

KASPress Ireland



News Summary

10.02.17 – 16.02.17

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

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Top Story

The Government will seek EU funding to help businesses affected by the UK's departure from the union, the Taoiseach said on Wednesday afternoon, in a major speech on the Coalition's Brexit policy. Speaking at an Institute of International and European Affairs event at the Mansion House in Dublin, the Taoiseach said that "stabilisation and adjustment measures" for the businesses most affected by Brexit will be funded by the Government. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Politics

The events of the past week, which have seen the Government come under pressure over its handling of garda whistleblowers, have brought the prospect of an election closer, Minister for Finance Michael Noonan has said. Speaking after the Government survived a confidence vote and the Taoiseach's leadership was called into question, Mr Noonan said he had "no idea" what Enda Kenny's intentions for the future were. To read more on Mr Noonan's comments, [click here](#).

The Government has won its motion of confidence in the Dáil by just five votes - 57 to 52, with 44 abstentions - after a series of tense exchanges between Fine Gael, Fianna Fáil and Sinn Féin. Fianna Fáil abstained in the vote. Sinn Féin, Labour, Anti-Austerity Alliance-People Before Profit, Independents4Change, Social Democrats, Green Party and Independents Michael Fitzmaurice, Mattie McGrath and Michael Collins voted against the Government. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Minister for Foreign Affairs Charlie Flanagan has warned against Ireland seeking "special status" within the EU following Brexit. He said such concepts and terms would give rise to serious concerns for other EU partners about precedents that might be set elsewhere. To read more on Mr Flanagan's comments, [click here](#).

Taoiseach Enda Kenny has expressed regret that he gave wrong information about his contacts with Minister for Children Katherine Zappone regarding her meeting with garda whistleblower Sgt Maurice McCabe and his family. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Another Garda whistleblower has demanded that his case is included in a public inquiry into an alleged smear campaign against Sgt Maurice McCabe. Keith Harrison claims he and his girlfriend endured covert and overt surveillance, referrals to Tusla - the Child and Family Agency, and that they were the victim of rumour, innuendo and malicious falsehoods. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Comments by a Fine Gael backbencher who called on Enda Kenny to outline a timeframe for his resignation have been disowned by supporters of Minister for Social Protection Leo Varadkar. Dublin North-West TD Noel Rock told RTÉ News on Monday he believes it is time for Mr Kenny to outline when he will step down as party leader and Taoiseach. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Fianna Fáil has called for a full and open briefing on the controversial Cork events centre project before another cent of public money is pumped into it. The party's finance spokesperson, Michael McGrath, ramped up the pressure on the stalled project as the first anniversary of the sod turning passed without a brick being laid. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Former taoiseach Bertie Ahern has warned that Brexit poses dangers for the peace process. "[UK Prime Minister Theresa] May seems to be switching her language," he told the *Observer*. "She's saying not that there'll be no Border, but that the Border won't be as difficult as to create problems." To read more on the former Taoiseach's comments, [click here](#).

Fianna Fáil will abstain in a vote of no confidence in the Government this week despite having serious concerns over its handling of the Garda whistleblower controversy. The Dáil will debate a motion tabled by Sinn Féin in response to revelations that Tusla wrongly sent files containing false allegations about Sgt Maurice McCabe to An Garda Síochána. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Fianna Fáil has taken an 11-point lead over Fine Gael in a new opinion poll published on Sunday. The poll puts Fianna Fáil support at 32 per cent, a rise of three percentage points, ahead of Fine Gael support of 21 per cent, a fall of two points for the main Government party. To read more on this opinion poll, [click here](#).

