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IRISH OLYMPICS SCANDAL

Failed test 'no innocent mistake'

■ Boxer O'Reilly fails doping test ■ Team Ireland rocked by scandal ■ OCI bosses try to quell fallout

Daniel McConnell
Political Editor

Irish middle-weight boxer Michael O'Reilly's failing of a doping test on the eve of the Rio Olympic Games was believed "not to be an innocent mistake", it can be revealed.

Team Ireland's preparations for the Games were last night in tatters as the 23-year-old Portlaoise native was suspended having tested positive for a banned substance.

O'Reilly was tested before leaving for Rio by the Sport Ireland Anti-Doping Agency and returned "an adverse analytical finding in an A-sample".

A tweet from O'Reilly's account last night insisted that he will compete at the Games: "Box on the 12th in the last 16 against the winner of Mexico or Iraq..."

Sources last night said they expected a conclusion on the matter within the next 24-48 hours. The Irish Olympic bosses are keen to minimise the fallout from the controversy.

However, there was widespread shock and anger after the story was revealed exclusively by the *Irish Examiner* online yesterday afternoon, as the draw for the boxing was taking place in Rio.

"This is a huge embarrassment, devastating for the team of boxers which is a real tight group," said one Team Ireland member last night.

But senior sources, speaking to the *Irish Examiner*, said it was understood that the breach was not because of an inadvertent error. "It is not believed to be an innocent mistake. But he will have the right to appeal this, but this is a disastrous start to the Games," the source added.

In the draw, O'Reilly was one of five boxers given a



Michael O'Reilly celebrates victory at the 2015 European Games in Azerbaijan. O'Reilly has tested positive for a banned substance on the eve of the Olympics. Picture: Sportfile

bye in the first round but his participation in the Games hangs in the balance.

"The athlete has been provisionally suspended from competition and can take part in no sports activity, including training, in accordance with the WADA Code," an Olympic Council of Ireland statement said.

O'Reilly will now decide whether to accept a sanction for a doping violation, to request that a B-sample be tested, or to appeal the provisional suspension.

The athlete's identity will remain confidential

unless the sanction is accepted or the B-sample is tested and also returns an adverse analytical finding," the OCI said despite his name emerging. Several coaches and members of the boxing team were unaware of the news when it broke on the *Irish Examiner* website.

Boxer Paddy Barnes took to Twitter where he called for this newspaper to reveal the name of the boxer involved, which happened an hour later.

Team Ireland has eight boxers competing in the Olympics and boxing has

been the most successful event for the Irish in recent years.

Sport Ireland said it is precluded from making any comment on any anti-doping matters because of the quasi-judicial nature of how the system is managed.

It has never commented on any matters of this nature and would not be doing so in this instance, a spokesman told the *Irish Examiner*.

The Irish Athletic Boxing Association confirmed the positive test sample.

"The IABA has always maintained a zero tolerance

approach to doping and Irish boxing has been one of the most widely tested sports by the National Anti-Doping Programme over the last number of years," it said in a statement.

A spokesman for Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport Shane Ross said he had no comment on the controversy.

Ironically, as the controversy broke, both Mr Ross and Junior Minister Patrick O'Donovan added their support for the global fight against doping in sport.

"They said: "We look forward to supporting not just

the athletes representing Ireland, but all of the clean athletes and competitors in Rio. We sincerely hope they will be performing in a doping-free environment."

O'Reilly came to prominence last summer when, at the inaugural European Games in Baku, he won the gold medal.

The shock news that he had failed a dope test will be of some embarrassment to his coach, Pat Ryan, who is the current president of the Irish Amateur Boxing Association.

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Friday Sport

French magistrate wants Bailey to face Sophie charges

Cormac O'Keefe and Noel Baker

A fresh legal battle looms in the country's highest courts following reports that French authorities are seeking the extradition of Ian Bailey to face charges of killing Sophie Toscan du Plantier.

French media reported that the magistrate investigating the case had issued an indictment order for voluntary manslaughter against Mr Bailey before a Paris criminal court.

The reports said a European arrest warrant had been issued against him on July 13 and that Irish authorities had been notified.

However, the *Irish Examiner* understands that the warrant is still in the process of being formally submitted from France.

Ms du Plantier, 39, was discovered fatally beaten near her holiday home outside Schull, West Cork, on December 23, 1996.

The imminent warrant is the second one issued by the French investigation in relation to Mr Bailey.

The first request was granted in the High Court but was overturned by the Supreme Court in 2012, which ruled that he could not be extradited for the purposes of questioning.

The judges ruled that no decision had been taken by French authorities to put Mr Bailey on trial and that such a decision was required under Irish law for a person to be extradited.

Four of the five judges also ruled that he should not be extradited because the offence had been committed outside France.

