

THE SUNDAY TIMES

IRELAND'S 100 BEST RESTAURANTS

JOHN AND SALLY McKENNA REVEAL THIS YEAR'S WINNERS **SUNDAY**

FILM AWARDS SPECIAL

CULTURE

Sexton's long drop stuns France

John Burns

Magnifique! Johnny Sexton dropped a 42-metre drop goal in the 83rd minute to secure a sensational win for Ireland in Paris.

The drop-dead gorgeous kick followed 41 phases of possession as Ireland, behind 13-12 after a Teddy Thomas try, battled from deep inside their own half to set up a kicking chance for the out-half. Fortunately there was no déjà vu for Sexton, who had missed an earlier "banker" penalty.

So Ireland left France regretting nothing, after a match that was in danger of being overshadowed by criticism of captain Rory Best's decision to appear at the rape trial of his club-mates Paddy Jackson and Stuart Olding last week.

Speaking after the match, Best defended his appearance at the trial, noting he had a day off on Wednesday, so did not need permission from the Irish Rugby Football Union. "The reason I was there is because I am on record as a character witness. I was advised that it was important I got both sides of the story," he said.

Moments before Sexton's match-winning kick, the out-half had put Irish fans' hearts in their mouths when he launched a cross-field kick but it was gathered expertly by Keith Earls. Full-back Rob Kearney said afterwards: "To build that amount of phases, to keep the ball – the conditions are awful – and then the stones on Johnny at the end was incredible.

"I thought [the drop goal] was a little short. It went in slow motion and it just crept over."

Sexton, who scored all of Ireland's points, said: "I'm just happy I got another chance. In the last moment something caught my eye, and I was just happy to get another chance to get victory for the boys."

With three home games to come, Ireland will be favourites for the Six Nations, with the final game at Twickenham on St Patrick's Day.



Johnny Sexton celebrates his stunning match-winning drop goal in front of a stunned Stade de France

Full story, Sport

'Second-class' Google workers slam conditions

Mark Tighe

Google has promised to review pay and working conditions at one of its Dublin operations following an investigation by The Sunday Times.

The internet giant, the second-largest company in the world by market value in 2017, is using third parties to hire workers whose job is to monitor content on Google AdWords and the Google-owned YouTube video-sharing website.

Some of the 200-plus staff employed at EastPoint in the Dublin docklands are being paid as little as €11.06 an hour. This is below the living wage of €11.70 an hour that social-justice groups say is the minimum required to allow for an acceptable standard of living. Discount supermarket chains Aldi and Lidl have both committed to pay the living wage to all entry-level staff.

Our investigation found that Google "content reviewers" are employed through an arrangement with consultancy Accenture and recruitment agency Hays on contracts that pay as little as €23,000 a year. Accenture manages the operation for Google, and staff are paid by Hays. This compares with average salaries of €94,590 paid to staff employed directly by Google in its other Dublin-based operations.

Content reviewers on the Spanish and Portuguese teams have said they feel discriminated against because colleagues in the German and Dutch teams, with whom they work side by side, are paid up to €5,000 a year more.

All the workers monitor content in order to weed out illegal and

WHAT IS THE LIVING WAGE IN IRELAND?
NEWS REVIEW, PAGE 21

inappropriate content, and to make sure it meets the standards in territories where Google operates.

The Irish Congress of Trade Unions (Ictu) said the pay levels of the Google content reviewers "reveal the dark underside of the digital sector and expose the reality of working life for many in the industry, one of low pay and poor conditions".

It added: "Ironically, the sector has always claimed that its high pay and excellent working conditions made the presence of unions unnecessary, yet here we have one of the world's wealthiest corporations outsourcing critical work for low pay and keeping workers at arm's length."

Ictu said the hourly pay rates "would certainly not be enough to afford decent accommodation, given the surge in housing costs".

The content reviewers are paid an extra 15% an hour for working Sundays or after 10pm. The last shift currently ends at 2am and some staff say they are concerned about plans to require them to work a new night shift from later this month, as EastPoint becomes a 24/7 operation.

Carlos Maciá, who worked in Dublin as a reviewer of Google AdWords between last May and December, said management had failed to respond to concerns

about low pay and working conditions. "Everyone I told I was working for Google assumed I made big money and had free meals, but that was far off the mark," he said.

