributes to slain British MP Jo Cox](#) [Irish Independent]
- [21.06.2016] [European Space Agency to double Irish employment to 1,000 high-value jobs by 2020](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [20.06.2016] [Waste management firms meet over plan to freeze charges](#) [Irish Times]
- [20.06.2016] [Hogan seen as 'secret weapon' for Remain side](#) [Irish Independent]
- [20.06.2016] [Fianna Fáil: Brexit would 'test the capacity of Government'](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [20.06.2016] [SBCI supports 17,000 jobs in SME sector](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [19.06.2016] [Brexit: British Irish group releases video calling for Remain vote](#) [Irish Times]
- [19.06.2016] [Decriminalise all drugs says Junior Justice Minister](#) [Irish Independent]
- [19.06.2016] [Government braces for a post-Brexit Irish economy](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [18.06.2016] [The number of homeless children reached 2,177 in May](#) [Irish Times]
- [18.06.2016] [Varadkar and Bruton at odds over non-religious ethos for primary schools](#) [Irish Times]
- [18.06.2016] [Deasy rejects Kenny offer of chairman role](#) [Irish Independent]
- [18.06.2016] [Cabinet urged to act on housing crisis report](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [17.06.2016] [Dáil to vote on Bill allowing abortion in cases of fatal foetal abnormality](#) [Irish Times]
- [17.06.2016] [Taoiseach ends Brexit campaign after killing](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [17.06.2016] [Bill to suspend water charges to be debated next week](#) [Irish Times]
- [17.06.2016] [Visits to Ireland up 16.6 per cent to 1.785 million trips](#) [Sunday Business Post]

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