

KASPress Ireland



News Summary

26.08.16 – 01.09.16

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

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Top Story

Independent Alliance Ministers are undecided as to whether they would support the proposal from Minister for Finance Michael Noonan to appeal this week's ruling from the European Commission which directed Apple to pay €13 billion in back taxes to the Irish State. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Politics

Brexit Minister David Davis has promised there will be no "hard border" in Ireland as he flies into the North for talks today. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Foreign Affairs Minister Charlie Flanagan says Brexit has led to the greater risk of a "diminishing" of the EU project as whole. Mr Flanagan is now due to meet with David Davis, the minister responsible for leading Britain's negotiations for leaving the EU, in the next 10 days. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Some 18 members of Sinn Féin in Northern Ireland have quit following the "anointment" of a replacement for disgraced former MLA Daithí McKay. The party members walked out after Sinn Féin announced Philip McGuigan would be the new MLA for North Antrim. And the rebels insisted that more resignations would follow. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The Dutch minister for foreign affairs Bert Koenders has become the latest EU official to offer support to Ireland ahead of the UK's exit from the European Union following June's referendum result. Minister for Foreign Affairs Charlie Flanagan met with his Dutch counterpart in Dublin on Tuesday. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Minister of State with responsibility for the OPW Seán Canney believes TDs do not have a "divine right" to a seat in Leinster House and, like the President of Ireland, should be capped at spending two terms or 10 years in the Dáil. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Ireland's response to the UK's decision to leave the EU topped the agenda when Irish ambassadors and senior diplomats from across the world gathered in Dublin this week. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Peter Barry, former TD and Mayor of Cork, died last Friday after a short illness. Tributes to the former Tánaiste flooded in from across the business, political and sporting worlds. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Offaly councillor John Leahy is set to be the new leader of Renua Ireland. The deadline for applications for the €65,000 position closed at 10pm last night with sources telling the Irish Independent Mr Leahy was the only applicant. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Sinn Féin finance spokesman Pearse Doherty has said the party's Northern Ireland Finance Minister Máirtín Ó Muilleoir will have to resign from the party if it is found he is involved in the Nama witness coaching controversy. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Economy

More than two-thirds of people looking to take out a mortgage have put dreams of buying a home on hold because of stricter lending rules introduced last year, according to a new survey. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Apple chief executive Tim Cook says he is confident the iPhone maker will win a court fight against an EU Commission decision that it must pay Ireland €13 billion in back taxes, as Taoiseach Enda Kenny struggled to unite the Government behind an appeal. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

A total of 1,500 people applied for three clerical jobs at Westmeath County Council in recent weeks, according to Fianna Fail's Transport spokesperson Robert Troy. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Fitbit, which makes wearable technology devices, has opened its European, Middle East and Africa (EMEA) headquarters in Dublin and said it hopes to hire around 50 people by the end of the year and up to 100 by the end of 2017. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Up to 200 jobs are being created with the expansion of a medical devices company. VistaMed said it is investing €10m in a new research and development plant in Carrick-on-Shannon. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Irish officials say they have had more than 35 concrete enquiries from London-based financial groups looking at setting up a base or expanding in Ireland following the Brexit vote. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Finance Minister Michael Noonan has been told to accept the EU Commissions ruling on Ireland's alleged 'sweetheart' tax deal with Apple if it means the US tech giant is forced to handover billions of euros in unpaid taxes. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Twenty expensive new medicines are expected to go to cabinet for approval this year, the Department of Health has said. Under a radically changed approval process, the government now has to approve expensive medicines before the Health Service Executive (HSE) will pay for them. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Ireland has been ordered to recover as much as €13 billion from Apple after the European Commission ruled today that the tech giant received illegal state aid. Although the Government said it would appeal, and Apple chief executive Tim Cook strongly rejected the decision, the scale of the tax bill has delivered a huge blow the country's international reputation. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The European Commission has criticised the Government's failure to control escalating rents, and for freezing the amount homeowners pay in local property tax. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The latest supermarket share figures show total grocery market sales up 3.5 per cent on last year. Meanwhile discounter Lidl's share of the market has reached an all-time high, with the retailer now capturing 11.9 per cent of grocery sales in Ireland. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Hundreds of thousands of workers are facing a “poverty crisis” in old age, the Irish Congress of Trade Unions has warned, and has demanded Government engage with it on addressing the issue. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

A survey of economic conditions in August has shown a pick-up in August after a fall following the Brexit vote in late June. The Bank of Ireland Economic Pulse stood at 93.7 in August, up 2.5 points on July, regaining a quarter of the ground lost following the Brexit vote. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Spending Minister Paschal Donohoe has to find up to €1bn of extra revenue to cope an ageing population and the number of children being born.. This added demand will have to be dealt with before any tax cuts or spending rises can be considered, senior Government sources have said. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Society