"We continually wondered at the office, how much does Google pay to Accenture for each one of us? And how much do they pay in return to Hays? I know dozens of cases of colleagues carrying out extra work without a pay rise for months or even years."

Content reviewers employed through Hays and Accenture are not entitled to sick pay. Staff claim management in EastPoint have refused to engage with their concerns and say they have no opportunity to approach Google.

On one occasion Maciá said he became aware that a female colleague believed she was the victim of inappropriate behaviour by a male co-worker. Maciá reported the issue to a manager and claims he was told "never" to contact Google directly about such issues.

Google said it will investigate the allegation that Maciá was told not to use the Google helpline as this would be against company policy.

Helen Tynan, Google's director of people operations for Europe, said it would also investigate the staff complaints about pay rates.

"We demand high standards of our contractor companies and are working closely with them to address these concerns," she said. "Reviewing this content can be challenging and upsetting work, and all contractors have full access to on-site counselling and emotional wellbeing programmes."

Killer was paid €1,000 to stab Irene White

John Mooney

The man who admitted the gruesome murder of Irene White at her home in Co Louth in April 2005 was promised a payment of between €10,000 to €20,000 by two men who hired him to kill his victim, but received a payment of €1,000 in cash with a promise of shares in a new company, which never materialised.

Anthony Lambe, a 34-year-old PhD candidate at NUI Maynooth in Kildare, was sentenced to life imprisonment at the Central Criminal Court in Dublin last week

after confessing to the murder following his arrest by gardai at Dundalk last year.

In custody, Lambe told gardai he had attempted to murder White weeks before she died after he was provided with specific information on her whereabouts but did not go through with the killing because he was overcome by a mixture of nerves, anxiety and fear.

He told gardai he was subsequently threatened, intimidated and bullied by two men after he failed to carry out their instructions which led him to believe that he himself might be killed if

another party was hired to kill White. Gardai believe a number of people, including a doorman from Dublin, were asked to murder White before Lambe eventually agreed to kill the mother of three.

Security sources say Lambe, who had been a promising student but whose life fell apart due to personal issues in 2005, showed genuine remorse for the violent crime he had committed.

He told gardai his involvement in the woman's death had haunted him for more than a decade.

He told detectives he had prayed over his victim's body before

fleeing from the scene of the crime and catching a lift to Dublin airport, where he flew to Britain with a former girlfriend, who was unaware of what he had done.

Officers established that Lambe had confessed his crime to at least two women, and possibly others, who had not to come forward or did not believe his story as he was using drugs and drinking excessively at the time.

He told detectives that statements made to the investigation team by the women who named him as White's killer were

Continued on page 2

Doping rife at Winter Olympics

INSIGHT

Secret data exposing the extraordinary extent of blood doping by endurance skiers at the Winter Olympics can be revealed this weekend, days before the start of the 2018 Games in South Korea.

Hundreds of skiers have escaped bans despite recording abnormal blood test scores – some with less than a one in a million chance of being natural. At times the blood was so dangerously thick that the skier should have been in hospital rather than competing.

The Sunday Times and the German broadcaster ARD have been given access to a database containing more than 10,000 blood tests from nearly 2,000 winter sports stars. It reveals that about a third of all medals, including 91 golds, have been won in the Olympics and world championships since 2001 by skiers who have recorded tests judged to be suspicious.

Russia, which has been banned from competing under its own flag at the Olympics, tops the list of cheating countries.

The revelations will plunge the

Continued on page 2

INDEX	
Lottery	News 2
Weather	News 23
Letters	News 16
Sudoku	Money 13
TV & Radio	Culture 41



With 750 experts, we are the only commercial real estate contact you need.

www.cbre.ie

CBRE Build on Advantage

Google

What is the living wage in Ireland

what is the living wage in ireland

what is the living wage in northern ireland

Google Search

I'm Feeling Lucky

Celebrating the writer Virginia Woolf

Report inappropriate predictions

Excitement and pride were the most common sentiments of those recruited to work for Google in Block R of Dublin's Eastpoint business park last year. That's because the web giant, which has about 6,000 workers based in Dublin, is regarded as a top employer.

A 2016 study of Google's Irish accounts estimated that the average salary of its Dublin staff was €94,590. Its offices around the Silicon Docks area are renowned for their free staff meals, wellness centres, massage rooms, swimming pool, micro-kitchens and music centres.

