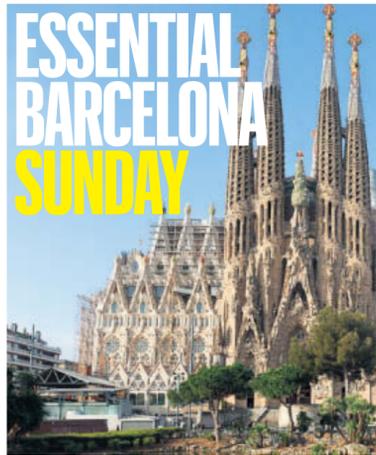


THE SUNDAY TIMES



FREE FOOD MAGAZINE

SPRING RECIPES IN THE DISH



HOW THE KINAHAN CARTEL WASHES ITS DIRTY MONEY

NEWS REVIEW

May living in another galaxy, says Brussels

Bojan Pancevski Brussels
Tim Shipman Political Editor

Brexit negotiations began with a blazing row yesterday as Brussels flatly rejected Theresa May's negotiating position and accused the British prime minister of living in a "parallel reality".

The other 27 EU member states took just four minutes to agree a hardline stance on Brexit in Brussels before Jean-Claude Juncker, the head of the European Commission, and Michel Barnier, the chief European Union Brexit negotiator, rounded on May.

They told EU leaders that May had used a meeting with them on Wednesday night to demand that a "detailed outline" of a future free trade deal be in place before the UK agrees to pay any money to Brussels as part of the Brexit divorce deal. An EU diplomat said: "This was a rather incredible demand. It seemed as if it came from a parallel reality."

Juncker warned yesterday that that approach would lead to an "early crash", with Britain leaving the EU without a deal.

In an eight-page document outlining their position, the other 27 countries said the EU would "prepare itself to be able to handle the situation if the negotiations were to fail". The guidelines also include Enda Kenny's demand that Northern Ireland would automatically get EU membership should a united Ireland be achieved – a move seen as provocative in London – and a Spanish veto over Gibraltar's future relationship with the bloc.

The EU leaders were told that the Wednesday dinner at May's country retreat, Chequers, had also revealed huge differences over plans to recognise the rights

Continued on page 2 →

MICHAEL REYNOLDS

A 100-DAY SALUTE FROM THE CHIEF



President Donald Trump salutes a US marine on his return to the White House after addressing the National Rifle Association on the eve of his 100th day in office Kim thumbs nose at Trump, page 10

RTE journalist links Callinan to McCabe smear

John Mooney

RTE broadcaster Philip Boucher-Hayes has made a statement to the Charleton tribunal alleging that the former garda commissioner Martin Callinan made disparaging remarks to him about the whistleblower Sgt Maurice McCabe. Callinan then advised the journalist to get more details from the garda press officer Dave Taylor.

Boucher-Hayes's statement is the first independent verification of claims made by Taylor that he was directed by Callinan to discredit McCabe by smearing his reputation.

The judge Peter Charleton is examining whether McCabe and other garda whistleblowers were subjected to a smear campaign that questioned their family life and "adherence to basic standards of human decency".

In a statement he has given to Charleton's investigation, Boucher-Hayes alleges a relevant incident took place after Callinan agreed to give an interview on the 2013 Christmas edition of CrimeCall, the RTE programme which the broadcaster was co-hosting with Gráinne Seoige.

The programme was broadcast after McCabe had used whistleblowers' legislation to reveal the widespread abuse of the penalty-points system by gardai.

According to sources, Boucher-Hayes insisted Callinan address the issue in a Christmas message to the public. This prompted an argu-

ment between RTE and the then garda commissioner, who did not wish to set a precedent by allowing a senior garda to be subjected to robust questioning while delivering his annual Christmas message.

According to sources in Garda Headquarters and RTE, Callinan had threatened not to participate in the programme unless he was given an undertaking that he would not be questioned about the penalty points.

Boucher-Hayes maintains that Callinan got into a heated debate about McCabe off the air, and allegedly said the sergeant had serious personal issues and was driven by various agendas. It is claimed that Callinan hinted there were issues about McCabe's past that had yet to enter the public domain, but did not provide any further detail.

Boucher-Hayes is understood to have alleged that Callinan then pointed to Taylor, who had accompanied him to the RTE studios in Donnybrook, and said that the journalist should contact the press officer if he wished to know more about McCabe.

The RTE broadcaster did not approach Taylor, a Special Branch officer trained by MI5 whom Callinan had appointed to lead the press office. An analysis of Taylor's communications shows Boucher-Hayes did send him questions about other matters, including the cancellation of penalty points.

