

KASPress Ireland



News Summary

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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 told German media that the Irish people will never accept a hard post-Brexit Border between Northern Ireland and the Republic. “The citizens will not accept the return of a hard Border in Ireland,” said Mr Kenny to the leading Frankfurter Allgemeine (FAZ) newspaper. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Politics

Strict EU rules forcing Ireland to introduce charges for water must be explained by the European Commission to the new Oireachtas committee on the future funding of water services, says Fine Gael MEP Brian Hayes. He made the call ahead of the committee questioning officials today with Irish Water about the future of bills for households. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Taoiseach Enda Kenny and UK Prime Minister Theresa May last night vowed to work closely to resolve the crisis in the North before an election is due to be called next week. Mr Kenny and Mrs May spoke by telephone as both Ireland and the UK increased efforts to prevent an Assembly election in Northern Ireland. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Taoiseach Enda Kenny has said a “limited window” exists for talks to avoid new Northern Assembly elections and he urged political parties to seize the opportunity. Speaking after a meeting with Sinn Féin politicians in Dublin, Mr Kenny said: “The situation we now face in Northern Ireland is very serious. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

A Fine Gael TD has urged Ministers who wish to succeed Enda Kenny to show their “mettle” by standing up and questioning the Taoiseach’s leadership. Kate O’Connell made her comments in light of Irish preparations for the formal talks on Britain’s withdrawal from the European Union, which are due to begin by the end of March. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Japan sees Ireland as an important ally as it seeks to safeguard the interests of its companies in the UK and the European Union following Brexit, the country's foreign minister has said. After a meeting with Minister for Foreign Affairs Charlie Flanagan in Dublin on Monday, Fumio Kishida said the UK's decision to leave the EU was an event "that shook the world". Given the number of Japanese companies operating in the EU, Tokyo was "closely following" the process that would lead to British withdrawal. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Minister for Foreign Affairs Charlie Flanagan has urged the Northern parties not to damage the political institutions of the Belfast Agreement during the expected forthcoming election.

An election appears inevitable in the coming months after the resignation of Martin McGuinness as Deputy First Minister this week. To read more on the foreign minister's comments, [click here](#).

The biggest labour union in America has called on President Barack Obama to directly intervene and stop plans by Norwegian Air International to fly from Cork to the US as his term in the White House comes to an end. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Ireland's strategic interests in the Brexit negotiations could be seriously damaged by an excessive focus on the relationship with the UK, Irish EU Commissioner Phil Hogan has warned. In an opinion piece in the *Irish Times*, Mr Hogan said Ireland's focus should be on developing a wholly different set of relationships with our EU partners. To read more on Mr Hogan's comments, [click here](#).

Outgoing US president Barack Obama is planning to visit the Republic at some point this year, the US ambassador to Ireland has said. It is almost six years since Mr Obama and first lady Michelle Obama addressed a crowd of about 60,000 people at College Green, Dublin, and spoke warmly of the relationship between Ireland and the United States. To read more on Mr Obama's proposed visit to Ireland, [click here](#).

Former Taoiseach John Bruton has warned a hard Brexit will leave nationalists in the North isolated and cause difficulties. However, he said it was dangerous to talk about violent repercussions from Brexit. He also believes Ireland can take advantage of Britain's exit by trying to poach business, specifically asset-management firms. However, a specific strategy was needed to target firms, he said. In an interview with the Irish Examiner, Mr Bruton said it was preferable that Britain held a second referendum on leaving the EU, as a lot of British had voted thinking "nothing serious" would change. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Junior jobs minister, John Halligan, says that if Britain's position or its economy actually benefits through Brexit, then TDs here will begin calling for Ireland to leave the EU. To read more on the minister's comments, [click here](#).

