

KASPress Ireland



News Summary

02.09.16 – 08.09.16

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 Dáil has voted to support a government motion seeking support for an appeal against the European Commission's ruling on Apple. The motion passed comfortably 93 votes to 36 with the support of Fianna Fáil. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Politics

Irish government ministers have distanced Ireland from the formation of a European army, despite reports that such proposals are being devised at senior EU level. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Fine Gael senator Frank Feighan said on Wednesday he felt vindicated as Health Minister Simon Harris officially opened a new €5.5 million endoscopy unit at Roscommon University Hospital – and announced funding for the planning and design of a new €7.85 million Medical Rehab unit at the hospital. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Independent Alliance Minister John Halligan is threatening to pull his support from the government. A source told Independent.ie: "Mr Halligan is close to leaving government and he's asking the Independent Alliance to stand by him". It comes after an independent clinical review of cardiac services at Waterford hospital did not back his demand for a second cathorisation laboratory to be opened there. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

More than 500 trainee gardaí are to be recruited next year, the Government is expected to announce in the coming days. The exact number is being finalised in discussions between the Department of Justice, Department of Public Expenditure, and Garda headquarters. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Any effort to control the free movement of people across the Border, or between Britain and Ireland, would be “very damaging”, Ireland’s Ambassador to Britain, Dan Mulhall, has told a House of Lords committee. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Stephen Donnelly, one of the founders and co-leaders of the Social Democrats, has left the party in bitter circumstances just over a year after the party was established. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport Shane Ross has said the Coalition Government comprising Fine Gael and members of the Independent Alliance could last for another three or four years. To read more on the minister’s comments, [click here](#).

Former EU commissioner Peter Sutherland has rejected a claim by the British Brexit secretary, David Davis, that there will be no hard trade border in Ireland after the UK leaves the EU. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Economy

The Irish Fiscal Advisory Council (IFAC) has warned that the government's planned fiscal stance is "at the limit" of prudent policy decisions – considering Ireland's debt burden and the "largely unknown" potential impacts posed by Brexit. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The €13 billion Apple tax bill could not be spent on ongoing expenditure if it was accepted by the Government, Minister for Finance Michael Noonan has told the Dáil. He said the amount that could be spent on capital projects would be quite restricted under EU fiscal rules. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The Government has acknowledged the €13 billion award in the Apple tax case will have to be accepted by the State if its appeal against the European Commission ruling fails. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Irish consumers were a little less nervous in August as sentiment recovered from its post-Brexit fall in July despite continued uncertainty about the future, a new survey found. To read more on this survey, [click here](#).

Minister for Finance Michael Noonan is to announce a sugar tax in next month's budget but may delay the implementation of the levy for a year until 2018. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Growth in the Irish services sector picked up in August from the two-year low it hit after Britain's vote to leave the EU, a new survey shows, but new business fell to its lowest level in two-and-a-half years. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The Irish industrial production rose by four per cent on the month in July and was 7.4 per cent higher than in the same period last year, the Central Statistics Office said. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Fianna Fáil leader Micheál Martin has said it is "essential" that the State appeals the EU's Apple tax ruling and criticised the Government's "lack of preparation" for the judgment. To read more on the Irish reactions to the European Commission decision, [click here](#).

Fewer than one in five Irish people believe Brexit will have a negative effect on their finances, according to today's exclusive Sunday Business Post/Coyne Research poll. The poll looks at consumer attitudes to Brexit, and its impact on both the Irish economy and the finances of individuals. To read more on this report, [click here](#).

The government is going to shut down the charity tax loophole being exploited by vulture funds in the wake of the Apple tax ruling. Vulture funds have spent billions acquiring toxic loans in Ireland at knockdown prices. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

German chancellor Angela Merkel has expressed fears the €13bn Apple tax ruling will hurt investment in Europe, putting her on the same side as Ireland in a looming showdown over the limits of national sovereignty and the rights of the federally minded European Commission. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Official figures show that overseas visitors made just over 2.84 million trips to Ireland in the three months from April to July, up by almost 10 per cent compared with the same period last year. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Taoiseach Enda Kenny's chief economic adviser has left Government Buildings to take up a new role with the European Investment Bank (EIB). Andrew McDowell, who has been behind Fine Gael's economic policies since 2011, took up the prestigious position yesterday. He is the first Irish member of the bank's Management Committee for 12 years. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Independent ministers have told Government colleagues to review all Irish-based multinational company's tax bills and ban any future Apple-type deals in return for supporting plans to reject the €13bn EU ruling against the technology giant. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Society

Ireland's response to the refugee crisis has been called shameful after just 331 people were given sanctuary there in the past year. More than 20 groups forming the Refugee and Migrant Coalition have called on the Government to step up its response before the country co-chairs the UN Summit on Refugees and Migration in New York this month. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Tens of thousands of people were forced to change their travel plans as striking bus staff began the first of a series of threatened two-day stoppages today. Large numbers of people left home early to walk long distances to get to work on time while others joined crowds cramming onto Luas trams and commuter trains. A significant increase in cars coming into Dublin worsened the daily traffic problems in the city. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Polish officials have expressed alarm over an apparent spike in the number of racist incidents in Ireland. Poland's Honorary Consul to Cork, Michael Mulcahy, said that while Ireland has been a very tolerant and welcoming country, there is growing concern over a number of recent suspected race hate incidents. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Trinity College Dublin (TCD) and University College Dublin (UCD) have been listed among the world's top 200 research universities but both have dropped in the rankings to 98th and 176th place respectively. To read more on the latest QS World University Rankings, [click here](#).

