

## KASPress Ireland



### News Summary

21.10.16 – 27.10.16

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

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### Top Story

**British Prime Minister Theresa May has offered the leaders of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales a formal role in shaping Britain’s strategy for leaving the European Union. Mrs May said the Joint Ministerial Committee (EU Negotiations) would give Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales an official channel to influence Brexit negotiations before they start next spring. To read more on this story, [click here](#).**

### Politics

A Government counter-motion to a Bill proposing a referendum be held on repealing the Eighth Amendment has been carried in the Dáil. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The Republic has no agreement with the British government about the use of Irish ports following Brexit, Taoiseach Enda Kenny has said. “We do not know yet what the British government is actually looking for here,” he said. To read more on the Taoiseach’s comments, [click here](#).

Justice Minister Frances Fitzgerald has filled the position of secretary general in her department more than two years after it was vacated. Noel Waters, who has held the job in acting position since 2014, will now take it up on a permanent basis. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Bertie Ahern and John Bruton have warned British peers about the damage Britain’s departure from the EU could do to the Irish economy and the political institutions in Northern Ireland. To read more on their warnings to the EU select committee, [click here](#).

A possible referendum to repeal the Eighth Amendment cannot be held until 2018 at the earliest under a compromise reached by the Government on Tuesday. To read more on this story, [click here](#). To read more on the proposed referendum, [click here](#).

A report commissioned by Sinn Féin MEP Lynn Boylan has called for a Commission of Inquiry into media ownership in Ireland. It was carried out by two legal firms, based in London and Belfast. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Former high-profile Alliance MLA, Anna Lo, has said she would vote for a united Ireland in any future border poll. "If there was a referendum, I would vote for a united Ireland under the right conditions," she said. To read more on Ms Lo's comments, [click here](#).

Britain's vote to leave the EU is of such enormity that it fundamentally changes Ireland's economic model and leaves the State in need of direct aid from the EU, Fianna Fail leader Micheál Martin has said. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Social Protection Minister Leo Varadkar now has the momentum to succeed Taoiseach Enda Kenny as leader of Fine Gael and has taken a decisive lead over his nearest challenger, Housing Minister Simon Coveney, according to the latest Sunday Independent/Kantar Millward Brown opinion poll. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Fine Fáil leader Micheal Martin has slammed the British government's handling of Brexit. He said: "None of the people who argued for Brexit prepared plans for actually achieving the result – other than the arrogant belief that the world, including Europe, would rush to trade with Britain." To read more on this story, [click here](#).

A Dáil vote on a Bill to repeal the Eighth Amendment to the Constitution on abortion may be avoided through a proposed compromise between Fine Gael and the Independent Alliance. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Taoiseach Enda Kenny has given three Fine Gael TDs new positions in what is seen as a bid to cling on to power. Mr Kenny has appointed Sligo-Leitrim TD Tony McLoughlin as assistant party chief whip, while Louth TD Fergus O'Dowd and Dublin Fingal TD Alan Farrell are tasked to a special Fine Gael committee on Brexit. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Ministers breaching collective Cabinet responsibility should resign, Seanad Fine Gael leader Jerry Buttimer has said. He told the Seanad it was a principle which had not changed. To read more on the Seanad leader's comments, [click here](#).

## Economy

Employers' group Ibec has published a pay survey showing that 71 per cent of companies plan to increase basic pay next year. The median increase is two per cent, similar to the last three years. To read more on the Ibec survey, [click here](#).

Indian companies could look to Ireland as an alternative European base to the UK post-Brexit, it has been claimed. The head of the Ireland-India Business Association (IIBA), Nilakanthi Ford, said Ireland had been "grossly under represented" in markets such as India, and argued that this needs to change. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Davy Stockbrokers have today raised their forecasts for Irish residential property price inflation. They now expect the Residential Property Price Index (RPPI) to increase by 7.0% in 2017, 6% in 2018 and 5% thereafter. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The European Investment Bank (EIB) is launching a "stream-lined" loan facility for Irish businesses to speed up its lending process, the Luxembourg lender said yesterday. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Only one in five of residential properties sold in Cork so far this year have been purchased by first-time buyers. Figures published by the Central Statistics Office show that just 710 of 3,643 properties sold in the city and county in the first eight months of 2016 were bought by first-time buyers representing 19.5% of the total. To read this story, [click here](#).

The Irish Independent has this week reported that Intel executives warned the Government that keeping commitments on broadband rollout is "crucial" to its strategy to create jobs. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Minister of State for Financial Services Eoghan Murphy says there is plenty of time to prepare for the relocation of British-based banks to Dublin post-Brexit. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

A number of banks are planning to make board decisions in the coming months about locating jobs in Ireland in the wake of the Brexit referendum, the Minister for Financial Services, Eoghan Murphy has said. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Strict proposals to separate the sale of alcohol in shops will be costly for small retailers and lead to job losses, Government TDs and senators have warned. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Non-resident investors in Irish real estate funds will have to pay a 20% withholding tax from next year on certain deals, the finance ministry said on Thursday, in a further clampdown on structures used to minimise tax bills. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

## Society

Moving to a single tiered health service guaranteeing equality of treatment for all will take at least 15 years, nurses told an Oireachtas committee. The Irish Nurses and Midwives Organisation said it wanted the radical transformation of the health service and believed that a progressive tax system could fund it. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Gardaí may receive a cash boost for taking on extra work, under proposals tabled at talks to avert the threat of four strikes from next week Friday. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