Economy

Enterprise Ireland has launched a €750,000 fund for entrepreneurs and start-ups. The latest Competitive Start Fund will offer successful applicants up to €50,000 in equity funding to test the market for their products and services, build prototypes, secure partnerships, and help them shift towards global markets. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Irish businesses may be feeling the effect of the Brexit uncertainty, but the numbers of jobs being advertised in the Irish foreign direct investment sector continues to rise. To read more this story, [click here](#).

The total number of corporate Irish insolvencies recorded in 2016 was 1,032 according to the latest insolvency statistics published by www.insolvencyjournal.ie. This represents a 2% decrease on 2015 (1,049) and is further evidence that the economy is improving. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Mr. Michael Creed TD, this week announced that the value of Irish agri-food and drink exports had exceeded €11 billion for the first time ever in 2016.

The announcement was made today at the launch of Bord Bia's '*Export Performance and Prospects 2016-2017 report*.' To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Irish consumer sentiment fell to near two-year low in December as increased uncertainty undermined confidence, a new survey reveals. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The President of the Irish Farmers Association (IFA), Joe Healy has today warned that it is critical that recommendations the EU Food Chain report on increased price transparency must be introduced without delay and actively enforced to rebalance power in favour of farmers. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Low-cost carrier Norwegian has invested \$65 million in its Irish subsidiary as it prepares to launch transatlantic flights from Cork to Shannon. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

New laws mean the IDA, the agency responsible for the attraction and development of foreign direct investment (FDI) in Ireland, will have to disclose sensitive details of payments it makes to international companies to set up in Ireland, paving the way for other countries to potentially lure away jobs and investment. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

New figures show that the number of new companies registered in Ireland last year topped the 20,000 mark for the first time since 1998. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Apple chief executive Tim Cook has declined an invitation to appear at the Oireachtas finance committee to discuss the EU's ruling that the company owes Ireland more than €13 billion in back taxes. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Spending by most Government departments on consultancy services, value-for-money reviews, agency services, advertising and publicity are set to rise this year, according to revised estimates for the public service. According to a breakdown of budgets for 2017, the cost of running the Civil Service, which staffs the central Government departments, is scheduled to rise by 5 per cent this year to just over €2.2 billion, with pay costs increasing by 4 per cent since last year. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Society

Three teachers have been refused registration with their professional standards body because of an issue that came to light when they went through the garda vetting process. If a teacher is not registered with the Teaching Council, it means that he or she is banned from working in a state-funded position. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

All remaining residents in Apollo House have left the Dublin office building, the High Court has heard. The remaining homeless residents have been moved either to housing or hotel accommodation paid for by the Home Sweet Home campaign. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Ireland will need to build three hospitals the size of Beaumont over the next 10 years to cater for its ageing population, according to research commissioned by insurer Irish Life. The research estimates the population of over-65s will grow by 200,000 over the next 10 years, with that population accounting for just over half of public beds. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The full extent of the misery suffered by hospital patients has emerged as new figures reveal a near-record 535,974 people are now on public waiting lists. They are in the queue nationwide for surgery, an outpatient appointment or an endoscopy procedure. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Patients on hospital trolleys are being forced to endure even longer delays year on year as the overcrowding crisis escalates, according to internal HSE figures. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

ASTI members face a loss of up to €30,000 each if they reject the latest proposals to settle their long-running rows over pay and junior cycle reform. Secondary teacher pay packets have already been docked a total of €5m-€6m, arising from three days' industrial action in October and November. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The flu virus is "actively circulating" but has not yet reached its peak - with 15 patients admitted to critical care units suffering a life-threatening condition so far this winter. An HSE spokeswoman confirmed that seven people died from the virus during the period from December 5 to January 1. To read more on the flu virus in Ireland, [click here](#).

