

KASPress Ireland



News Summary

20.01.16 – 26.01.17

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 does not expect the UK to abandon its commitments under the Belfast Agreement after it leaves the EU and will make this “very clear” to the British Prime Minister Theresa May when they meet next week, he said on Monday. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Politics

At a seminar hosted last week by the Institute of International and European Affairs (IIEA), a Dublin-based think-tank, founder Brendan Halligan said he had long been of the view that talks on article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty – the provision that allows for a member state to leave the bloc – would lead to a referendum in Ireland. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

A senior Sinn Féin TD has said his party would refuse to take its seats in Westminster to vote against British Prime Minister Theresa May's plan to leave the European Union. Pearse Doherty said there was "no appetite" in the party to end its policy of abstentionism, despite the UK Supreme Court ruling that triggering Article 50 - the mechanism for leaving the EU - requiring the approval of Parliament. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Ireland's interests will be fully reflected in the Brexit negotiations at every stage, Minister for European Affairs Dara Murphy has said. He was speaking in Dublin on Wednesday at an event hosted by the European Movement Ireland to mark the Maltese presidency of the Council of the European Union. To read more on Mr Murphy's comments, [click here](#).

Government officials are looking at the idea of having customs depots along the Border for commercial vehicle checks after Brexit, Transport Minister Shane Ross has said. The depots would allow goods vehicles to go through a customs procedure, the minister said. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

British Prime Minister Theresa May will not address the Dáil during her visit to Dublin next week, Taoiseach Enda Kenny has said. "My understanding is that the prime minister's schedule will not allow that to happen and I am not in control of that schedule," he added. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Taoiseach Enda Kenny has broken with the Government's long-standing policy of not publicly touting for UK-based companies to relocate to Ireland. Addressing a major summit in Dublin, he said that British Prime Minister Theresa May's decision to opt for a 'hard Brexit' means Ireland will be the only English-speaking country in the EU with "a stable, predictable and certain business environment". To read more on the Taoiseach's comments, [click here](#).

Increasing Fianna Fáil frustration over Opposition proposals not being taken seriously by Government risks undermining the stability of the minority administration, party figures have warned. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

A plan to create 135,000 jobs by 2020, while rejuvenating 600 rural towns and villages, has been launched by Taoiseach Enda Kenny in Ballymahon, Co Longford. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Health Minister Simon Harris this week traveled to London to try to convince the European Medicines Agency of the merits of relocating to Dublin. The EU agency will have to leave Britain as a result of Brexit and the Government has made no secret of its desire to attract it to Ireland. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Brexit negotiations cannot lead to a situation where the UK enjoys a more advantageous position outside the single market than EU members, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Charlie Flanagan, has said. To read more on Mr Flanagan's comments, [click here](#).

Economy

Dublin's unemployment rate dipped slightly to 7.8% in the third quarter 2016 following an unexpected increase in the second quarter of the year. To read more on the latest employment figures from Dublin, [click here](#).

It was announced today that Almac Group has secured new premises in Dundalk, County Louth to support its ongoing global expansion plans in response to increased client demand. The Craigavon based Global contract pharmaceutical development and manufacturing organisation will make a multimillion investment in the new facility at IDA Business Park. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The Society of Chartered Surveyors Ireland (SCSI) have this week warned that national property prices are set to rise by an average of 7% in 2017 with even higher price increases predicted for the Leinster region. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The price of a three-bed semi will rise by 9.4% nationally this year, helped by the Government's 'help to buy' scheme and looser Central Bank lending rules, say the country's chartered surveyors. They also expect rents to rise by 8-10% outside the agreed rent control areas of the three Dublin city local authorities and Cork city. Annual rent increases are capped at 4% in these designated zones. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The European Commission's ruling on Apple's tax arrangements in Ireland is tantamount to a "land grab", PwC managing partner Feargal O'Rourke has claimed. He said Brussels had overstepped its remit in demanding €13 billion in back tax from the multinational. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Three in five Irish households (59%) had to borrow to meet the costs of essential household bills last year according to new research released by Switcher.ie. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Leading Global financial institutions, policy makers, entrepreneurs and innovators this week participated in the European Financial Forum (EFF) in Dublin Castle. Major themes to be explored this year include the financial services landscape - Asia-Europe and Disruptive Innovation. The Forum also focused on the latest macroeconomic and regulatory scenarios and the impact of Brexit and implications for banking and financial services. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Credit Suisse has declined to say if Dublin would be a beneficiary of any post-Brexit move, a senior board member of the Swiss bank said at a conference in Dublin on Tuesday. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