Taylor became one of Callinan's closest confidants when he acted as an official spokesman for the

force, and they continued to communicate following the commissioner's retirement in March 2014. The two men and other senior officers are known to have been in touch on a weekly basis using both official and disposable phones, according to sources.

In statements to the tribunal, Taylor maintained he was directed by Callinan to liaise with various journalists with a view to undermining McCabe.

The government appointed Charleton to lead an investigation into Taylor's claims after the former press officer used special whistleblowers' legislation to say he had been told to undermine McCabe's reputation by circulating damaging false allegations.

Callinan has also been accused of making serious allegations about McCabe to John McGuinness, the Fianna Fail TD whom he agreed to meet in a hotel carpark in Kildare in January 2014 in advance of McCabe appearing before the Dail's public accounts committee.

Taylor has also alleged the serving commissioner, Nóirín O'Sullivan, was aware of the smear campaign but she has denied this. O'Sullivan has said she transferred Taylor from his position due to concerns about his conduct.

Callinan, who is being represented by the gardai's barristers at the tribunal, has denied wrongdoing. RTE and Boucher-Hayes yesterday declined to comment. Callinan and Taylor could not be reached by The Sunday Times.

Your want of charity is noted, warns priest

Colin Coyle

A Kerry priest has written to parishioners who failed to pay their "dues" to say they need to "do better and support [their] parish priest".

Fergal Ryan, who has been the parish priest in Beaufort, Co Kerry, for two years, sent the letters in recent weeks to local Catholics who had failed to return envelopes with contributions towards the upkeep of the local church and his living expenses.

In the letter he states he has checked parish records and "noticed that your contribution to the support of the income of your parish priest is zero".

"This is very disappointing," the letter continues. "I hope you can do better and support your parish priest."

Ryan declined to comment this weekend, saying it was a "private matter between myself and my parishioners". However, he told this week's Kerry's Eye newspaper there was "nothing malicious" about the letters. He said if anyone were unable to pay, they should write to him and explain their circumstances. The priest also said he had issued similar letters in other areas in the past and had always had a positive response.

He added some parishioners might have contributed without his knowledge as they had not used

colour-coded envelopes given out by the church each year. Parishioners are expected to contribute €5 a week in a white envelope for the upkeep of church facilities, and €20 six times a year in a coloured envelope to contribute to the living expenses of their parish priest. The 2011 census recorded 228 people living in Beaufort village, although the parish extends into the surrounding area.

While diocesan priests do not take vows of poverty, their pay is relatively modest, but church accommodation is typically provided. A survey last year by The Irish Catholic, a weekly newspaper, found a geographical disparity, with priests in Clogher diocese

receiving up to €33,960 a year but those in neighbouring Derry getting as little as €11,664. The survey found parish priests in Kerry earned about €27,250.

The survey found priests were generally paid below the average industrial wage, but some had incomes topped up by donations from parishioners, with some larger parishes pooling collections to be divided between priests.

Several priests interviewed by The Irish Catholic expressed frustration at the false assumption that priests were wealthy and that their cars were purchased from parish funds. "Nothing could be further from the truth," one said. @colincoyle

Lobbyists' Dail access exposed

The visitors' register of Leinster House, released under the Freedom of Information Act after a three-year battle with the Oireachtas, reveals lobbyists are routinely signed in by TDs for private meetings, writes Colin Coyle.

The records lay bare the easy access enjoyed by lobbyists working for companies, trade unions and employer bodies.

The Houses of the Oireachtas Commission, a cross-party body that runs Leinster House, had objected to the release of the records, saying it could infringe on people's right to meet politicians privately and deter whistleblowers from making protected disclosures. When Peter Tyndall, the

information commissioner, ruled that the right to privacy of those visiting Leinster House in a professional capacity was outweighed by the public interest in knowing who politicians were meeting, the Oireachtas appealed to the High Court.

Three years after the initial request, the Oireachtas released redacted details of its visitors' register last week. While it lists the companies or organisations visiting Leinster House, the date of their visit and who signed them in, it does not give the names of individual lobbyists.

The records cover a sample week in March 2014, the year in which The Sunday Times first sought them. In that week, those

who signed in visitors included Eamon Gilmore, the then tanaiste, who met the HSE and St Vincent's Hospital Group.

Three-year lobby fight, page 7

INDEX

Lottery	News	2
Weather	News	23
Letters	News	16
Sudoku	Money	15
TV & Radio	Culture	41



CITY BREAKS

FROM ONLY €19.99

EUROPE'S NO.1 AIRLINE

RYANAIR

LOW FARES. MADE SIMPLE.

Fares one way. Book by 31/05/17. Travel by 30/06/17. Limited availability. For full T&Cs see Ryanair.com