At least half of Irish families are overpaying anywhere between hundreds to thousands of euro on health insurance cover. An analysis of more than 500 review cases of health insurance policy holders in Ireland found that households are overpaying on their health insurance by an average of 19%. This equates to over €700, with some overpaying by as much as €1,200 on like-for-like family plans. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

A total of 507 schools in the Republic will be closed on Thursday as members of the Association of Secondary Teachers Ireland (ASTI) stage the first in a series of stoppages over lower pay rates for recently recruited staff. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

According to a survey conducted for Macra na Feirme, being lonely in old age is of greatest concern for 27% of people while security and lack of access to health services also feature prominently. The results of the survey, conducted by Calor, were revealed by Macra at the launch of its Know Your Neighbour winter campaign. To read more on the results of the Macra survey, [click here](#).

Up to three million medication errors may be made in Irish hospitals annually, posing serious risks to patients. Patient safety inspectors are now to begin hospital checks to find out if proper standards are in place for the use of medicines. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

A loophole that allows foreign doctors with poor English language skills to work in Irish hospitals is to be closed. The law currently allows medics with limited English to practice because authorities are powerless to test their language skills due to strict EU regulations. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The Department of Health's plans to outlaw cheap alcohol by introducing minimum pricing are a step closer after a landmark ruling in Scotland. The ruling will have implications here for the future of the Public Health (Alcohol) Bill 2015, which goes to Seanad Committee stage next Wednesday. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Boarding schools may have to send pupils home if secondary teachers withdraw from supervision and substitution work from November 7. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The State's health services watchdog found shortcomings in how three major acute hospitals in Dublin and Limerick identified and managed patients at risk of malnutrition and dehydration. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

## Headlines

- [27.10.2016] [Bill on vote to repeal Eight Amendment blocked in Dáil](#) [Irish Times]
- [27.10.2016] [Almost three quarters of companies plan to award pay rises next year](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [27.10.2016] [Indian companies urged to set up new bases in Ireland when UK quits EU](#) [Irish Independent]
- [27.10.2016] [Nurses warn health reform could take up to 15 years](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [27.10.2016] [Extra pay on table for gardaí in attempt to head off strike](#) [Irish Independent]
- [26.10.2016] [Brexit: Ireland has no agreement with UK on use of Irish ports](#) [Irish Times]
- [26.10.2016] [Justice role finally filled after two years](#) [Irish Independent]
- [26.10.2016] [Half of families overpay between hundreds to thousands of euro for health insurance](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [26.10.2016] [Over 500 schools close as ASTI teachers stage industrial action](#) [Irish Times]
- [25.10.2016] [Bertie Ahern and John Bruton unite to raise Brexit concerns](#) [Irish Times]
- [25.10.2016] [No referendum on Eight Amendment until 2018 at earliest](#) [Irish Times]
- [25.10.2016] [Davy Stockbrokers revise forecast for Irish house price inflation](#) [Business World]
- [25.10.2016] [European Investment Bank to cut red tape to speed up Irish loans](#) [Irish Independent]
- [25.10.2016] [Sinn Fein MEP calls for inquiry into ownership of the media in Ireland](#) [Irish Independent]
- [25.10.2016] [Up to three million medication errors may be made in hospitals every year](#) [Irish Independent]
- [25.10.2016] [Urban dwellers fear loneliness as they grow old](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [24.10.2016] [May to offer Foster and McGuinness role in Brexit talks](#) [Irish Times]
- [24.10.2016] [‘A united Ireland is inevitable,’ says former Alliance MLA](#) [Irish Independent]
- [24.10.2016] [Plenty of time to develop infrastructure for Brexit opportunities – Minister](#) [Irish Times]
- [24.10.2016] [Government broadband rollout is “crucial” for jobs warns Intel](#) [Business World]
- [24.10.2016] [Just 20% of Cork properties were sold to first-time buyers](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [23.10.2016] [Ireland needs EU ‘direct aid’ to handle Brexit, says FF leader](#) [Irish Times]
- [23.10.2016] [Varadkar closes in on power with big poll lead](#) [Irish Independent]
- [23.10.2016] [Micheal Martin slams UK Brexit ministers as ‘cavalier and grossly irresponsible’](#) [Irish Independent]
- [23.10.2016] [Banks plan to move jobs to Ireland post-Brexit, says minister](#) [Sunday Business Post]
- [23.10.2016] [Crackdown over foreign doctors’ limited English](#) [Irish Independent]
- [22.10.2016] [Proposed compromise to avoid Dáil vote on abortion Bill](#) [Irish Times]
- [22.10.2016] [Outlawing of cheap drink is a ‘step closer’](#) [Irish Independent]
- [22.10.2016] [Retailers fear new alcohol rules](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [21.10.2016] [Enda Kenny appoints three more Fine Gael TDs to key positions](#) [Irish Times]
- [21.10.2016] [Ministers breaching collective responsibility ‘should resign’](#) [Irish Times]
- [21.10.2016] [Ireland to hit foreign investors with new tax on real estate deals](#) [Business World]
- [21.10.2016] [Boarding schools may be forced to send pupils home](#) [Irish Independent]
- [21.10.2016] [‘Shortcomings’ in how hospitals manage risk of malnutrition](#) [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