



Ring time

Donnelly and Joyce start with wins

Dublin march on

Is Connolly being targeted by rivals?

The Zlatan solution

Ken Early on Mourinho's method

The finest sports writing – Ian O'Riordan, Johnny Watterson and Keith Duggan in Rio; Nicky English, Malachy Clerkin, Seán Moran and Gavin Cummiskey in Croke Park

THE IRISH TIMES

irishtimes.com

Monday, August 8, 2016
€2.00 (incl. VAT)
£1.30 Northern Ireland.

Varadkar to survey self-employed over benefits reform

HARRY McGEE
Political Correspondent

The Minister for Social Protection will today launch a survey of 20,000 self-employed people to find out if they are willing to pay higher social insurance in return for more State benefits.

Leo Varadkar will announce

the initiative today as the first step of ambitious plans to reform Pay-Related Social Insurance (PRSI) for self-employed people.

He brought a memorandum to Government in June outlining his proposals. He has already indicated he wants to have a PRSI system that is closer to models in Europe. That

would establish a clearer link between the contributions paid and the entitlements.

Extent of benefits

"There is plenty of evidence that self-employed people are not dissatisfied with the extent of the benefits they receive in return for paying PRSI. I want to find out what new benefits they

would most like to receive, such as long-term illness, injury, job-seeker and dental treatment benefits, or whether they would prefer to maintain the status quo," Mr Varadkar said.

"The survey informs self-employed people which benefits are currently available to them, whether they consider them good value, and how much ex-

tra PRSI they would consider paying for access to greater benefits."

The matter has also been highlighted by Fine Gael Senator Ray Butler, who raised the matter in the Seanad. He said that despite paying PRSI at the same rate of 4 per cent, self-employed people have not benefited from the same range of pro-

tections as PAYE employees.

Celtic Tiger crash

"We are the only country in industrialised Europe that doesn't have protection for these business people. We just simply can't ignore this or leave the situation the way it is any longer, especially when we have seen so many lives of the self-

employed destroyed during the Celtic Tiger crash," he said.

Those being surveyed include sole traders, partners, farmers, professionals and company directors. They will be asked if they consider the current PRSI contributions represent value for money, and how much more PRSI they would be willing to pay.

Goal funds withheld pending US inquiry

Aid agency has already sacked two staff members based in Turkey

Charity said US investigation does not relate to any Irish Government funding

RUADHÁN Mac CORMAIC
Foreign Affairs Correspondent

The Department of Foreign Affairs withheld millions of euro in funding from the aid agency Goal pending a US government inquiry into alleged fraud relating to humanitarian contracts for Syria.

Goal and a number of other agencies operating in Syria were ordered to halt procurement using some American funds earlier this year as the US Agency for International Development, USAid, began an investigation into alleged bribery and bid-rigging. The suspension affects about €6.2 million of the €113 million Goal receives from USAid.

Goal has already sacked two staff members based in Turkey on foot of information emerging from the investigation, which is being carried out by the Office of Inspector General (OIG), USAid's internal spending watchdog.

The Department of Foreign Affairs responded to the US investigation by withholding €2.95 million in humanitarian funding earmarked for Goal, records released under the Freedom of Information Act reveal.

The Goal chief executive, Barry Andrews, was informed in late June that the funds were being held back "until we have clarification on the ongoing US investigation", according to an email from the head of Irish Aid, Michael Gaffey, to the department's secretary general, Niall Burgess.

The €2.95 million was intended for Goal programmes in a number of countries. The records also show that

the chair of Goal, Anne O'Leary, apologised to the department on behalf of the board of the charity for failing to inform officials about the suspension of US funding before it appeared in the media.

This followed a strongly worded letter to Ms O'Leary from Mr Burgess in April in which he expressed "serious concern... about the almost complete lack of communication by Goal's management or board with this department around these issues prior to today".

Confidential

At a subsequent meeting requested by Mr Burgess, according to a departmental memo headed "confidential internal note", Ms O'Leary apologised on behalf of the board. "She also said that the OIG investigation was a very sensitive and confidential process and they were under specific instructions from the OIG on what information should be shared," the memo stated.

Goal has said that the US investigation does not relate to any Irish government funding.

On July 14th, USAid inspector general Ann Calvaresi Barr told a House of Representatives committee in Washington that the agency had opened 25 investigations relating to aid for Syria since February 2015.

