

## KASPress Ireland



### News Summary

12.08.16 – 18.08.16

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

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

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### Top Story

**The serious problems confronting Ireland as a result of Brexit will form a key part of discussions in Dublin early next month between European Council president Donald Tusk and Taoiseach Enda Kenny. Mr Kenny has already made a concerted effort to inform key EU leaders of the particular problems Ireland will face when the UK leaves the union. To read more on this story, [click here](#).**

### Politics

Renua founder Lucinda Creighton has insisted there is a future for the party she used to lead. Ms Creighton stood down in early May after losing her seat in the general election. Speaking on RTÉ's Today with Sean O'Rourke show, she said she did not look back with regret at her political career and was instead looking forward to her new role as a strategist and newspaper columnist. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Minister for Sport Shane Ross is to consider appointing a senior counsel to conduct an independent investigation into the Olympic Games ticket touting controversy. Mr Ross flew home from Rio de Janeiro last night six days ahead of schedule to decide how to proceed with an investigation. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Minister for Housing Simon Coveney wants Dublin City Council to reverse plans to restrict the height of apartment blocks that can be built in the city, because of the risks to future housing supply. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams has accused dissident republicans of being "at war" with the nationalist community and challenged them to enter into dialogue in order to end their violence. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The Government is veering away from introducing any increase in the minimum wage in the upcoming Budget as a direct consequence of Brexit. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Cabinet ministers have been told to prioritise their spending needs for the next three years as fears grow within Government over the impact of Brexit. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The Government is pushing people to work past the age of 65 in a bid to reduce the ever-increasing cost of providing the State pension. Minister for Public Expenditure Paschal Donohoe said yesterday a longer working life will be a reality for many people. He said that many citizens are experiencing longer and healthier lives. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

EU structural and investment projects in Northern Ireland signed before the British Chancellor of the Exchequer's autumn statement will be guaranteed after Brexit, the Treasury in London has said. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The Government has agreed to implement recommendations made by an interdepartmental group set up to consider policies on retirement age in both the public and private sectors. In line with one recommendation, the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform is to review, with public service employers, the barriers to extended participation in the public service workforce up to the age of entitlement to the State pension. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Activist Raymond McCord this week launched the first legal challenge in Northern Ireland to Brexit on the grounds that it could undermine the Belfast Agreement and damage the peace process. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

## Economy

Cork company Zervas is to create 40 new jobs in Cork and Dublin, it has announced. The move will see the company, which provides customer support outsourcing, expand its employee count from 145 to 185, with the majority of the positions being based in its Cork headquarters. Recruitment is expected to begin immediately. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Irish business sentiment has fallen to its lowest level in three-and-a-half years, with Brexit uncertainty being the top concern amongst leading executives. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Dublin Airport has said July was a record month, with almost three million passengers passing through the airport. Passenger numbers were up 9 per cent compared with July last year. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The average price of houses in Cork rose during the first half of 2016, although there was a slowdown in the number of sales in the property market. An analysis of the Residential Property Price Register (RPPR) shows that transaction levels for the first six months of the year in Cork were down almost 5%. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Household income in Ireland jumped by 6 per cent in the first quarter of 2016, pumping an extra €5 billion into the economy and taking consumer spending power to levels not seen since the height of the boom, new figures show. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Official figures show that Ireland's trade surplus widened in June as the value of goods exports increased and imports fell. The Central Statistics Office said the seasonally adjusted value of exports in June was €9.55 billion, up 5 per cent compared with May. Imports fell by 8 per cent to just over €5 billion, giving a 22 per cent higher trade surplus of €4.5 billion. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Ireland's per capita spend on healthcare topped \$5,000 in 2014 – making us the fourth highest spender in the EU that year. New figures from the OECD's just released statistical comparisons of health systems show Irish people spent \$5,001 in 2014. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

## Society

The Union of Students in Ireland (USI) is sending letters to 100,000 homes this week to encourage owners to rent out spare rooms to students. The move is a part of a wider campaign to combat the ongoing accommodation crisis, which is having an impact on thousands of students ahead of the college term. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Pope Francis yesterday appointed Irish-born US clergyman Bishop Kevin Farrell to lead the new Dicastery (department) for Laity, the Family and Life. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Around 60 per cent of parents will get into debt to cover the cost of their child's third-level education, according to a study from the Irish League of Credit Unions. [Click here](#) to read more on this story.