The Director of Public Prosecutions has directed against prosecuting Mr Bailey in relation to the murder of Ms du Plantier.

Legal sources said the new warrant is reportedly based on a decision to charge Mr Bailey with an offence, thereby appearing to meet



Ian Bailey: Extradition turned down in 2012. Picture: CourtPix

the first objection of the Supreme Court.

"The decision in France is the same as a charge, so the rules of the game have changed," said one source.

However, the second reason by four of the five judges in the Supreme Court — over France not having jurisdiction — could feature strongly in legal objections by Mr Bailey and his solicitor Frank Buttiner.

The case could end up in the Supreme Court again if the High Court grants the extradition request.

A statement from the Association for the Truth about the Murder of Sophie Toscan du Plantier said: "The decision to commit to a criminal trial represents an important milestone in the search for truth and justice about a horrendous crime that the Irish authorities have been, so far, unable to solve."

Mr Buttiner said it was a "farce" and said his client has had to endure a 20-year association with a crime he did not commit.

He told RTE's *Drivetime* Mr Bailey's life had been "destroyed by the connection".

He said any prosecution in France would be a "show trial" and said: "Mr Bailey is innocent. Why should he be defended? When does this stop?"

Funds withheld from national autism charity

Joyce Fegan

More than €300,000 raised from this year's National Pyjama Day is being withheld from its intended recipient, Irish Autism Action (IAA).

National Pyjama Day is the annual fundraising event of Irish Childhood Disability (ICD), the body that supports 100,000 children in early education in Ireland.

IAA was the chosen

organisation to receive the funds, however, in light of recent events involving the autism charity, ECI has decided not to release the money.

"Early Childhood Ireland is seeking assurances that IAA can deliver on the agreed programme of work before any monies raised through National Pyjama Day 2016 are released and we have written to all PJ partici-

pants to keep them informed," read a statement ECI released yesterday.

The move follows several developments in the operation of IAA, such as its decision to cut its core outreach service, which is now provided to just two families in Ireland. Yesterday its CEO Brian Murnane said the charity had not written a budget for 2016.

"We continue to monitor

the situation and have met with IAA about National Pyjama Day funds," continued the ECI statement.

Mr Murnane acknowledged that ECI was withholding the funds.

Meanwhile, Irish Autism Mammys, a group with 1,500 members all of whom have a child on the autism spectrum, has requested a meeting with the Minister for Health Simon Harris.

A spokeswoman for the minister said all requests are considered.

"The minister does all in his power to ensure that he or the ministers state hear people's stories directly in order that they can make decisions which will have a positive impact on patients' experiences of our health services," she said.

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Customer suffers injuries in 'rough and ready' gun attack at scrapyards

Cormac O'Keefe

Gardaí said it was fortunate no one was killed in a "rough and ready" gun attack at a scrapyards in Dublin, in which a customer received serious chest injuries.

Sources described the shooting in south-west Dublin as "clumsy" and "reckless" and said the gunman fled over walls, before escaping in a car.

Detectives suspect that the nature of the attack might suggest a "grudge" of some sort, but said it was "too early" to rule out other possibilities.

The shooting happened at 11.35am at a scrapyards on the Walkinstown side of the Greenhills Road. The man entered the gates of the yard, just off what is a busy road to Tallaght, brandishing a shotgun.



The scene of the shooting at a scrapyards on the Greenhills Road, Dublin, yesterday morning. Picture: Colin Keegan, Collins Dublin

"The guy comes in clumsily, like something from the OK Corral [wild west gunfight] and fires two shots," one source told the *Irish Examiner*.

The man fired the shots in the direction of a number of people, including a customer, described as

you could hit anyone. It's reckless. Thankfully, no one is dead."

Sources said they will interview everyone in the yard as well as other staff, so they know of any possible motive for the attack.

The injured man, aged 41, was taken to Tallaght Hospital and was described as being in a serious condition. A second person is thought to have received minor injuries, possibly from pellets.

"This was real rough and ready," said a Garda source. "If you use a shotgun, you are not being a professional marksman."

"If you fire in the direction of a number of people

Inside

News

"They'd want to be right donkeys to try and rob An Coirean", was the verdict in Waterville as locals derided armed post office raiders. Page: 2



Life/Style

Ballet is still very much the preserve of girls, as parents seem reluctant to put their boys into dance classes. Page: 13

World

Clint Eastwood has praised Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump for being "on to something". Page: 14

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Builders restart stalled housing schemes

Bord Pleanála cases up 10% last year in sign of a recovering market

Elaine Loughlin
Political Reporter

A "significant number" of developers are returning to building housing schemes that had been put on hold since the financial crash.

