

KASPress Ireland



News Summary

19.08.16 – 25.08.16

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

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Top Story

Social Protection Minister Leo Varadkar has warned rival politicians that the Brexit vote will only result in a united Ireland if people respect diversity instead of seeking a “land grab” through “crude” border referendum.

He made the comments at the annual commemoration ceremony for Michael Collins and Arthur Griffith in Dublin’s Glasnevin Cemetery on Sunday.

Mr Varadkar said he does want to see a united Ireland in the future. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Politics

The Government has been advised it may have to increase property tax by 600 per cent or raise the price of petrol, diesel and alcohol if it scraps the Universal Social Charge. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Non-compliant genetically modified food could be sold in Ireland due to shortcomings in tests carried out at the country’s main laboratory for analysing genetically modified organisms (GMOs), EU food safety officials have warned. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The Government is understood to be willing to upgrade its investigation into the Olympics ticket controversy to a statutory inquiry if witnesses refuse to co-operate with the inquiry it is in the process of setting up. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Members of the Independent Alliance expect that they will have a free vote on a Dáil motion on an abortion referendum in the autumn, reigniting the July divisions in the Coalition that caused the most serious Cabinet split since the formation of the Government. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The rising number of women holding Cabinet positions is helping to change the “dynamic” of Government, Tánaiste and Minister for Justice Frances Fitzgerald has claimed. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The Government needs to focus on building a social recovery and politicians should develop a long-term vision for the country, Minister for Social Protection Leo Varadkar has said. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Fianna Fail's finance spokesman Michael McGrath has moved to dampen expectations of massive tax cuts in October's Budget and insisted his party is more concerned with investing in public services. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The Government is to establish a three-month inquiry into the Olympics ticket touting controversy but it will not have the power to compel witnesses or demand documents. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Sinn Féin has suspended a party member after he allegedly made contact with a witness to an inquiry into Northern Ireland's largest ever property deal. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Economy

Building materials group CRH has reported a big jump in pre-tax profits for the first half of this year, with a better than expected figure of €407m. This compares with a profit of €63m in the same period a year earlier, though this year's figure was boosted by significant acquisitions last year. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The number of people in work has broken through the two million mark for the first time since the start of 2009. Official data from the Central Statistics Office (CSO) shows that employment rose by 2.9pc in the year to the end of June - or by 56,200 - with the number in both full- and part-time work increasing. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Ireland has moved up to seventh place in a global ranking of the world's most innovative economies. Switzerland retained its lead in the Global Innovation Index 2016 which is published by Cornell University in the US, French business school Insead and the World Intellectual Property Organisation, a United Nations agency. War-torn Yemen ranked last. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Ibec, has warned that Dublin will lose out in the global competition to attract jobs and investment if Dublin City Council approves a plan to lower the maximum height allowed for 'low rise' residential buildings in its inner city and suburbs. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Figures from property website Daft.ie show that rents across the country rose by an average of 3.9 per cent during the second quarter of this year. This was the largest quarterly increase since 2007, according to Daft.ie. The site's rental report showed that the average monthly rent in the second quarter was €1,037, a record high. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Revenue collected €165m more in inheritance tax last year than in 2010, sparking calls for reforms to be made in the forthcoming Budget. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Gareth Murphy, the Central Bank's Director of Markets Supervision, has become the latest senior official to leave the regulator. The Central Bank said Mr Murphy will remain with the bank until November, but will step away now from supervisory activities. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

One in four Irish consumers have cut spending since Britain's vote to leave the EU, and two-thirds of consumers believe that Brexit is bad news for Ireland, according to a new poll. Research from media agency MediaCom has revealed that nearly two-thirds of Irish consumers, 65 per cent, believe that Brexit is bad for Ireland. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Minister for Education and Skills Richard Bruton yesterday inaugurated the European delivery centre of NIIT in Dublin. The company, headquartered in India, provides multi-disciplinary learning management and training delivery solutions to corporations, institutions and individuals in more than 40 countries. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

A survival plan allowing the department store chain Debenhams Retail (Ireland) Ltd exit examinership has been approved by the High Court. Under the terms of the plan, the retailers 11 stores are to remain open and the vast majority of the company's 1,400 directly employed staff, some 500 concession staff, and 300 cosmetic staff are to be retained. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The EU's internal statistics agency has said today that regular visits to member states to check national accounts and growth figures are "standard practice". Eurostat made the comments after reports suggested the agency was sending a mission specifically to investigate Ireland's controversial growth figures. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Bank of Ireland plans to charge some corporate customers to hold their deposits, according to person with knowledge of the matter, becoming the latest European lender to pass on negative interest rates. The bank, which is 14 per cent state-owned, plans to impose the cost on companies and institutions with more than €10 million on deposit, said the person, who asked not to be identified because the move had not been announced publicly. [Click here](#) to read more on this story.