Anti-Islamic leaflets have been handed out in Ballaghaderreen ahead of the arrival of some 80 Syrian refugees in the town this month. According to a report in The Western People, a group of four or five individuals, who are believed not to be from the north-west Co Roscommon town, handed out the literature in the town centre on Saturday. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The most expensive fee-paying school in the country has cut its fees by a third in order to compete with others in south Dublin. The rate for day pupils at the prestigious St Columba's College, Rathfarnham, has dropped from €12,426 to €8,000, to bring it closer into line with its rivals. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

A total of 760 refugees had arrived in Ireland by the end of 2016 under the Government's humanitarian programme for people fleeing conflict in Syria and other war-torn countries in the Middle East and North Africa. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Headlines

- [12.01.2017] [European Commission must explain water charge rules, says Fine Gael MEP Brian Hayes](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [12.01.2017] [Irish FDI jobs continue to rise despite Brexit uncertainty](#) [Irish Times]
- [12.01.2017] [Enterprise Ireland launches €750,000 competitive start fund](#) [Irish Times]
- [12.01.2017] [Service sector insolvencies in 2016 post 65% increase on 2015](#) [Business World]
- [12.01.2017] [Apollo House occupants vacate building and move homeless residents](#) [Irish Times]
- [12.01.2017] [Three teachers refused registration after they fail garda vetting](#) [Irish Independent]
- [11.01.2017] [Kenny and May vow co-operation on North debacle](#) [Irish Independent]
- [11.01.2017] [Taoiseach urges Northern parties to use 'limited window' for talks](#) [Irish Times]
- [11.01.2017] [Contenders must show 'mettle' by questioning Kenny leadership](#) [Irish Times]
- [11.01.2017] [Irish food and drink exports reach record high of €11.15Bn](#) [Business World]
- [11.01.2017] [Three new 'Beaumont Hospitals' needed to tackle ageing population](#) [Irish Independent]
- [10.01.2017] [Japan seeks closer ties with Ireland after Brexit](#) [Irish Times]
- [10.01.2017] [Flanagan says North's parties should 'act responsibly'](#) [Irish Times]
- [10.01.2017] [US labour union calls on President Barack Obama to halt Cork flights plan](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [10.01.2017] [Consumer confidence dips to near two-year low – survey](#) [Sunday Business Post] [Paywall]
- [10.01.2017] [Half-a-million stuck on waiting lists as health crisis grows](#) [Irish Independent]
- [10.01.2017] [Patients endure longer delays as hundreds wait over nine hours for a bed](#) [Irish Independent]
- [09.01.2017] [Phil Hogan urges Ireland to keep distance from UK on Brexit](#) [Irish Times]
- [09.01.2017] [Farmers push for early implementation of EU food chain report](#) [Business World]
- [09.01.2017] [ASTI teachers will lose €30,000 if they throw out latest proposals to settle dispute](#) [Irish Independent]
- [08.01.2017] [Norwegian pumps \\$65m into Irish wing ahead of transatlantic play](#) [Sunday Business Post] [Paywall]
- [08.01.2017] [IDA will be forced to disclose grants to foreign companies](#) [Sunday Business Post] [Paywall]
- [08.01.2017] [Flu outbreak still to hit peak, warn doctors](#) [Irish Independent]
- [08.01.2017] [Shock at hate leaflets ahead of 80 refugees' arrival](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [07.01.2017] [Barack Obama plans to return to Ireland in next year – ambassador](#) [Irish Times]
- [07.01.2017] [Hard Brexit will isolate nationalists, warns John Bruton](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [07.01.2017] [Most expensive school cuts fees by a third to compete](#) [Irish Independent]
- [06.01.2017] [German media sympathetic to Irish Brexit fears](#) [Irish Times]
- [06.01.2017] ['Won't be long' before calls to leave EU says John Halligan](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [06.01.2017] [Surge in start-ups in 2016 as economy improved](#) [Sunday Business Post] [Paywall]
- [06.01.2017] [Total of 760 refugees arrived in State last year](#) [Irish Times]
- [05.01.2017] [Apple Chief Tim Cook declines invite to Oireachtas committee](#) [Irish Times]
- [05.01.2017] [Government spending on consultancy services to rise](#) [Irish Times]

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