A hard Brexit and the Public Health Alcohol Bill (PHAB) will create the "perfect storm" for the drinks sector according to an economic study carried out by the Alcohol Beverage Federation of Ireland (ABFI). To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Irish companies are preparing to increase workers' pay by about 2.5 per cent this year as they struggle to fill positions in information technology, data analytics, risk and finance, according to a new report. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Citibank has become the first major bank to confirm it is considering moving jobs to Ireland after Brexit if its British subsidiary loses access to the European market. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Finance Minister Michael Noonan says he expects the US regime under Donald Trump to overhaul its tax system but added that foreign investment here remains strong. Speaking at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Mr Noonan also revealed that firms from Britain inquiring about moving here are asking if there are good schools for their children. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Viviscal, the beauty products group owned by Galway business James Murphy, has been sold to an American company in a deal thought to be worth around €150 million. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

As many as 40,000 jobs could be axed, the national debt could rise by €20bn, and food exports could be hit with up to 50% tariffs as a result of a hard Brexit, according to Department of Finance officials. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Only one in six sites in Dublin with residential planning permission is under construction. The situation in the capital has prompted fears that developers are sitting on land to instead build office blocks and multiply their profits. Housing Minister Simon Coveney confirmed yesterday that there is planning permission for some 27,000 housing units in place in Dublin, but only 4,000 are being built. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Society

More than 80 per cent of the homes available to rent are too expensive for people on state housing benefits, the Simon Communities in Ireland has said. In a new study published on Thursday, the charity said the figures showed the gap between housing payments available to people on social welfare and market rent prices continued to grow. To read more on this report, [click here](#). [26]

Hospitals that rely heavily on agency nurses to maintain services in the absence of permanent staff are discovering these are also in short supply. Liam Doran, head of the Irish Nurses and Midwives Organisation (INMO), said that agencies only had enough nurses to supply around 60pc to 70pc of the numbers demanded. This is despite the fact hospitals spent €80m on their services last year. To read more on this story, [click here](#). [26]

The number of people living in emergency accommodation has surpassed 7,000 for the first time. The Department of Housing's latest homelessness figures show that at the end of December 2016 a total of 7,148 people were living in emergency accommodation, including 2,505 children. To read more on this story, [click here](#). [25]

Education Minister Richard Bruton has opened a four-week public consultation process on the so-called 'baptism barrier' to entry to church-controlled schools. Mr Bruton recently announced plans to limit or remove the role religion plays in the school admission process, and put forward four possible approaches. To read more on this story, [click here](#). [25]

The prospect of industrial action by nurses edged closer last night after talks aimed at improving staffing in hospitals and across the health service adjourned without agreement. The Irish Nurses and Midwives Organisation (INMO) and SITPU want the HSE to introduce a range of incentives to try to attract more nurses to apply for jobs and end the serious shortage which is affecting services. However, both unions said the two days of talks led to "no progress". To read more on this story, [click here](#). [25]

The Home Sweet Home group will build a mass movement of citizens to change housing policy in the way the Right2Water campaign "beat" water charges, the group's co-founder Brendan Ogle has said. To read more on this story, [click here](#). [23]

Hospital doctors are to defer a planned ballot on strike action after they were invited to new talks with the Government over a dispute about allowances. The row centres on a €3,000 accommodation allowance for non-consultant hospital doctors. The Irish Medical Organisation (IMO) confirmed yesterday that it has agreed to defer the ballot pending the outcome of talks with the Department of Health. To read more on this story, [click here](#). [22]

