

## KASPress Ireland



### News Summary

25.11.16 – 01.12.16

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

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

London Office

### Top Story

**Britain's exit from the EU could result in an "uncomplicated route" to a united Ireland, Taoiseach Enda Kenny told a private Fine Gael fundraising event. Mr Kenny again raised the prospect of a united Ireland as a possible outcome of Brexit at an event for one of his backbenchers. To read more on this story, [click here](#).**

### Politics

Bertie Ahern is considering rejoining Fianna Fail but ruled out becoming a TD or future President. The former Taoiseach has been invited back into the party by his colleagues in the Dublin Central Constituency. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Taoiseach Enda Kenny will today meet Apple boss Tim Cook to discuss the European Commission's ruling that tax arrangements with the tech giant amounted to illegal State aid. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Taoiseach Enda Kenny has side-stepped the issue of whether members of the public should be refunded for the payment of water charges, deferring the matter to an Oireachtas committee. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Minister for Finance Michael Noonan has said Fine Gael must get the "dead cat" of water charges off the agenda before an election. To read more on Michael Noonan's comments, [click here](#).

Taoiseach Enda Kenny on Wednesday began a three-day trip to the United States, where he will meet business leaders in New York and California's Silicon Valley. The visit comes as the Government seeks to promote Ireland as an investment location in the wake of the Brexit referendum. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Applications for Irish passports from British citizens will likely be up by more than 50 per cent this year following the Brexit referendum, Irish Ambassador to Britain Dan Mulhall has said. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The Irish Government is to accept a further 260 refugees from Lebanon in 2017 under its resettlement programme. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

A Government briefing paper prepared in advance of an expert report on water funding has raised substantial doubts over any constitutional protection for a water utility. The seven-page document also strongly defends the retention of a national water utility even if water charges are dropped. To read more on Irish Water, [click here](#).

Scottish first minister Nicola Sturgeon will visit Dublin on Monday where she has a number of engagements including lunch at Áras an Uachtaráin with President Michael D Higgins. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The DUP has attacked Sinn Féin over a meeting with Palestinian militant group Hamas in Turkey at the weekend. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Suggestions that President Michael D Higgins neglected human rights concerns in his statement on Fidel Castro are “both unsustainable and unwarranted”, his spokesman has said. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Tánaiste Frances Fitzgerald said on Saturday women at all levels of politics are “dispirited” and “disillusioned” as she sharply criticised the pace of efforts to get women into positions of power. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

It will be impossible to conclude Brexit negotiations within the two-year timeframe set down under EU rules, the Taoiseach has said. Speaking in Cardiff, where he was attending a meeting of the British-Irish Council, Enda Kenny said a transition deal to allow Brexit to take place over a longer period was “inevitable”. To read more on the Taoiseach’s comments, [click here](#).

## Economy

The Minister for Training, Skills and Innovation, John Halligan has announced this week that Ireland has won a total of €336.7 million from the EU for Research and Innovation, equivalent to an average of €2.4 million every week. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The latest Hays Salary Survey shows that more than three-quarters (76%) of Irish employers expect to be challenged by a shortage of suitable candidates, as competition for talented professionals becomes intense. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

It was announced today that LinkedIn will be creating 200 new jobs at the company's EMEA headquarters in Dublin. The announcement comes ahead of the completion of LinkedIn's EMEA HQ at Wilton Place with construction set to finish in 2017. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The Universal Social Charge should be reduced to encourage more people into work, Paris-based Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has said. To read more on the OECD report, [click here](#). [

The Irish Independent this week reported that Global pharmaceutical company, Pfizer has scrapped their planned €400m expansion of an Irish plant which would have seen 350 permanently employed staff along with 1,250 construction jobs. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Some financial firms in Britain looking for a base in the European Union after Brexit are expected to start applying for licences in Dublin by early next year, Ireland's financial services minister said on Friday. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Public-sector pay talks on a successor to the Lansdowne Road Agreement will be held no later than February, five members of Cabinet said. Talks will have to be earlier than the Government wanted to avoid all-out industrial unrest. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The government's controversial €20,000 first-time buyers grant is facing the axe, amid fears that it will push house prices to an unsustainable level, following the Central Bank's relaxation of mortgage lending rules last week. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Seneca, one of the largest security firms in Ireland, has sought bankruptcy protection from its creditors in an effort to rescue the business from insolvency. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The Indonesian government is zeroing in on Facebook's activities in Ireland in a government tax crackdown. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Ulster Bank has announced that it is to pay a dividend to its parent company Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS), its first pay-out. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

## Society

The Association of Secondary Teachers' Ireland (ASTI) is holding a meeting of its 180-member central executive council on Saturday to consider proposals aimed at ending the various disputes in which the union is engaged. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Cutting-edge, revolutionary drugs are becoming increasingly unaffordable for publicly-funded health systems like Ireland's. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Irish 10-year-olds have improved performance in maths over the past four years, according to an international survey. Despite the success, there is still cause for concern about the outcomes for Ireland in maths and science, with certain consistent weaknesses identified. To read more on the study, [click here](#).

