

KASPress Ireland



News Summary

05.08.16 – 11.08.16

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

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Top Story

Public Expenditure and Reform Minister Paschal Donohoe has issued a stark warning to his cabinet colleagues that Budget 2017 will not be a giveaway as “protecting the economy” is now a priority. Mr Donohoe signalled Brexit and other world events would have “seismic consequences” on Ireland. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Politics

Northern Ireland First Minister Arlene Foster, who backed a Brexit vote, has warned Theresa May that the North's economy and farming sector is now vulnerable to a loss of EU funding and tariffs on trade. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Housing Minister Simon Coveney insists that Ireland remains committed to water charges, despite the current suspension. Mr Coveney was speaking after environment commissioner Karmenu Vella told the Government that the EU is closely watching developments in Ireland in relation to water charges. Mr Vella said Ireland should “avoid” becoming “non-compliant” with international water laws. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The European Commission wrote to the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government Simon Coveney to offer “legal clarification” on whether Ireland could abolish water charges. The European Commission is arguing that since the introduction of Irish Water it had become “established practice” to recover the costs of water services and this cannot be reversed without contravening the Water Framework Directive. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Local authorities have been asked to give planning applications for housing the highest priority by the Department of Housing. In a circular to managers, department assistant secretary David Walsh outlines the urgency for councils to deliver in the housing crisis. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Financial and economic experts in Ireland are the most pessimistic of any country about the impact of Britain's withdrawal from the European Union, according to an influential German think-tank. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

A new system where hospital patients are scheduled chronologically is part of a five-point plan announced by Minister for Health Simon Harris to tackle waiting lists. On Tuesday, Mr Harris also said it had been a mistake to deactivate the National Treatment Purchase Fund (NTPF). To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The Government is open to doing deals with other Independents if existing ministers jump ship or the minority administration collapses, Agriculture Minister Michael Creed has said. In the first hints of how Enda Kenny's minority government may be salvaged if it falls apart, Mr Creed said that its survival was "inextricably linked" with getting on with a handful of Independents. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Pensioners are in line for a €5-a-week increase in the old age pension in October's Budget as Fianna Fail is now demanding the rise in return for continuing to support the minority Fine Gael-led Government. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

There has been a big increase in Irish passport applications from people living in Britain in the aftermath of the leave result in the UK's EU membership referendum. According to the latest figures from the Department of Foreign Affairs, applications for Irish passports from people living in the UK increased by 73 per cent in the month after the Brexit result. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The minister with responsibility for defence, Paul Kehoe, says he is happy with the amount of money being put into the Defence Forces, despite Ireland having the smallest percentage investment of its gross domestic product (GDP) in its military of any country in Europe. Mr Kehoe said spending on defence has risen from €898m in 2015 to €905m this year, but according to statistics this is just 0.5% of GDP, compared to the 0.9% spent in 2005. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Economy

Securities firm Davy signalled it is likely to cut its 2017 Irish growth forecasts (currently 4 per cent), following on from a slew of downgrades by brokerages since the UK decided to quit the EU. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The pensions “hole” at Ireland’s largest companies has almost doubled in the first seven months of the year, new figures show. Volatile markets mean companies have found it difficult to make money on their pension investments. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

DopSys, the Irish company which trains delivery companies in the handling of specialist or valuable goods, has secured a Europe-wide expansion deal with Dutch industry giant Nunner Logistics. The deal will see DopSys roll out its training programmes across the wider Nunner network, which expands across Europe and into Russia. It follows an earlier deal which saw DopSys roll out across the UK. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The yield on 10-year Irish debt, along with those in Spain and the UK, fell to a record low in morning trading on Tuesday as bonds around the world advanced, buoyed by central banks commitments to boost growth and a dimming outlook for inflation as commodities declined. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

More than 6,800 mortgages worth €1.29 billion were drawn down by borrowers in the second quarter, an increase of 18 per cent on the same period last year and a rise of 29 per cent from the first quarter, new figures show. The data, released by the Banking & Payments Federation Ireland (BPMFI) showed that in volume terms, lending was up by 11 per cent on the year and by 25 per cent on the quarter. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Irish construction firms took on more staff and spent more in July, according to the Ulster Bank construction purchasing managers index. The spending and hiring came on foot of an accelerated increase in new orders, the research showed. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The DAA has this morning initiated the first stage of the tender process, seeking interest from companies or consortia interested in constructing the new 3.1km runway. The DAA then expects to narrow those expressions of interest to at least four applicants that will be invited to the second stage of the tender process. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Northern Ireland business confidence has declined for the first time for more than a year following the Brexit vote. The number of new orders decreased in July for the first time since April 2015 as the decision to leave the European Union rocked local companies, according to a survey from Ulster Bank. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Society

