

## KASPress Ireland



### News Summary

30.09.16 – 06.10.16

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

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### Top Story

**Ireland is braced for serious economic and political fallout from Britain leaving the European Union probably as early as spring 2019. British Prime Minister Theresa May has announced that the Article 50 EU exit process will be triggered in March 2017, starting two years of negotiations. To read more on this story, [click here](#).**

### Politics

Fianna Fáil has suffered a significant drop in support over the summer and is now neck and neck with Fine Gael, according to the latest *Irish Times*/Ipsos MRBI poll. After a massive increase in the last poll in July, the main Opposition party has fallen back seven points while Fine Gael has gained two points. To read more on the Irish Times poll, [click here](#).

The Border arrangement post-Brexit can still closely match what we currently have, a senior civil servant in the Department of the Taoiseach has said. John Callinan, the department's second secretary general assigned to deal with the challenges posed by the Brexit vote, said it won't be easy, and the negotiations will be difficult. But he said it is possible. To read more on Ireland and Brexit, [click here](#).

Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Charlie Flanagan has said recent comments from British Prime Minister Theresa May signalling a "hard Brexit" approach to negotiations with the EU are not what the Irish Government would ideally have wished to see. To read more on Mr Flanagan's comments, [click here](#).

The Cabinet has agreed to set up an “all-island Civic Dialogue on Brexit”, with the first meeting in Dublin on November 2nd. It will be hosted by the Taoiseach and the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade and a broad range of “civic society groups, trade unions, business groups and non-governmental organisations as well as representatives of the main political parties on the island” will be invited, according to a Government statement issued on Tuesday. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Foreign Affairs Minister Charlie Flanagan has strongly defended the Government's handling of the Brexit crisis - and brushed aside suggestions a dedicated "Brexit Minister" should be appointed. To read more on Brexit and Ireland, [click here](#).

Government Ministers have been instructed to initiate “intensive engagement” with their counterparts in Northern Ireland to prepare for the negotiations on Brexit, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Charlie Flanagan has revealed. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Tánaiste Frances Fitzgerald will begin a major push to shore up support among Fine Gael members ahead of a future leadership battle following the Budget. To read more on the FG leadership succession battle, [click here](#).

Bobby Molloy, who has died age 80, was a long serving cabinet Minister and a founder of the Progressive Democrats who was a TD for almost four decades. To read more on the late Bobby Molloy, [click here](#).

Social Protection Minister Leo Varadkar will warn government colleagues that he must be given the resources to help more than just pensioners in the Budget. To read more on the Budget, [click here](#).

The latest political attempt to defeat water charges has failed. Sinn Féin's motion, which proposed the scrapping of charges entirely, was comfortably defeated following a series of Dáil votes. The final vote saw a Government counter motion pass by 94 votes to 47. To read more on Irish Water, [click here](#).

The Government's determination to keep a lid on public sector pay has put it on a collision course with gardaí. The Taoiseach, Justice Minister and Public Expenditure Minister have all warned they will not stray from the Lansdowne Road Agreement (LRA), which sets out a timetable for pay rises until September 2017. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

## Economy

The Irish Association of Pension Funds (IAPF) has said the issue of universal pensions has been parked for too long. Speaking ahead of the body's half-day annual conference in Dublin, IAPF chief executive Jerry Moriarty said we owed it to future generations to start working on the issue now in order to pre-empt the challenges of changing demographics. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The slide in sterling now threatens thousands of jobs in Ireland, with experts warning the pound will reach parity with the euro as soon as next year. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Official figures show a big drop in the volume of industrial production in August compared with July. The Central Statistics Office said manufacturing production fell by 13.7 per cent compared with July and was 8.5 per cent lower compared with August last year. To read more on Irish manufacturing and industry, [click here](#).

The Irish services sector grew at its slowest pace in more than three years in September, a new survey shows, as some firms reported reduced interest from customers following Britain's vote to leave the European Union. To read more on the Irish services sector, [click here](#).

The September unemployment figure was 7.9 per cent, down from the revised 8.2 per cent in August and down from 9.1 per cent in September 2015. To read more on the latest unemployment figures, [click here](#).

House prices rose by an average of 7.6 per cent in the year to September, increasing by 5.3 per cent in Dublin and by 9.3 per cent in the rest of the country, the latest house price report from property website Daft.ie shows. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The chief executive of Activate Capital, a €500 million state-backed housing fund, has said that there could be merit in adjusting the Central Bank's stringent rules on mortgages and examining a help-to-buy scheme for first-time buyers. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

First-time homebuyers are to be given a refund on income tax to help them accumulate a mortgage deposit under proposals expected to be included in next month's Budget. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Ireland's top bank supervisor, Ed Sibley, has warned that there are signs that the country's financial institutions could be returning to pre-collapse lending practices. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Apple and Ireland are preparing appeals to argue that European Union competition investigators unfairly kept them in the dark during a probe that ended in a record €13 billion tax bill, people with knowledge of their case say. To read more on the on-going Apple tax appeal, [click here](#).