Tusla, the Child and Family Agency, is facing legal action after it emerged it sent a file containing false allegations of child sex abuse against a Garda whistleblower to An Garda Síochána. Sgt Maurice McCabe, whose treatment by Garda management is being investigated by a commission of inquiry, is to take legal action against Tusla and has sought a full apology. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Economy

Google has held informal talks with the owners of the Treasury Building on Dublin's Grand Canal Street with a view to making a formal offer for the property. This comes just weeks after it was reported that Google plans to add 400 employees to its 6,100-strong Dublin workforce. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

It was announced this week that Irish based technology firms raised a record €888m in 2016, up 70% from €522m the previous year. This is according to the Irish Venture Capital Association (IVCA) Pulse survey published in association with William Fry. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The number of professional job vacancies in January 2017 was up by 33% nationally compared to the previous month and there was a 56% month on month increase in the number of professionals active in the job market. This is according to the January 2017 Morgan McKinley Ireland Employment Monitor which measures the pulse of the Irish professional jobs market by tracking the number of new job vacancies and new candidates within the Republic of Ireland each month. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Indeed have this week announced expansion plans for their Dublin-based headquarters for Europe, the Middle East and Africa (EMEA). The recruitment company hopes to add 500 new employees over the next two years. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Irish exports rose to a record €116.9 billion last year, an increase of four per cent on 2015, the Central Statistics Office said. Ireland's trade surplus widened to €47.3 billion from €42.3 billion. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Online shopping is gradually replacing face-to-face spending, as the growth in consumer spending continues to slow. The latest figures from Visa's Irish consumer spending index show a 4% increase in household spending, year-on-year, in January. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Rents in Ireland rose by 13.5 per cent last year, the largest annual increase ever recorded by property website Daft.ie, which has been tracking the market since 2002. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Pharmaceutical giant Eli Lilly has delayed a €200 million investment in Cork amid fears of a clampdown on the pharmaceutical sector by newly elected US President Donald Trump. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Michael Noonan, the Department of Finance and Nama have all been heavily criticised in a damning secret report prepared for TDs investigating the sale of Project Eagle. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

The economic recovery has seen a more than 90% reduction in the last five years in the number of people having to claim redundancy from the State because their employer was in financial difficulty or insolvency. In 2011, there were 49,762 claims to the State under the redundancy payments scheme and that saw €312m deducted from the country's social insurance fund (SIF). To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Ireland will see healthy growth in employment, an increase in GDP, sustained consumer spending and further export growth this year according to the latest Quarterly Economic Outlook from Bank of Ireland. The rise in employment is set to continue in 2017, albeit at a slower pace, with growth of 2.3% projected this year, equating to c. 46,000 new jobs. Employment growth is also on the cards for 2018, with an increase of 1.8% projected. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Society

Dublin has jumped six places to 31st in an international league table of the best student cities. The rise is attributed to how the capital is viewed by international students and the willingness of global employers to hire graduates from its universities. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Growing numbers of graduates are walking into jobs at home soon after leaving college. Almost two in three - 62pc - of those who left university in 2015 with an honours bachelor degree were employed the following spring, including 53pc of graduates working in Ireland. It represents a jump from 58pc and 48pc respectively a year earlier, according to new report from the Higher Education Authority (HEA). To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Shocking new figures about survival rates show that nearly four in five Irish people diagnosed with pancreatic cancer will die within a year. Almost 500 new patients are told annually they have the disease. About 400 will be dead within 12 months. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

More than 5,000 children who have been brought to the attention of child welfare and protection services have still not been allocated a social worker, it has emerged. Minister for Children Katherine Zappone told the Dáil on Tuesday there had been a 19 per cent reduction in the number of at-risk children without an allocated social worker since the end of 2015. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

About 20,000 pupils will benefit as more schools are awarded extra supports under a new scheme to tackle educational disadvantage. The Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools (Deis) programme will expand next September to include about 80 more schools whose level of disadvantage is deemed to be higher than many schools already included. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Hospital support staff are set to take industrial action alongside nurses next month on March 7. More than 10,000 hospital support staff, who include healthcare assistants, porters, cleaners and security staff, were promised a job evaluation scheme which they believe would result in higher pay if their roles expanded. However this evaluation never took place. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Growing numbers of Irish nurses are propping up hospitals in England while understaffing here is fuelling waiting lists and trolley overcrowding. There are now at least 4,670 Irish nurses in England. This amounts to one in every 66 of the NHS nursing workforce. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