Alphabet, Google's parent company, reported a 23% annual increase in revenue in 2017, with a record \$110.9bn (£89bn). However, some companies withdrew advertising from the platform after their ads appeared beside videos promoting terrorism or paedophilia.

In response, Google promised to step up its moderation, and said it would employ 10,000 people to tackle abusive content by 2018.

Hundreds of these were recruited in Dublin. Although they responded to a job ad posted by Accenture, an international consultancy, successful candidates were told they would actually be employed by Hays, an international recruitment firm, to work on a project for Google.

The enthusiasm of the new "Google" staff quickly dissipated when they were told the salary would be €23,000 a year, or just €11.06 an hour.

While the minimum wage in Ireland is €9.55, social justice campaigners have calculated the living wage in Ireland is €11.70 an hour. They say this is the wage "which makes possible a minimum acceptable standard of living".

Most of the staff recruited by Accenture/Hays to work as Google moderators in Dublin were not Irish. Teams were assembled to moderate Google AdWords and YouTube videos in the Russian, German, Spanish, French, Portuguese, Dutch and Asian markets.

Carlos Maciá, a member of the Spanish/Portuguese team up to last December, told The Sunday Times that, although his job interview was all about YouTube videos, he was told he would be moderating AdWords after he joined. This job involves moderating up to 3,500 ads a day to ensure they comply with

While the average Google staff member earns over €90,000 a year, teams of subcontractors are paid just €11.06 an hour to moderate some of the worst of the internet, writes *Mark Tighe*

Google's policies not to promote anything illicit. "I've a background in education and, considering this was for a technology company, I found the training appalling," said the former employee.

"We had to sit down for hours looking at dull text presentations or a large screen, while somebody reads out the basic policies while often saying they are already out of date. The pace is frantic, and then we had a shambles of an assessment. We were expected to fail but then they gave us the answers so we could repeat and pass the same exam."

Maciá said once staff are "validated" after four weeks of training, they start working "live" on those policies/formats, even though they did not get to practise.

He said he wrote an email to a manager suggesting how the training could be improved. He was told they would "look into it". Maciá claims that this was the standard response to any suggestion or complaints made by staff to the Accenture managers.

Staff say there has been a huge turnover of employees in Eastpoint as the content reviewers become frustrated with the low pay and lack of opportunities for advancement. At a recent meeting, a manager said the average content reviewer stayed for just eight months in the job. Staff claim they are increasingly asked to work unsocial shifts that end at 1am or 2am. Many are alarmed that Accenture has said there will soon be a requirement for a new night shift, to ensure the service in Eastpoint is a 24-hours-a-day operation.

Currently, for working Sundays or any hours after 10pm, staff receive just a 15% increase in their hourly pay. AdWords staff who work the late shift are entitled

to take a taxi home but they must claim the fare back from Hays, a process they say can take more than three weeks.

Among staff on the €11.06 rate, which includes Spanish and Portuguese speakers, there is a resentment that colleagues on the Dutch or German teams are paid up to €5,000 a year more, at €13.46 an hour. "We feel it is discrimination," said one worker on the €23,000 wage. "Our colleagues do exactly the same jobs. The



Spanish/Portuguese and Russian teams are some of the busiest by volume, yet they are paid less than most of the other teams. We feel we are being taken advantage of and we are humiliated."

Some are also unhappy that their designation as outsourced contract staff means no entitlement to sick pay. They have tried to address their low pay with Accenture management. More than half a dozen workers based at Eastpoint told The Sunday Times they felt managers had not taken their concerns on board.

The content reviewers sometimes study videos or websites containing graphic violence, child abuse or drug-taking, which they find disturbing. Staff say it was only late last year a psychologist was made available to offer counselling to anyone affected by extreme content.

There are strict rules on what content is prohibited, and there is a grading system with "family safe" being the lowest rating. Moderators say they try to implement these policies but feel exemptions can be made for those with large YouTube followings or for "artistic"

“
We feel we are being taken advantage of and we are humiliated

Google's content moderators are based in Eastpoint business park, below left; Carlos Maciá, below, was a member of the Spanish/Portuguese team

videos. "You can see girls virtually naked or smoking hash but we have to mark it as 'family safe' because they are music videos and there's artistic licence," he said. "This is not written in any of the policies but we're trained to review it this way."