An Bord Pleanála cases jumped by almost 10 per cent in a clear sign of a recovering property market. Notably, the Bord Pleanála annual report suggests many builders are returning to multi-unit developments which had been previously granted permission but have since lapsed.

"2015 saw a small increase in the numbers of multi-unit development over 30 houses; the early months of 2016 has seen this trend increase with a small but significant number of larger multi-unit housing developments (over 100 units) under appeal," the report stated.

The body said that many of these cases relate to housing developments which had secured earlier planning permissions but have either lapsed or need to be revised to take account of market conditions, new planning policies/standards or both."

An Bord Pleanála is determined to play its part in solving the housing supply problem by dealing expeditiously and fairly with appeals but is equally committed to ensuring that the provision of new housing developments results in the creation of sustainable and well-functioning communities for the future."

Planning cases were up over 9% to 1,979 in 2015 compared to 1,810 in 2014. However, these numbers are significantly lower than the peak of 6,694 cases in 2007.

The vast bulk of appeals involved housing cases with extensions, single house developments in urban and rural locations, and multi-unit developments accounting for almost 60% of cases.

An Bord Pleanála chairman Mary Kelly said: "That trend has also continued in the first part of 2016, with case intake up for the first five months."

The report also revealed Bord Pleanála had to ask for €2m in extra government funding last year to pay for increasing legal costs.

Expenditure on legal costs

"remains significant" after 30 new legal challenges to its decisions were brought before the courts last year.

Although this was down from 42 cases in 2014, rising legal costs meant the board spent more.

The Government paid €14.686m to the planning authority in 2015, up 8.5% from €12.138m the previous year.

The board admitted there was "a significant incoming budget deficit" at the start of 2015 which was primarily related to increased exposure to legal costs and the report stated that €2.3m was spent on legal cases last year, this compares to €2.2m in 2014 and €1.4m in 2013.

The report said the "ongoing increase in legal liabilities" was down to the right to seek judicial review of a planning decision, and have also been impacted by new cost rules in planning acts which prevent Bord Pleanála seeking recovery of its legal costs in certain cases.

Legal cases not only resulted in extra costs but also impacted a number of other hearings.

The board pointed to the O'Grinnia case relating to six turbines in Co Cork, out of which it was found that all applications for wind turbines must include the associated grid connection as part of their Environmental Impact Assessment.

This had a knock-on effect on other windfarm applications that were deferred to allow them to comply with the ruling. An Bord Pleanála said they had to give extra time to a number of windfarm cases to allow them carry out an EIA in accordance with the judgement.

"The information has now been received in most cases and a decision on the deferred cases are now moving toward assessment and decision stages."

In 2015, there were 16 substantive High Court judgments in cases taken against an Bord Pleanála, with 15 of them upheld and one found against. There were also several cases involving the Court of Appeal and a number in the Supreme Court. While some of these cases are still ongoing, one of those which have finished found against Bord Pleanála.

O'Reilly out of Rio after supplement admission



It has been suggested, but not confirmed, that Michael O'Reilly took a supplement to make the weight for his division.

Daniel McConnell
Political Editor

Irish middleweight boxer Michael O'Reilly yesterday evening admitted taking a supplement that may have contained a banned substance.

As a result of the admission, O'Reilly is no longer contesting the provisional ban against him and now cannot box in Rio.

The news came as Sports Minister Shane Ross met with Sport Ireland management yesterday, during which "a broad range of topics were discussed". O'Reilly has been engulfed in controversy since he was provisionally suspended from competing.

It has now emerged that O'Reilly had been tested



How the 'Irish Examiner' broke the story of O'Reilly's failed drugs test on the eve of the Olympic Games in Rio.

Games, which began last Thursday. When the story broke, the violation of the Olympic doping rules meant he was provisionally suspended from competing.

It has now emerged that O'Reilly had been tested

before leaving for Brazil and says he was notified on August 4 that an adverse finding had been made against him.

A statement reported on the RTE News website says he was given the "supplement by someone unrelated to his team or association". It said O'Reilly disclosed, at the time of the test, that he had taken the supplement.

In the statement, the 23-year-old from the Portlaoise Boxing Club apologised to his fellow boxers, teammates, the Irish Athletic Boxing Association (IABA), Sport Ireland, the Olympic Council of Ireland, and "all those who have supported" him.

The IABA said it was "very disappointed" that O'Reilly may have taken any supplement without consulting the IABA High Performance Support Team. It also confirmed that he had left the Olympic Village and that the Olympic Council of Ireland will be making arrangements for him to return to

Ireland as soon as possible. The meeting between Mr Ross and Sport Ireland was the first since the O'Reilly controversy broke and while it is understood the matter was discussed, Mr Ross's spokesman said the meeting was "pre-arranged and routine".