She said that the most common fraud schemes involved collusion between vendors and agencies' procurement and logistics staff, who accepted bribes or kickbacks in exchange for contract steering.



Cats survive the Déise roar Kilkenny reel in Waterford in clash of the summer

Waterford's Maurice Shanahan celebrates scoring a point in front of Shane Prendergast of Kilkenny in yesterday's All-Ireland SHC semi-final. Despite leading for most of the match, Waterford had to settle for a draw after a late Kilkenny rally. *Kilkenny fights back in epic: Sports Monday.* PHOTOGRAPH: CATHAL NOONAN/INPHO

State unable to account for third of failed asylum seekers

CONOR LALLY
Security and Crime Editor

More than a third of the failed asylum seekers the State decided to deport in the past 15 years are unaccounted for.

And the true number of those whose whereabouts are unknown may be much higher than official figures suggest. The status of those who agreed to leave the State voluntarily before their deportation orders were executed by the Garda was not checked to ensure they had left Ireland as they said they would.

However, while the numbers unaccounted for may seem high, security sources said many had probably left the State, although it was impossible to know how many.

A popular destination for many who have been through the system in Ireland is the UK,

which is inexpensive to travel to and where many have family members or other contacts.

New data obtained by *The Irish Times* reveals that of the 16,053 deportation orders signed over the 16 years to the end of last year, 6,067 – or 38 per cent – are unaccounted for.

6,067

Foreign nationals ordered to be deported in past 16 years who remain unaccounted for

3,425, while 4,075 left the State voluntarily with the assistance of the International Organisation for Migration.

Under a second option for departing voluntarily, which involves failed asylum seekers informing the Department of Jus-

tice they are leaving of their own volition, some 2,286 people are recorded as "voluntary returnees".

However, no checks were made to ensure those who said they were making their own arrangements had actually left.

It means as well as the 6,067 who went missing after deportation orders were signed for them, an additional 2,286 who agreed to arrange and pay for their own voluntary departure after being told they were to be deported were never checked to ensure they had left.

Releasing the figures to *The Irish Times*, the department said when a failed asylum seeker became the subject of a deportation order they were responsible for removing themselves from the State.

Background: Conor Lally, page 2

Weather

Today will see sunny spells and scattered showers in moderate westerly winds. Temperatures to reach highs of 16-18 degrees.

THE IRISH TIMES
24-28 Tara Street, Dublin 2, D02 CX89
Telephone: (01) 6758000
Fax: Newsdesk 6758036, Sport 6758033,
Business 6758048, Advertising 6758002.
Online: irishtimes.com
The recommended retail price of THE
IRISH TIMES in the Republic of Ireland is
€2.00
Subscriptions: Tel: 6758894; Fax:
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Home News

Shooting: A man was shot dead in north Belfast last night. The PSNI said the shooting occurred in the Sunningdale Gardens area at around 9.50pm.

Hacking: The Garda had to shut down its data systems after an attempted hack into the force's network: page 4

World News

Syria: Rebels broke through to besieged opposition-held areas in eastern Aleppo on Saturday to end a month-long siege, insurgents said: page 8

Business Today

Sugar tax: A levy of 10c on cans of soft drink will cost households €60 a year, but won't help tackle Ireland's obesity problem, an industry lobby group has claimed

Construction: There was a sharp rise in the construction industry in July, according to the latest Ulster Bank index

Sports Monday

Swimming: Ireland's Fiona Doyle criticised the IOC after just failing to qualify from a 100m breaststroke heat won by a previously banned Russian swimmer

Soccer: Manchester United and Juventus have reached a deal over the €110m transfer of midfielder Paul Pogba



Red Bulletin
Action and adventure
Inside



“He grabs his phone and tweets: ‘SAD!! No note from my predecessor. No Class Obama!’
Maureen Dowd imagines Trump in the Oval Office, *World News*, page 9



All for one
The high price of being single
Pricewatch, page 11

AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FOR EFlow TAG CUSTOMERS.

From 11.00am on August 31st, eFlow tags will not work on toll roads owned by the Celtic Roads Group due to a lack of agreed service contract. These tolls are:

- M1 Drogheda
- M7 Portlaoise
- N25 Waterford



eFlow tag customers will have to pay cash at these tolls.

Your eFlow tag will continue to work at all other tolls.

If you would like a toll tag that works on all tolled roads in Ireland then you will need to switch to a different tag provider. You will find a list of tag providers on www.etoll.ie

We apologise for the inconvenience this may cause.