Society

Progress has been reported in talks aimed at restoring annual allowances worth €5,000 to newly qualified teachers - but the Department of Education has been warned that a deal must be done soon. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

University College Dublin, the State's largest university, plans to spend more than €300 million to build on-campus accommodation for 3,000 more students, doubling the student population living on site. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Police have arrested a serving member of Britain's armed forces for alleged involvement in preparing acts of terrorism, which may have been part of a plot to attack a target in England. The man detained is believed to be a Royal Marine. Officers from Scotland Yard's counter-terrorism command made the arrest on Wednesday at 12.20pm. It is believed to be linked to Northern Ireland-related terrorism. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

There has been a return to net inward migration in Ireland for the first time in seven years as the number of immigrants to the state rose to 79,300 in the year to April, outnumbering emigrants by 3,100, new CSO figures show. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

A significant drop in the number of schoolgirls opting to receive the vaccine that protects against cervical cancer has prompted the Irish Cancer Society (ICS) to organise talks where leading clinicians will promote its effectiveness. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Increasing numbers of families are becoming homeless as their landlords are having to sell up, the homelessness charity Focus Ireland has warned. This is becoming as great an issue as unaffordable rents, says the charity, and requires a response from the Government. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The Government should take the advice of experts who have recommended increases in the amounts paid in college grants, the Union of Students in Ireland (USI) said. USI president Annie Hoey was responding to the figures from the Irish League of Credit Unions which suggest 60% of parents are getting into debt to fund their children's third-level education. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Social Protection Minister Leo Varadkar has hit back at what he sees as the "misinformation" being spread in the wake of claims by a homeless campaigner that she can't get State aid to go back to college. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Headlines

- [25.08.2016] [EU worry at lack of GM food testing in Ireland](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [25.08.2016] [Property tax may need to be increased by 600% if USC scrapped](#) [Irish Times]
- [25.08.2016] [Workforce passes two million for first time since 2009](#) [Irish Independent]
- [25.08.2016] [Big buys swell CRH's first-half profits](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [24.08.2016] [UCD plans €300m student accommodation expansion](#) [Irish Times]
- [24.08.2016] [Ireland rises to seventh in innovation league table](#) [Irish Independent]
- [24.08.2016] [Progress in talks on restoring allowances worth €5,000 to new teachers](#) [Irish Independent]
- [24.08.2016] [Member of British forces arrested over alleged Northern Ireland terrorism offences](#) [The Guardian]
- [23.08.2016] [Independent Coalition TDs expect free vote on abortions](#) [Irish Times]
- [23.08.2016] [Big fall in cervical cancer take-up](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [23.08.2016] [Government willing to make tickets inquiry statutory if required](#) [Irish Times]
- [23.08.2016] [Dublin will lose out in Brexit jobs race if it restricts high rise housing – Ibec](#) [Irish Independent]
- [23.08.2016] [Rent report signals accommodation squeeze for students](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [23.08.2016] [Massive hike in inheritance tax take since 2010](#) [Irish Independent]
- [23.08.2016] [Latest top official to step down from Central Bank](#) [Irish Independent]
- [23.08.2016] [Ireland sees net inward migration for first time since 2009](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [22.08.2016] [Leo Varadkar warns against post Brexit 'land grab'](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [22.08.2016] [More women in Cabinet is changing 'dynamic', says Tánaiste](#) [Irish Times]
- [22.08.2016] [More families being made homeless as landlords sell up](#) [Irish Times]
- [21.08.2016] [Varadkar: Ireland needs long-term vision but not higher taxes](#) [Irish Times]
- [21.08.2016] [Forget big tax cuts in Budget, warns McGrath](#) [Irish Independent]
- [21.08.2016] [A quarter of Irish consumers cut spending after Brexit](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [20.08.2016] [Olympic tickets row: Inquiry powerless to compel witness](#) [Irish Times]
- [20.08.2016] [Indian giant launches European office here](#) [Irish Independent]
- [20.08.2016] [Debenhams survival plan approved](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [19.08.2016] [Sinn Fein suspends member over Nama property sale](#) [Irish Times]
- [19.08.2016] [Eurostat insists Ireland growth figures check is normal procedure](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [19.08.2016] [Bank of Ireland to charge for deposits over €10m](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [19.08.2016] [Varadkar hits back at claims by homeless campaigner](#) [Irish Independent]
- [19.08.2016] [Students' union tells government to heed advice on grants](#) [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