

KASPress Ireland



News Summary

07.10.16 – 13.10.16

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

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Top Story

Taoiseach Enda Kenny has said he will run in the next general election. The Taoiseach met with his constituency colleagues in Co Mayo on Sunday evening and insisted he would be standing again. To read more on Mr Kenny's announcement, [click here](#).

Politics

The Government will confirm next week that it will not take the proposed increases in salary due as part of the restoration of public service pay cuts. Sinn Féin deputy leader Mary Lou McDonald highlighted the rises due in the row-back on pay cuts with €5,000 going to the Taoiseach in each of the three years from 2017. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Social Protection Minister Leo Varadkar plans to crack down on people on social welfare who do not make an effort to get a job or return to education by further cutting their payments. His stance comes as the minority government faces a backlash for “unfair” and “mean” increases to young unemployed people. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Taoiseach Enda Kenny again stressed the special situation of Northern Ireland and the Government's determination to retain the Common Travel Area between Ireland and the UK when he met the EU's chief negotiator on Brexit, Michel Barnier, in Dublin on Tuesday. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Any move to strengthen Ireland's external border and deepen co-operation on combating illegal immigration after Brexit will not involve the deployment of British personnel to Irish ferry ports and airports, British and Irish official sources have told *The Irish Times*. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The Irish Government is agreeable to Irish ports and airports being used as part of a frontline to control immigration into Britain. Minister for Finance Michael Noonan said neither the Irish or British governments wanted a hard border between the Republic and Northern Ireland. To read more on Ireland and Brexit, [click here](#).

Dublin could have its first directly-elected mayor within three years under a Fianna Fáil proposal which looks likely to be backed by the Oireachtas. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The pressure point between Fine Gael and Fianna Fail over water charges was highlighted again yesterday following the latest intervention by the European Commission which said the Government's expert water commission must "get on" with making recommendations on water pricing policy. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Almost two-thirds of voters favour the complete removal of water charges, according to the latest Irish Times/Ipsos MRBI opinion poll. Asked whether they were "in favour or against the complete removal of water charges" 62 per cent of voters said they were in favour while 34 per cent said they were against. Just 4 per cent said they didn't know. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Economy

One in five Irish households is spending more than they earn, while almost a third leave bills unpaid to cope with negative savings, a new report has found. According to a report from the Central Bank, 46 per cent of households are balancing their books, with a third spending less than they earn. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The Government is considering putting in place long-term low-interest credit facilities for businesses in the aftermath of Brexit, Taoiseach Enda Kenny has said. To read more on the Taoiseach's post-Brexit contingency plan, [click here](#).

New childcare measures have come in for sharp criticism for excluding stay-at-home parents and families who depend on their relatives for childcare. The universal childcare payment and subsidised childcare had been touted as one of the centre pieces of Budget 2016. To read more on the Budget, [click here](#).

The majority of social welfare recipients will receive a €5 increase per week from March next year while first-time buyers have been given a tax rebate scheme as part of the €1.3 billion budget package announced on Tuesday. To read a full report on the Budget, [click here](#).

Early reaction to the Budget from business groups contained the usual mixture of 'missed opportunities' and 'two cheers' phrases, as well as praise for some of the measures introduced. But the early reaction from the property sector to the new scheme to help first-time buyers was negative. To read more on reactions to the Budget, [click here](#).

Ulster Bank has sold €2.5 billion worth of under-water loans to Cerberus, the US private equity fund. It is understood that a deal for the loans was concluded late last week. Cerberus, which has been one of the largest buyers of European Non-Performing Loans (NPLs) in recent years, has heavily bought into the Irish market via loan sales from Ulster Bank and Nama. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Several leading tech companies have warned that soaring rents and the chronic shortage of housing has cost jobs and is threatening their expansion plans in Cork. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Fianna Fáil leader Micheál Martin has said his position is that next week's budget should set out a €5 increase in the old age pension from the beginning of next year, but declined to say if it was a "red line issue" with Fine Gael. To read more on the Budget, [click here](#).

The Government has about €200 million more than expected to spend in the budget, with an estimated €1.2 billion package to be revealed next week. The extra €200 million to expand the so-called "fiscal space", is understood to have been found through "savings", allowing Minister for Finance Michael Noonan and Minister for Public Expenditure Paschal Donohoe to spend more money on higher than expected cuts to the Universal Social Charge. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Crios, a new grouping of business process outsourcing (BPO) companies, was officially launched this week by jobs minister Mary Mitchell O'Connor. Ireland's BPO industry, comprising companies who provide third-party services for firms who want to outsource certain business operations, currently employs around 8,000 people in a growing industry. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Society

The Association of Secondary Teachers' Ireland (ASTI) has voted overwhelmingly for industrial action on two fronts. The move could result in more than half the country's second-level schools being forced to close for a day, or more, from next month. To read more on the teachers' strike, [click here](#).

