

KASPress Ireland



News Summary

23.09.16 – 29.09.16

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

A landmark legal challenge will examine claims that the Belfast Agreement overrides any right by the British government to quit the European Union without a House of Commons vote, a High Court judge ruled on Tuesday. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Politics

The decision on how the State will fund water services should not be rushed and should not be forced by “political opportunism”, Minister for Housing Simon Coveney told the Dáil. To read more on Mr Coveney’s comments, [click here](#).

The Brexit vote will not undermine or diminish the close cooperation between the PSNI and gardaí, Tánaiste and Justice Minister Frances Fitzgerald has said. The Brexit vote will not undermine or diminish the close cooperation between the PSNI and gardaí, Tánaiste and Justice Minister Frances Fitzgerald has said. To read more on the minister’s comments, [click here](#).

The DUP has once again poured cold water on plans by the Taoiseach to hold an all-island forum on Brexit, saying it wouldn't be taking part. Despite previously being shot down by DUP First Minister Arlene Foster, the idea is back on the agenda with Mr Kenny indicating it is expected to take place in November. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Cabinet discussions are under way about short-term funding of third-level education, Taoiseach Enda Kenny has said. He told the Dáil on Tuesday Minister for Education Richard Bruton and Minister for Public Expenditure Paschal Donohoe were discussing the issue. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The Government has said it will publish a Bill on creating a judicial council, which would set standards for and examine allegations of misconduct against judges, before Christmas. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Minister for Foreign Affairs Charlie Flanagan in an address to the UN has called for greater coordinated international effort in response to the Middle Eastern and African migration crisis. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Fianna Fáil said it will not support compulsory redundancies at Bus Éireann. The party's transport spokesman Robert Troy said the party would block plans to lay off workers at the State-owned company. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Low to middle-income earners may benefit by just €5 a week in next month's budget due to tight restrictions on the amount of tax cuts that can take place and an internal cabinet row over where reforms should be made. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

There is an emerging divide between Fine Gael backbenchers and Independents over who should get the benefit of USC cuts in the Budget. With limited funds available for tax cuts, there are fears that the 'squeezed middle' will lose out. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Labour intends to double its representation at the next general election, party leader Brendan Howlin has said. Speaking at Labour's think-in in Dublin yesterday, Mr Howlin said he had set a series of targets ahead of the next election. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Fianna Fail is still the most popular in the country with 27per cent of the vote but it has dropped two points since the last poll. Fine Gael has dropped a point to 25 per cent. Sinn Féin has seen a slight rise in support and is up two points to 15pc. The Labour Party is up one point to 7per cent, while the Anti-Austerity Alliance-People Before Profit is also up one to 6 per cent. The Independent Alliance is down one to 4 per cent while the Green Party is down two points to 2 per cent. The Social Democrats remain unchanged at 4 per cent., non-aligned Independents are on 10 per cent. To read more, [click here](#).

Ireland is making a concerted push for an Irish official to be appointed to the European Commission's Brexit taskforce, as preparations begin for negotiations on Britain's exit from the European Union. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Economy

The deputy governor of the Central Bank, Sharon Donnery, has said it is concerned that mortgage restrictions aimed at preventing another property bubble would be undermined by being routinely tweaked. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Retail sales slowed by 4.7 per cent in August compared to July – but there was an increase of 5.2 per cent in the annual figure. To read more on the latest CSO figures, [click here](#).

Ireland's central bank governor said banks have already begun exploring the possibility of moving activities to Dublin following Britain's vote to leave the European Union, which may jeopardise London's right to sell financial services across Europe. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The Government is considering offering a 30pc tax rate to a range of graduates and entrepreneurs living overseas in a bid to become more competitive in the post-Brexit environment. The plans, which have been devised by Jobs Minister Mary Mitchell O'Connor, also include tax incentives for graduates who purchase company shares as part of their transfer home. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Consumer sentiment rose in September but business confidence fell, dragging Bank of Ireland's latest confidence survey down to its lowest level this year. To read more on the latest Economic Pulse survey, [click here](#).

US technology firm WP Engine has announced plans to open a new technical support and innovation centre in Limerick, leading to the creation of 100 jobs over the next three years. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Small tax cuts for low and middle income earners, a further move against corporate tax avoidance and Brexit-proof tax incentives for businesses are on the cards in next month's budget, according to The Sunday Business Post. To read more on next month's budget, [click here](#).

A RedC/Sunday Business Post published last weekend shows that 54 per cent of voters support the appeal against the EU Commission's ruling against Apple, but there is still sizeable opposition. Forty-three per cent say that Ireland should have accepted the ruling and reclaimed from Apple as much as possible of the €13 billion in unpaid taxes. To read more on this opinion poll, [click here](#).