Start-up schools are to get more funding from the Department of Education. Pre-opening grants, worth €15,000 for a new primary school and €25,000 for a new second-level school, will be paid to management bodies. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The Government is considering benchmarking nurse and doctor salaries against international competitors to bring to an end the brain drain in the health sector. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

A more critical view must be taken of abusive men, urged an expert on domestic violence perpetrators. "What we really need to do is diagnose these people," said Don Hennessy at the launch of a new report on femicide in Ireland in Dublin yesterday. To read more on this report, [click here](#).

A recently qualified teacher on €37,000 a year would repay about €70-€120 a month under the type of student loan scheme suggested in the Cassells report on future funding for higher education. To read more on the Cassells report, [click here](#).

A new Garda assistant commissioner has been appointed to take charge of the southern region, which will lead to a significant reshuffle within senior ranks of the force in Cork city and county. Chief Supt Michael Finn, native of Co Kerry, has been promoted to the role of assistant commissioner and will take overall charge of policing in Cork, Kerry, and Limerick. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

## Headlines

- [01.12.2016] [‘I’ve no intention of coming back’ – Bertie Ahern rules out running for President](#) [Irish Independent]
- [01.12.2016] [Kenny to discuss tax ruling with Apple boss Cook during visit to US](#) [Irish Independent]
- [01.12.2016] [Taoiseach sidesteps questions on water charges refunds](#) [Irish Times]
- [01.12.2016] [Ireland secures €336.7m from EU for research and innovation](#) [Business World]
- [30.11.2016] [FG must act on water charges prior to next election, says Noonan](#) [Irish Times]
- [30.11.2016] [Kenny travels to US to meet business leaders](#) [Irish Times]
- [30.11.2016] [Three-quarters of Irish employers expect hiring challenges in 2017](#) [Business World]
- [30.11.2016] [Last chance for teacher’s union as Government issue ‘final offer’](#) [Irish Independent]
- [30.11.2016] [10-year-olds improve maths results – but science suffers](#) [Irish Independent]
- [29.11.2016] [Passport applications from UK ‘likely’ to rise by more than 50%](#) [Irish Times]
- [29.11.2016] [Government to accept extra 260 refugees in response to crisis](#) [Irish Times]
- [29.11.2016] [Water services report will recommend generous allowances](#) [Irish Times]
- [29.11.2016] [LinkedIn announces 200 new jobs for Dublin](#) [Business World]
- [29.11.2016] [‘Reduce the USC to get more back to work,’ OECD urges](#) [Irish Independent]
- [29.11.2016] [Cutting-edge drugs facing funding battle](#) [Irish Independent]
- [28.11.2016] [Scottish first minister Nicola Sturgeon visits Dublin](#) [Irish Times]
- [28.11.2016] [DUP attacks Sinn Fein for meeting Palestinian militant group Hamas](#) [Irish Independent]
- [28.11.2016] [Pfizer ends plans for €400m Dublin plant expansion](#) [Business World]
- [28.11.2016] [UK financial firms to apply for licences in Dublin by early 2017](#) [Business World]
- [28.11.2016] [Public-sector pay talks to be held by February](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [28.11.2016] [More funds for start-up secondary schools](#) [Irish Independent]
- [27.11.2016] [President Higgins rejects criticism of Fidel Castro tribute](#) [Irish Times]
- [27.11.2016] [First-Time buyer scheme faces axe](#) [Sunday Business Post] [Paywall]
- [27.11.2016] [Security company Senaca seeking protection from its creditors](#) [Sunday Business Post] [Paywall]
- [27.11.2016] [Facebook Irish operations targeted by Indonesian government](#) [Sunday Business Post] [Paywall]
- [27.11.2016] [Medics’ pay may be bumped up in a bid to woo them home](#) [Irish Independent]
- [26.11.2016] [Call for much-needed focus on domestic violence perpetrators](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [25.11.2016] [Kenny says Brexit could bring about united Ireland](#) [Irish Times]
- [25.11.2016] [Brexit will not be complete within two years, says Kenny](#) [Irish Times]
- [25.11.2016] [Ulster Bank pays first dividend since 2008](#) [Sunday Business Post] [Paywall]
- [25.11.2016] [Teachers could face loan fees of €120 a month](#) [Irish Independent]
- [25.11.2016] [Assistant Commissioner Michael Finn in charge of policing in Cork, Kerry, Limerick](#) [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