Sources close to Team Ireland have again insisted that it is their belief O'Reilly's taking of a supplement was "no innocent mistake". It has been suggested that the supplement involved was to help him make the weight for his division, but no official confirmation of that has been forthcoming.

O'Reilly had been due to box on Friday.

Picture: Ryan Byrne/Inpho

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Wednesday Sport

Trump is a racist and dangerous clown, says Halligan

Juno McEnroe
Political Correspondent

Junior minister John Halligan has called US presidential candidate Donald Trump an "asshole" and said the US military should be banned from stopping off at Shannon Airport.

Mr Halligan also said Google, Facebook, and Apple do not pay enough tax here. Speaking to *Hot Press* in the second part of an interview, the Independent TD for Waterford hit out at Republican nominee Mr Trump.

"He's nuts. I think he's homophobic. I think he's racist. I think he's extreme right wing. I think he's a clown. I think he's no knowledge of foreign affairs. And, I think, he's dangerous," said Mr Halligan, the junior education minister.

"If I was walking around America now and there were kids in America not registered, I'd say, 'Get registered quickly for the sake of your country and the sake of the world — and vote against this asshole'."

The use of Shannon Airport by US military planes should also be stopped, said Mr Halligan. "They shouldn't be using it at all. I mean, is there somebody serious telling me there's not munitions on board? We don't know," he said.

"We're a contributing factor, to a degree, to innocent people being killed in Afghanistan, Iraq, and maybe Syria."

His comments come after he made equally controversial remarks in part one of the interview last week. He suggested opening HSE-run drug shops and decriminalising the use of drugs.

Prostitution should also be regulated, he said.

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Irish passport applications surge by almost 50,000

Stephen Rogers

The decision by Britain to leave the EU and the resurgence in outward tourism have contributed to an almost 50,000 increase in passport applications in the first seven months of this year, figures from the Department of Foreign Affairs show.

Up to the end of July there were 503,596 applications for Irish passports — that compares with 454,931, 10.7% less, in the same period in 2015.

The biggest year-on-year increase came in May and can most likely be put down to a surge in the numbers of people deciding to fly abroad for the summer and to a Green Army on the march to support the Irish soccer team at Euro 2016.

The numbers applying for the passport in May 2016 rose to 91,056 compared with 75,016 a year earlier. That is a 16,040, or 21.4%, rise.

Ironically, July was the first month when total applications fell for the first time compared with the corresponding month in 2015.

However, in the North and in Britain, the demand for Irish passports continues to rise.

There was a 63% increase in demand for Irish passports from the North in July, as the implications of the June Brexit vote became apparent. The rise from 4,070 in July 2015 to 6,638 a year later was mirrored in Britain.

Earlier this week, DUP politician Ian Paisley Jr told the BBC the Irish passport, as a second passport, could

be a "very convenient thing to have" for British people but added: "It is a European document with an Irish harp stuck on the front posing as a passport but it's essentially a European document, so why would they not want to have it?"

As previously reported in this paper, the Department of Foreign Affairs had to draft in hundreds of temporary clerical workers to respond to the increased demand as well as redistributing processing work across passport offices and redeploying staff from other areas of the department.

Figures from the Central Statistics Office show that in the period January-June 2016, the total number of trips by Irish residents overseas increased by 220,000 compared to the same period 12 months earlier.

Reaching a lasting agreement, however, to cover all issues of trade and people could take many years, he said.

Prof Mergenroth said that one theory issue is the potential huge bill Britain owes various EU programmes.

An interim trade arrangement which could last several years may be struck before a final agreement is reached, he said.

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Health plan dismissed as 'verbiage'

Catherine Shanahan and Fiachra Ó Ciinnáith

The health minister's five-point plan to tackle waiting lists has been described as "verbiage" and "short term" at a time when the health service has suffered such reputational damage that

doctors and nurses no longer want to work here.

That was according to consultants, nurses' representatives, and opposition politicians, who all called for sustained investment in health.

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Editorial: 10

Britain's exit from EU could take a decade

Eamon Quinn
Business Editor

Britain could take up to 10 years to strike final divorce terms with the EU, according to a leading economist.

Philip O'Sullivan, chief economist at Investec Ireland, said working out all the details of the UK's new relationship with the EU is a plot to quit the bloc will take years.

Speaking in a personal capacity, Mr O'Sullivan told the *Irish Examiner* that "tiny" Greenland took several years to strike divorce terms with Brussels in the 1980s, and negotiating the Government on the impli-



Philip O'Sullivan said working out key details will take years.

take much longer. That view was supported by an associate research professor at the Economic and Social Research Institute Edgar Mergenroth.

A leading adviser to the Government on the impli-