A new cancer drug has been made available to Irish patients with three rare forms of blood cancer following a successful trial last year. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Four days of mourning began on Tuesday at St Eugene's Cathedral in Derry in honour of the city's best-known bishop, Edward 'Eddie' Daly. The lifelong peace and justice campaigner, recognised internationally as the priest waving the bloodied white handkerchief while trying to help an injured teenager on Bloody Sunday, passed away in hospital on Monday morning at the age of 82. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Disadvantaged schools tend to have a higher concentration of students with special needs because other schools turn them away, new research has found. To read more on the study, [click here](#).

A prominent loyalist who was shot dead in Northern Ireland has been named. John Boreland in his mid-40s was a member of the Ulster Defence Association. The killing has prompted fears of an escalation of violence between loyalist factions. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The Garda was forced to put an emergency plan in place in recent days after an external source tried to hack into the force's data systems. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

There are 530,000 people on public hospital waiting lists for inpatient, outpatient and day care, according to new figures released by the National Treatment Purchase Fund (NTPF). To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Arms, explosives and other material discovered in Co Armagh and described as a "major" dissident republican weapons cache were in an "advanced stage of readiness", the PSNI said on Friday evening. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Dublin Bus passengers face the threat of strikes after members of a union voted overwhelmingly in favour of industrial action after rejecting an 8pc pay rise. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The newly formed national taskforce on youth mental health will meet for the first time on September 6. Helen McEntee, the junior minister with responsibility for mental health, last night announced the make-up of the taskforce. She will act as chair and will be joined by a range of members drawn from a broad range of backgrounds including health, political, sporting, children, and mental health, charity and support sectors. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Headlines

- [11.08.2016] [Minister Paschal Donohoe warns budget 2017 not going to a giveaway](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [11.08.2016] [North's farming sector vulnerable to Brexit – Foster](#) [Irish Independent]
- [11.08.2016] [Davy eyes Irish 2017 growth downgrade post-Brexit](#) [Irish Times]
- [10.08.2016] [‘Ireland is committed to water charges’](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [10.08.2016] [European Commission clarifies State would breach law in abolishing water charges](#) [Irish Times]
- [10.08.2016] [Irish training company nets Dutch expansion deal](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [10.08.2016] [Pensions gap doubles in Ireland's largest companies](#) [Irish Times]
- [10.08.2016] [New cancer drug now available in Ireland ‘offers hope’ for patients with rare blood cancers](#) [Irish Independent]
- [09.08.2016] [Ireland has the gloomiest view of Brexit](#) [Irish Independent]
- [09.08.2016] [Simon Harris announces plan to tackle hospital waiting lists](#) [Irish Times]
- [09.08.2016] [Bishop Edward Daly dies](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [09.08.2016] [Schools putting up barriers to pupils with special needs, study finds](#) [Irish Times]
- [09.08.2016] [Sterling falls again after BOE signals further moves](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [09.08.2016] [New mortgage lending rises by 18% in second quarter to €1.29 billion](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [08.08.2016] [Government ‘can do deal’ with other Independents if current ministers step down](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [08.08.2016] [Prominent loyalist shot dead in north Belfast](#) [Irish Times]
- [08.08.2016] [Irish construction firm spent more and hired more in July](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [08.08.2016] [DAA to name successful bidder for new €320m Dublin Airport runway next spring](#) [Irish Independent]
- [08.08.2016] [Business confidence in North declines after Brexit vote](#) [Irish Times]
- [07.08.2016] [Garda shut data systems after coming under malware attack](#) [Irish Times]
- [07.08.2016] [Fianna Fail set to force €5-a-week pension rise](#) [Irish Independent]
- [06.08.2016] [Large increase in Irish passport applications post Brexit](#) [Irish Times]
- [06.08.2016] [Ireland spends less of GDP on defence forces than Luxembourg](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [06.08.2016] [530,000 people are on public hospital waiting lists, new figures reveal](#) [Irish Independent]
- [05.08.2016] [Bomb and firearms among dissident weapons found in North](#) [Irish Times]
- [05.08.2016] [Dublin bus passengers face strike threat after union voted in favour of industrial action](#) [Irish Independent]
- [05.08.2016] [Newly formed youth mental health taskforce to meet for first time in September](#) [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