Children must not be used as pawns in the teachers' pay dispute by strikes or school closures, a parents' leader has warned. Paul Mooney, president of the National Parents' Council-post primary (NPCpp), was responding to the recommendation by a union's central executive that its 18,000 members vote for industrial action. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Almost two-thirds of the country's secondary schools are facing chaos this term as a teachers' union threatens industrial action. Around 450 schools could be brought to a standstill by the end of October or early November as the Association of Secondary Teachers' Ireland (ASTI) ratchets up its dispute with the Government. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The Medical Council of Ireland has defended its complaints procedure following concerns that some doctors have been able to move between hospitals even after concerns were raised about them. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Young offenders due to be detained at Oberstown youth detention centre will be sent to the UK under proposals being considered by the Department of Children. It comes after riots and a number of incidents at the Children Detention Campus last week impacted capacity at the site. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The health authorities have expressed concern about the low uptake of the flu vaccine among health workers in hospitals and nursing homes. A survey by the HSE's Health Protection Surveillance Centre has revealed that just over one in five of all healthcare staff in such facilities availed of a free flu vaccination last year. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Headlines

- [08.09.2016] [Apple tax bill spending would be restricted, Noonan claims](#) [Irish Times]
- [08.09.2016] [Budget watchdog says plans 'at limit' of prudent policy](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [08.09.2016] ['I couldn't get the Luas, there was no room' – Commuters struggle to find alternative transport during bus strike](#) [Irish Independent]
- [08.09.2016] [Irish response to migrant crisis is 'shameful'](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [07.09.2016] [Dáil votes to support appeal against European Commission's ruling on €13bn Apple tax](#) [Irish Independent]
- [07.09.2016] [We won't be part of any EU army, says Flanagan](#) [Irish Independent]
- [07.09.2016] [Crisis talks as Independent Alliance Minister John Halligan threatens to pull government support](#) [Irish Independent]
- [07.09.2016] [Frank Feighan 'vindicated' as new €5.5m unit opens at Roscommon hospital](#) [Irish Times]
- [07.09.2016] [Garda boost as force plans to recruit more than 500 trainees next year](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [07.09.2016] [State admits it will accept Apple €13bn if plea fails](#) [Irish Times]
- [07.09.2016] [Irish consumer mood less nervous in August, survey finds](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [06.09.2016] [Border structures need to be preserved, says Irish Ambassador](#) [Irish Times]
- [06.09.2016] [Irish universities drop in world's top 200 research universities rankings](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [06.09.2016] [Polish officials express alarm over 'spike in number of racist incidents in Ireland'](#) [Irish Independent]
- [06.09.2016] ['Children must not be pawns in teacher pay dispute'](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [05.09.2016] [Stephen Donnelly leaves Social Democrats, says 'some partnerships simply don't work'](#) [Irish Times]
- [05.09.2016] [Sugar tax set to be introduced in budget due to obesity concerns](#) [Irish Times]
- [05.09.2016] [Irish services sector growth picks up in August](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [05.09.2016] [Industrial production up by 4% on the month in July](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [05.09.2016] [Two-thirds of secondary schools face closure as teachers' union threatens strike action over pay](#) [Irish Independent]
- [05.09.2016] [Doctors moved between hospitals despite concerns](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [04.09.2016] [State must appeal EU's Apple tax ruling, Micheal Martin says](#) [Irish Times]
- [04.09.2016] [Poll: young more upbeat on Brexit](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [04.09.2016] [Government to close off vulture funds' tax loophole](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [04.09.2016] [Young offenders 'will be sent to UK' as detention centres fill up](#) [Irish Independent]
- [03.09.2016] [Shane Ross dismisses criticism of his performance as Minister](#) [Irish Times]
- [03.09.2016] [Merkel backs Ireland in Apple showdown](#) [Irish Independent]
- [03.09.2016] [Concern over low uptake of flu vaccine by healthcare workers](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [02.09.2016] [Sutherland rejects claim Brexit would not bring hard Border](#) [Irish Times]
- [02.09.2016] [July may have been record month for Irish tourism](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [02.09.2016] [Key Kenny adviser moves to EU job](#) [Irish Independent]
- [02.09.2016] [Independents issue demands in return for support of Apple tax ruling appeal](#) [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