Business group IBEC has broadly welcomed the trends emerging from this year's Leaving Certificate results, but said more needs to be done to improve language and technology skills. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Fail rates in maths among Leaving Certificate ordinary- level students have bounced back up to almost 10pc this year. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

There has been a 21% decrease in the number of new blood donors coming forward to donate in Ireland. A total of 21% fewer people came forward to donate in 2015, compared with 2010's figures, according to the Irish Blood Transfusion Service (IBTS). The average age of a blood donor has also increased in Ireland. [Click here](#) to read more on this story.

Four out of five primary school teachers who retired last year had not reached the official retirement age. Figures published by the Department of Education show 539 out of 654 teachers at primary school level who retired during 2015 did so on a voluntary basis. The annual cost of paying pensions to retired teaching staff rose by over €30m last year to €739m. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Charities and politicians have welcomed the Government's decision to revamp the current "wasteful" social housing waiting list system and have called for the urgent implementation of proposed changes. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

An asylum seeker who received anonymous donations amounting to €20,000 to pay for her first year at Trinity College Dublin has been granted a right to remain in Ireland. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Up to 80 people a year could be given a new lease of life as a radical new drug for treating some forms of blood cancer is helping patients live up to four years longer. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Investors are seeking to set up a private secondary school in Dublin for children of executives working for large multinationals which would teach an alternative to the Leaving Certificate. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

## Headlines

- [18.08.2016] [Lucinda Creighton insists there is a future for Renua](#) [Irish Times]
- [18.08.2016] [Minister for Sport leaves Rio early to act on ticket affair](#) [Irish Times]
- [18.08.2016] [Dublin City Council asked to reverse apartment height limits](#) [Irish Times]
- [18.08.2016] [Cork's Zevas to create 40 Irish jobs](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [18.08.2016] [Irish business sentiment falls sharply](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [18.08.2016] [USI asks 100,000 homeowners to rent out spare rooms as housing crisis hits students](#) [Irish Independent]
- [18.08.2016] [Two-thirds of parents will get into debt to fund third-level education](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [17.08.2016] [Irish-born bishop Kevin Farrell to head Vatican's new laity group](#) [Irish Times]
- [17.08.2016] [Mixed signals from Leaving Cert maths figures](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [17.08.2016] [Leaving Cert results: More than 4,000 pupils fail maths](#) [Irish Independent]
- [17.08.2016] [21% drop in blood donors in Ireland in 10 years](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [16.08.2016] [Gerry Adams says dissidents 'at war' with nationalist community](#) [Irish Times]
- [16.08.2016] [Dublin Airport figures hit new high in July](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [16.08.2016] [House prices in Cork rise, but there is a slowdown in sales](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [15.08.2016] [Coalition forced into rethink of minimum wage hike by Brexit](#) [Irish Independent]
- [15.08.2016] [CSO reports bigger trade surplus in June](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [15.08.2016] [Rise of 6% in household income fuels consumer spending](#) [Irish Times]
- [15.08.2016] [80% of teachers leave before retirement age](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [14.08.2016] [Donald Tusk to meet Taoiseach for Brexit talks](#) [Irish Times]
- [14.08.2016] [Ministers are to set three year-year budgets for Brexit aftermath](#) [Irish Independent]
- [14.08.2016] [Irish health spending in EU's top four](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [13.08.2016] [Working past the age of 65 'will be a reality'](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [13.08.2016] [UK guarantees funding for key North projects post Brexit](#) [Irish Times]
- [13.08.2016] [Plans to overhaul social housing wait list system welcomed](#) [Irish Times]
- [12.08.2016] [Northern rights activist launches challenge to Brexit](#) [Irish Times]
- [12.08.2016] [Backing for plans to allow people to stay in work longer](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [12.08.2016] [Trinity asylum seeker student gets right to remain in Ireland](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [12.08.2016] [Proposed private school to teach alternative to Leaving Cert](#) [Irish Times]
- [12.08.2016] [Drug could extend lives of cancer patients](#) [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