Some of the sickest patients on public waiting lists are to lose out in a €5m move by the Government to outsource care to private hospitals. None of the 11,272 patients in need of a hip or knee transplant will get their operation done for free in a private hospital. To read more on this story, [click here](#). [20]

Flu has claimed the lives of another 14 people - bringing the death toll to 29 so far this winter. Elderly people, who are also bearing the brunt of the hospital trolley crisis, are most affected. To read more on this story, [click here](#). [20]

Headlines

- [26.01.2017] [Could an Irish referendum delay or even derail Brexit?](#) [Irish Times]
- [26.01.2017] [Employment levels in Dublin continue to rise](#) [Business World]
- [26.01.2017] [Almac group to create 100 new jobs in Dundalk](#) [Business World]
- [26.01.2017] [Hospitals facing shortage of agency nurses despite spending €80m on them in 2016](#) [Irish Independent]
- [26.01.2017] [Over 80% of rents too expensive for people on social welfare, study shows](#) [Irish Times]
- [25.01.2017] [Sinn Fein refuses to send its four MPs to Westminster in attempt to block Article 50](#) [Irish Independent]
- [25.01.2017] [Ireland should not take itself 'hostage' over Brexit concerns](#) [Irish Times]
- [25.01.2017] [Surveyors expect residential property prices to increase by 7% in 2017](#) [Business World]
- [25.01.2017] [Three-bed semi prices to rise 9.4%, say surveyors](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [25.01.2017] [Public gets to have its say on 'baptism barrier'](#) [Irish Independent]
- [25.01.2017] [Over 7,000 people living in emergency accommodation](#) [Irish Times]
- [25.01.2017] [Threat of nursing strikes grows after talks break up](#) [Irish Independent]
- [24.01.2017] [Enda Kenny to warn the UK not to renege on Belfast Agreement](#) [Irish Times]
- [24.01.2017] [Theresa May's schedule will not allow Dáil address, says Kenny](#) [Irish Times]
- [24.01.2017] [Ross's Border depots idea is a 'worst-case scenario'](#) [Irish Independent]
- [24.01.2017] [Kenny to openly court Brexit-hit businesses after tactical rethink](#) [Irish Independent]
- [24.01.2017] [Apple tax ruling tantamount to 'land grab', says PwC boss](#) [Irish Times]
- [24.01.2017] [60% of Irish borrowers forced to borrow to pay household bills](#) [Business World]
- [24.01.2017] [European Financial Forum gets underway in Dublin](#) [Business World]
- [23.01.2017] [Rural action plan will create 135,000 jobs by 2020, says Taoiseach](#) [Irish Times]
- [23.01.2017] [Government at risk as Fianna Fáil frustration grows](#) [Irish Times]
- [23.01.2017] [Simon Harris is trying to lure EU medicines agency to Dublin](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [23.01.2017] [Brexit and alcohol bill to create huge challenge for drinks sector](#) [Business World]
- [23.01.2017] [Irish companies prepare to increase salaries by 2.5% this year](#) [Irish Times]
- [23.01.2017] [Home Sweet Home plans mass movement on housing](#) [Irish Times]
- [22.01.2017] [Citibank boss: Brexit a jobs boost for Irish](#) [Sunday Business Post] [Paywall]
- [22.01.2017] [Doctors to enter talks in row over allowances](#) [Irish Independent]
- [21.01.2017] [Michael Noonan: Investment is still strong](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [20.01.2017] [EU deal must not leave Britain with advantage, says Flanagan](#) [Irish Times]
- [20.01.2017] [Irish entrepreneur Murphy sells Viviscal for €150 million](#) [Sunday Business Post] [Paywall]
- [20.01.2017] [Brexit may cause 40,000 job losses and €20bn debt hike](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [20.01.2017] [Only 4,000 housing units under construction in capital](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [20.01.2017] [Sickest patients 'lose out' in €5m scheme to pay private hospitals to reduce waiting lists](#) [Irish Independent]
- [20.01.2017] [Death toll from flu soars to 29 as crisis continues](#) [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