UrbanVolt, the Dublin-based energy saving LED lighting company, is set to boost its staff count by two-thirds by next year. The fast-growing company, which is backed by the Leinster and Ireland rugby star Jamie Heaslip, will grow its workforce from 22 to 60 people. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The IMF has raised "serious questions" over the accuracy of the CSO's 26% 'leprechaun economics' growth figures, and threatened to pull a report on the Irish economy because of them. Earlier this year, the Central Statistics Office published controversial figures suggesting economic growth in Ireland in 2015 grew by a staggering 26%. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Activate Capital, which provides funding for residential development, says it has now committed funding for sites in the Greater Dublin Area with the capacity to build 1,200 homes. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Taoiseach Enda Kenny vowed that there will be no change to Ireland's 12.5pc corporate tax rate as he emphatically reassured US firms about their post-Brexit operations in Ireland. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Pharmaceutical group Alter Pharma has announced plans to add 80 new jobs in Ireland after inaugurating a new headquarters for its worldwide operations in Balbriggan, Co Dublin today. The expansion will bring the company's Irish workforce to 120 by 2018. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Society

Siptu health workers are threatening to ballot for industrial action unless unsuitable units are closed and “a state-of-the-art” mental health unit in Killarney is opened, along with a second unused facility in Tralee. Around €10m has been invested in the two facilities but both remain closed due to staffing shortages. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Garda members have moved closer to securing the right to join a trade union for the first time and having the right to strike and take other forms of industrial action. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Tusla, the Child and Family Agency, must get better at responding to complaints about its care of children, the Ombudsman for Children has said. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Child advocacy agency Barnardos has called on the government to move towards ending child poverty by postponing tax cuts. The government must instead invest in child services, according to its chief executive Fergus Finlay. The children’s charity was outlining its top asks for Budget 2017. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

More than a third of charities have been adversely affected by recent controversies that have hit the sector, with many claiming donations have fallen as a result. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The Simon Communities charity wants the Government to include the right to a home in the Constitution, saying homelessness violates a number of international treaties to which Ireland has signed up. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The NBRU union agreed to suspend its 48-hour stoppages scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday at Dublin Bus following exploratory talks at the Workplace Relations Commission on Monday. To read more on the on-going Dublin bus strikes, [click here](#).

Retailers lashed out at striking Dublin Bus drivers at the weekend as shops were left empty on what was described as the “quietest Saturday” the city has ever seen. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Dublin’s new Public Realm Strategy will dramatically improve permeability through the city for both pedestrians and cyclists. Under the scheme, the city will become more pedestrian-friendly, with the creation of new rest points “for relaxation and respite” dotted around the centre. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Any further “implementation paralysis” in tackling Ireland’s obesity problem will have devastating consequences for the future health of its children, the Irish Heart Foundation has warned. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Headlines

- [29.09.2016] [Brexit will not stop PSNI and gardaí co-operating – Tánaiste](#) [Irish Independent]
- [29.09.2016] [Water charges decision should not be rushed, says Coveney](#) [Irish Times]
- [29.09.2016] [Central Bank concerns about changing mortgage rules](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [29.09.2016] [Health workers ballot threat over failure to open mental health units](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [28.09.2016] [DUP won't budge on Taoiseach's 'all-Ireland Brexit' talk](#) [Irish Independent]
- [28.09.2016] [Retail sales fall 4.7% in August – CSO figures](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [28.09.2016] [Gardaí move closer to securing trade union rights](#) [Irish Times]
- [28.09.2016] [Record number of complaints made to Ombudsman for Children](#) [Irish Times]
- [28.09.2016] [Delay tax cuts and invest in child services – Barnados](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [27.09.2016] [Flanagan calls for more coordinated response to migrant crisis](#) [Irish Times]
- [27.09.2016] [Legal challenge to ask if Belfast Agreement may trump Brexit](#) [Irish Times]
- [27.09.2016] [Short-term funding for third-level under discussion, says Kenny](#) [Irish Times]
- [27.09.2016] [Government says Bill to create judicial council 'due by 2017'](#) [Irish Times]
- [27.09.2016] [London banks exploring move to Dublin following Brexit vote, Lane says](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [27.09.2016] [Special tax deal to lure emigrants with 'high skills' home](#) [Irish Independent]
- [27.09.2016] [Simon Communities call to include right to a home in Constitution](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [26.09.2016] [FF says will not support enforced job cuts at Bus Éireann](#) [Irish Times]
- [26.09.2016] [Tensions over who should get benefit of USC cuts](#) [Irish Independent]
- [26.09.2016] [Workers may benefit by just €5 in budget](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [26.09.2016] [Consumer sentiment up but business confidence down in September](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [26.09.2016] [US tech firm WP Engine to create 100 jobs in Limerick](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [26.09.2016] [NBRU suspends Dublin Bus action for talks](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [25.09.2016] [Small USC tax cuts as Noonan prepares pro-business budget](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [25.09.2016] [Public split on state's decision to appeal Apple ruling, says our poll](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [25.09.2016] [Energy saving firm UrbanVolt to up staff count](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [25.09.2016] [Shops forced to close early as bus strike cripples city](#) [Irish Independent]
- [24.09.2016] [Fianna Fáil suffers drop in support for the first time since election](#) [Irish Independent]
- [24.09.2016] [Labour will have doubled in size by next election, says Howlin](#) [Irish Times]
- [24.09.2016] [No change to 12.5pc rate, Kenny tells US firms](#) [Irish Independent]
- [24.09.2016] [IMF cast doubt over 26% growth figures](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [23.09.2016] [Brexit: Ireland wants place on EU group leading talks with UK](#) [Irish Times]
- [23.09.2016] [1,200 Dublin home funded by specialist lender](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [23.09.2016] [80 new pharmaceutical jobs for north Dublin](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [23.09.2016] [Dublin pedestrians top priority under new public realm strategy](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [23.09.2016] [Action needed now in tackling obesity problem or else, warns Irish Heart Foundation](#) [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