The Luxembourg-based European Investment Bank (EIB) expects to open its first permanent presence in Ireland later this year. The plans were confirmed by Andrew McDowell, the bank's new vice president responsible for Ireland, during his first working visit to Dublin since assuming office earlier this month. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

## Society

Details about the provision of almost 50,000 new social houses and apartments, as well as funding for the refurbishment of 750 additional vacant council houses this year, are due to be announced today. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The supply of properties in the private rental market is down 55% since May 2015, and 80% of those properties are beyond the reach of people on rent supplements. There was not one property available to rent for a family of two children or more on rent supplement, in Cork City centre, between August 30 and September 1, according to Simon Community. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Ireland has the highest number of young people receiving unemployment and disability benefits among the 35 countries in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), according to a new report. To read more on the OECD's *Society at a Glance 2016* study, [click here](#).

The LÉ Samuel Beckett broke records last night with the biggest migrant transport to safety in one single day onboard a Naval Service vessel, with the ship steaming towards an Italian port with 652 rescued men, women, and children. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Nearly 100% of community-run early year services in Cork City and south Co Dublin area are at financial risk. *Breaking Point*, a report published yesterday, surveyed 49 early years services based in the communities in the two areas. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Labour leader Brendan Howlin has said that while bishops have a right to express their opinion on the issue of abortion, their view is only equal to that of any citizen in the country. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The “nightmare scenario” of middle-ranking officers going on strike on the same days as frontline gardaí is growing increasingly likely, after a second Garda association said it is set to vote on the move. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Staff unions at third-level colleges are backing the Union of Students in Ireland (USI) in their opposition to a student loan system that would see graduates paying back much higher fees than currently charged. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

## Headlines

- [06.10.2016] [‘Irish Times’ poll: Fianna Fáil level with Fine Gael after seven-point drop in support](#) [Irish Times]
- [06.10.2016] [We’ll make soft Border work after Brexit, says top aide](#) [Irish Independent]
- [06.10.2016] [Time to move on universal pensions, says IAPF](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [06.10.2016] [Plan aims to provide 50,000 social houses by 2021](#) [Irish Times]
- [06.10.2016] [80% of homes beyond reach of those on rent subsidies](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [05.10.2016] [Jobs threat as euro-sterling parity forecast by end of 2017](#) [Irish Independent]
- [05.10.2016] [Flanagan says tough May Brexit stance not ideal](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [05.10.2016] [CSO figures show big drop in industrial production](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [05.10.2016] [Brexit helps push Irish services growth to three-year low](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [05.10.2016] [Ireland has the highest rate of 15-29 year olds on benefits in OECD](#) [Irish Times]
- [05.10.2016] [Record number of migrants rescued by LÉ Samuel Beckett](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [04.10.2016] [Cabinet sets up all-Ireland group to prepare for Brexit](#) [Irish Times]
- [04.10.2016] [Flanagan says ‘Brexit Minister’ to handle EU talks is non-starter](#) [Irish Independent]
- [04.10.2016] [Jobless figures at eight-year low of 7.9 per cent](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [04.10.2016] [98% of community early years services at financial risk](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [03.10.2016] [Britain’s tough immigration line means trade problems for Ireland](#) [Irish Independent]
- [03.10.2016] [Ministers told to engage with Northern colleagues on Brexit](#) [Irish Times]
- [03.10.2016] [Irish house prices rose by 7.6% in year to September, Daft says](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [03.10.2016] [Bishops’ abortion views only equal to ‘any other citizen](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [02.10.2016] [Tánaiste prepares to up the ante in bid to succeed Kenny as FG leader](#) [Irish Independent]
- [02.10.2016] [Former Galway TD Bobby Molloy dies at the age of 80](#) [Irish Times]
- [02.10.2016] [Housing fund chief: mortgage rules should be loosened](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [01.10.2016] [‘I need extra cash for more than just OAPs’ – Varadkar](#) [Irish Independent]
- [01.10.2016] [Budget 2017: First-time buyers to get income tax refund](#) [Irish Times]
- [01.10.2016] [Irish lenders returning to pre-collapse practices: lending regulator](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [01.10.2016] [Middle-ranking officers may strike with frontline gardaí](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [30.10.2016] [Latest bid to scrap water charges fails as FF and FG unite](#) [Irish Independent]
- [30.10.2016] [Government fears a flood of pay claims if gardaí get deal](#) [Irish Independent]
- [30.09.2016] [EU bank to open first Dublin office this year](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [30.09.2016] [Apple tax appeal to focus on EU ‘U-turn’](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [30.09.2016] [Staff at third level colleges back students in opposition of loans system](#) [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