Thirty-one non-urgent surgeries were cancelled in two hospitals yesterday as a direct result of emergency department overcrowding. Both Cork University Hospital (CUH) and the Mercy University Hospital (MUH), also in Cork, had asked people to attend their respective EDs “only as a last resort” on Tuesday due to overcrowding. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The Government needs to employ compulsory purchase powers to seize empty private homes to use as social housing, homelessness campaigner Fr Peter McVerry has said. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

More than 330,000 commuters face disruption next month after unions at Dublin Bus confirmed a series of 48-hour stoppages next month in a dispute over pay. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Students' unions across Ireland have been inundated with queries from first years who cannot find accommodation as the new term approaches. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Ireland should move towards developing over time a universal single-tier publicly-funded and publicly-run health service, the trade union movement has proposed. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Serious doping and administration issues surrounding Ireland’s part in the Rio 2016 Olympic Games could undermine public confidence in sports, President Michael D Higgins has warned. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Third-level colleges are covering up a major crisis in education in order to protect their reputations, Fianna Fáil leader Micheál Martin has said. He claimed that presidents of the country’s universities and institutes were unwilling to fully expose the “elephant in the room” because it could affect applications. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Potential industrial action by thousands of health service staff appears to have been averted after the HSE agreed to re-open a job evaluation scheme from September 1. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Up to 100 low-income residents of a caravan park in Greystones, Co Wicklow, face homelessness, having been given notice to quit by their landlord. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Headlines

- [01.09.2016] [No hard border for Ireland, vows UK's Brexit Minister](#) [Irish Independent]
- [01.09.2016] [Majority of mortgage seekers hit by new lending rules](#) [Irish Times]
- [01.09.2016] [1,500 people apply for three jobs at Westmeath County Council](#) [Irish Times]
- [01.09.2016] [EU tax ruling 'maddening', says Apple chief](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [01.09.2016] [31 surgeries cancelled as result of emergency department overcrowding](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [31.08.2016] [Government faces threat of split after EU's Apple ruling](#) [Irish Times]
- [31.08.2016] [Eighteen members of SF quit party over McKay replacement](#) [Irish Independent]
- [31.08.2016] [Brexit risks 'diminishing' EU project, says Charlie Flanagan](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [31.08.2016] [Fitbit to create 50 new jobs as it opens new European HQ in Dublin](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [30.08.2016] [Dutch minister offers support to Ireland ahead of Brexit](#) [Irish Times]
- [30.08.2016] [Ireland set to appeal EU's shock €13 billion Apple ruling](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [30.08.2016] [More than 35 London financial firms eye Dublin switch](#) [Irish Times]
- [30.08.2016] [200 jobs created in medical devices firm expansion](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [30.08.2016] [Grocery market expands 3.5 per cent with growth in sales of fruit, veg and beer](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [30.08.2016] [Empty homes should be seized for social housing, McVerry says](#) [Irish Times]
- [30.08.2016] [Dublin Bus customers face six days of disruption](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [30.08.2016] [Students unions inundated as first years seek accommodation](#) [Irish Independent]
- [29.08.2016] [Call for 10-year limit on TD term in office](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [29.08.2016] [Brexit to dominate conference of diplomats in Dublin](#) [Irish Times]
- [29.08.2016] [Economic figures regain some lost Brexit ground](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [29.08.2016] [Unions seek development of single-tier, publicly-run health service](#) [Irish Times]
- [29.08.2016] [Universities hiding educational funding crisis, says Martin](#) [Irish Independent]
- [28.08.2016] ['Serious issues' over Irish part in Olympics, says Michael D Higgins](#) [Irish Times]
- [28.08.2016] [Cabinet to assess 20 drugs in 2016 under new rules](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [28.08.2016] [Spend Apple tax on housing if EU rules on deal – minister](#) [Irish Independent]
- [27.08.2016] [Peter Barry 1928-2016: Barry was the greatest leader Fine Gael never had](#) [Irish Independent]
- [27.08.2016] [EU Commission warns Government over USC](#) [Irish Times]
- [27.08.2016] [Councillor Leahy to become leader of Renua](#) [Irish Independent]
- [27.08.2016] [Thousands of workers face poverty in old age, Ictú warns](#) [Irish Times]
- [27.08.2016] [HSE staff industrial action averted](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [26.08.2016] [Ó Muilleoir must resign if he had part in witness plot, says Doherty](#) [Irish Independent]
- [26.08.2016] [Gap in budget requires an extra €1bn to meet rising demand for frontline services](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [26.08.2016] [Families face homelessness amid caravan park closure](#) [Irish Times]

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