A €350m new Cork hospital is being proposed as the answer to Ireland's chronic shortage of acute hospital beds. Ireland has not commissioned a major new acute hospital for 19 years and Health Minister Simon Harris admitted that is something the Government and Department of Health must urgently review. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Trinity College Dublin has been restored to a leading global university rankings, following an embarrassing exclusion last year. Trinity is now ranked 131st in the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings for 2016/17. The university didn't make it into the league table, when it was published last autumn, after the college made an error in the data it returned to the rankings researchers. To read more on this story, [click here](#).

Headlines

- [16.02.2017] [Noonan says prospect of election closer as terms of McCabe tribunal agreed](#) [Irish Times]
- [16.02.2017] [Google interested in buying treasury building in Dublin 2](#) [Business World]
- [15.02.2017] [Government wins confidence motion by five votes](#) [Irish Times]
- [15.02.2017] [Taoiseach to seek EU aid for Irish firms hit by Brexit](#) [Irish Times]
- [15.02.2017] [Charlie Flanagan cautions on seeking Brexit 'special status' in EU](#) [Irish Times]
- [15.02.2017] [Irish tech firms raise €888m in 2016](#) [Business World]
- [15.02.2017] [Ireland still attracting US multinational companies](#) [Business World]
- [15.02.2017] [Indeed to hire 500 new staff in Dublin](#) [Business World]
- [15.02.2017] [Irish exports rise to a record level in 2016 – 9 key points](#) [Sunday Business Post] [Paywall]
- [15.02.2017] [Student appeal sends Dublin climbing university city rankings](#) [Irish Independent]
- [15.02.2017] [Graduates getting jobs quickly – and more staying in Ireland](#) [Irish Independent]
- [15.02.2017] [Urgent need for testing to cut high death toll of pancreatic cancer, Irish scientists warn](#) [Irish Independent]
- [14.02.2017] [Kenny 'gave wrong information' about Zappone meeting](#) [Irish Times]
- [14.02.2017] [Another Garda whistleblower demands inclusion in inquiry](#) [Irish Times]
- [14.02.2017] [Over 5,000 at-risk children have no social worker, Dáil hears](#) [Irish Times]
- [14.02.2017] [Figures show online retail replacing high street shopping](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [14.02.2017] [Rents hit record levels](#) [Sunday Business Post] [Paywall]
- [13.02.2017] [Varadkar supporters disown backbench calls for Taoiseach to resign](#) [Irish Times]
- [13.02.2017] [Fianna Fáil calls for briefing on Cork events centre costs](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [13.02.2017] [Hospital support staff set to take industrial action alongside nurses](#) [Irish Independent]
- [13.02.2017] [Even more schools to benefit from disadvantage scheme](#) [Irish Independent]
- [12.02.2017] [Brexit poses danger for peace process, Ahern warns](#) [Irish Times]
- [12.02.2017] [FF to abstain in vote of no confidence in Government](#) [Irish Times]
- [12.02.2017] [€200m pharma plan for Cork frozen by Trump fears](#) [Sunday Business Post] [Paywall]
- [12.02.2017] [Report: Noonan acted inappropriately – Nama sale flawed](#) [Sunday Business Post] [Paywall]
- [11.02.2017] [Fianna Fáil takes 11-point lead over Fine Gael in new poll](#) [Irish Times]
- [11.02.2017] [State redundancy claims fall by 90%](#) [Irish Examiner]
- [11.02.2017] [Exodus of Irish nurses wooed to UK by lure of travel, car and housing subsidies](#) [Irish Independent]
- [11.02.2017] [€350m new hospital proposed](#) [Irish Independent]
- [10.02.2017] [Maurice McCabe to sue Tusla over sex abuse file](#) [Irish Times]
- [10.02.2017] [Bank of Ireland forecasts continued growth for 2017](#) [Business World]
- [10.02.2017] [Trinity College restored to global ranking following last year's embarrassing exclusion](#) [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