More than 2,400 extra teachers will be hired next year, but Budget 2017 does nothing to ease the financial burden on schools, and parents to whom they turn for help when paying the bills. To read more on the implications of the Budget for education funding, [click here](#).

After years of cuts that saw spending on higher education reduced by 33pc, an additional €36.5m is being made available. It is part of a funding package worth €160m committed to higher education over the next three years. This is separate from the consideration of a plan on long-term funding, arising from the Cassells report. To read more on education funding, [click here](#).

A child's likelihood of reaching his or her potential in Ireland is still enormously influenced by their parents' education, financial circumstances, and whether they live in a lone family, according to a new report. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The State's health services watchdog wants to increase, from 12 to 31, the number of national standards for the prevention and control of healthcare-associated infections in acute public hospitals. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Parents of children with special needs have criticised the Government after it emerged that as many as 700 special needs assistant posts have gone unfilled due to a backlog in garda vetting applications. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

About 150 protesters gathered on Saturday at the border between Belcoo in Co Fermanagh and Blacklion in Co Cavan in opposition to the United Kingdom's decision to leave the European Union. Farmers, business people and local politicians joined other members of the new campaign group "Border Communities Against Brexit" in the first protest of its kind in the area. To read more on the protest, [click here](#).

The number of patients enduring the misery of languishing on a hospital waiting list is now at all-time high - and 26,000 higher than when Health Minister Simon Harris was appointed five months ago. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Ireland aims to take advantage of being the EU's only English-speaking country in a plan to boost international student numbers by more than 37,000 and generate an extra €520m a year. With Brexit now set to be finalised by early 2019, Education Minister Richard Bruton will launch a new international education strategy this morning in which a target of almost 11,000 extra third-level students has been set for the end of the 2019/2020 academic year. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The Department of Education has asked the secondary teachers' union ASTI to help ensure schools stay open even if they stop doing supervision and substitution work as part of their pay campaign. Withdrawal from supervision and substitution duties is one of two forms of industrial action on which ASTI members are currently balloting, following their rejection of the Lansdowne Road Agreement. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Headlines

- [13.10.16] [Ministers will not take €12,000 raise due under pay deal](#) [Irish Times]
- [13.10.16] [Unemployed face further cuts if they refuse jobs or training](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [13.10.16] [One in five households spending more than they earn](#) [Irish Times]
- [13.10.16] [Half country's secondary schools may close for a day – or more – as ASTI backs industrial action](#) [Irish Independent]
- [12.10.16] [Kenny stresses special Irish situation in talks with Brexit negotiator](#) [Irish Times]
- [12.10.16] [Enda Kenny says he will run in the next general election](#) [Irish Times]
- [12.10.16] [Government considering post-Brexit credit facilities, says Kenny](#) [Irish Times]
- [12.10.16] [Stay-at-home parents and families left out of childcare plan](#) [Irish Independent]
- [12.10.16] [More teachers next year – but nothing to help cash-strapped schools and parents](#) [Irish Independent]
- [12.10.16] [Years of cuts come to end for third-level](#) [Irish Independent]
- [12.10.16] [Child reaching potential still massively influenced by parents financial circumstances](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [11.10.16] [Officials rule out British staff at Irish ports and airports](#) [Irish Times]
- [11.10.16] [Property sector doubts first-time buyer plan will work](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [11.10.16] [Budget 2017: USC rates cut. Social welfare up by €5 per week and 'help-to-buy' plan for first time buyers](#) [Irish Times]
- [11.10.16] [Bid to cut infection risk in hospitals by increasing number of national standards](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [10.10.16] [Government agreeable to using Irish ports and airports to control immigration to UK](#) [Irish Times]
- [10.10.16] [Dubliners may get to vote for their mayor](#) [Irish Times]
- [10.10.16] [Ulster Bank sells €2.5 billion of loans to US private equity fund](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [10.10.16] [700 special needs assistant roles empty](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [09.10.16] [FG and FF square up over water charge plan](#) [Irish Independent]
- [09.10.16] [Rental deficit threatens tech firms' growth](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [09.10.16] [Protestors against Brexit gather in Cavan and Fermanagh](#) [Irish Times]
- [09.10.16] [Children left waiting for arthritis care](#) [Irish Independent]
- [08.10.16] [Micheál Martin wants a €5 pension increase to start on January 1st](#) [Irish Times]
- [08.10.16] [Patients languishing on hospital waiting lists hits all time high of 535,000](#) [Irish Independent]
- [07.10.16] [Nearly two-thirds of voters want water charges abolished](#) [Irish Times]
- [07.10.16] [Noonan and Donohoe increase budget spend by €200 million](#) [Irish Times]
- [07.10.16] [Cluster of Irish outsourcing companies launches](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [07.10.16] [Ireland plan to attract 37,000 foreign students and generate an extra €520m a year](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [07.10.16] [ASTI help requested to ensure schools stay open](#) [Irish Independent]

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