In response to the issues highlighted, Helen Tynan, Google's director of people operations in Europe, the Middle East and Africa, said that keeping its platform safe was important and challenging work. "We use machine-learning technology along with a mixture of full-time staff, policy experts and contractors to review content and counter abuse," she said. "We demand high standards of our contractor companies and are working closely with them to address these concerns."

"Reviewing this content can be challenging and upsetting work, and all contractors have full access to on-site counselling and emotional wellbeing programmes. We encourage everyone who works for us to reach out to Google via our confidential helpline with any issues or complaints."

Google said it would investigate Accenture's manner of reimbursing workers' taxi fares. It has an arrangement to pay Accenture for workers' fares at times when public transportation may be limited. The internet company's contract with Accenture sets out agreed rates for the work it requires. It is understood Google does not, however, have any direct knowledge of the actual salary paid to Accenture-contracted employees.

Google insists it does not pay contractors differently based on nationality. It points out contractors may be paid based on their language skills, as a result of market forces. It believes this is standard practice across industries.

Hays said: "As a recruitment agency our role is to supply workers to meet a client's needs. These workers are managed by the client, and rates of pay and working conditions are set by the client in line with local legislation. We do not comment on specific client arrangements."

Accenture said: "We are aware of these concerns and are actively working to address them. We pay competitive rates, based on skills and experience, and the vast majority of the team earn above the living wage. Accenture also offers training, wellness programmes, paid holidays and travel subsidies."

HEALTHY PROFITS FROM FOOD INTOLERANCES

Described as a waste of money by the medicines regulator, expensive over-the-counter tests could have had their day, writes *Valerie Flynn*

The announcement last Monday by the Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA) that it had judged food intolerance blood tests to be worthless was swiftly followed by a notice from the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (PSI), a regulator, telling pharmacies to stop offering them.

This was not the first warning from the HPRA in relation to the efficacy of food intolerance tests. In 2015, it said diagnoses of conditions relating to the ability to digest or "tolerate" food should be made by doctors, and consumers should "exercise caution" in relation to commercial food intolerance services.

So should pharmacies have stopped offering these tests sooner? Many were marketing them right up until the HPRA and PSI intervened last week.

Boots, which withdrew its food intolerance testing service on Tuesday, said this weekend it had been operating in accordance with the HPRA's 2015 guidance.

The chain said patients were advised that if they modified their diet based on their test results, they should do so under the supervision of a GP or dietitian.

"As such, the service operated in accordance with [the 2015] guidance, in that no diagnosis was provided on the basis of self-testing alone," Boots said.

The PSI said it had highlighted the HPRA's 2015 advice in a newsletter, which advised pharmacists to "consider the usefulness of these tests in light of the HPRA notice and pharmacists' responsibilities under their code of conduct".

Both the regulator and the Irish Pharmacy Union, which represents 2,200 pharmacists, said the HPRA's latest advice had brought "clarity" to the issue.

Sarah Keogh, a registered dietitian, said: "At least once every day someone would come in who has had these tests done. They're marketed all over the place and a lot of people have got them in pharmacies, so they've trusted they were accurate.

It's a very difficult conversation to have with a patient to say they have wasted €200.

"The huge problem for me as a dietitian was the number of people who had been taken off dairy, and had absolutely no advice on bringing up their calcium and iodine. They were putting themselves at risk of osteoporosis."

The HPRA's new advice, based on a review of the tests on the market, does not mean

“
People were putting themselves at risk of osteoporosis



Food intolerance kits can cost between €30 and €375

the end of the food intolerance testing industry in Ireland. Two of the main non-pharmacy suppliers of the immunoglobulin G (IgG) blood test, which the HPRA singled out for criticism, have told The Sunday Times they will continue to market and sell their product in Ireland.

The HPRA said the IgG test "will not diagnose intolerance to a certain food type, but rather will detect previous exposure to a food" – in other words, what a person has recently eaten.

This criticism was rejected by Fitzwilliam Food Test, a Dublin-based clinic, and by York Test, a British company with an Irish base. Both sell self-testing kits online, with customers posting a blood sample back to be analysed. York Test's cheapest product is a €30 "first step test" while its most expensive is a €375 "ideal weight programme", which claims to help people to identify their "trigger foods" and alternatives that will give them "a better chance of achieving [their] ideal weight".

Fitzwilliam's prices range

from €65 to €340. Until last week, its tests were also offered through pharmacies, including the Gallery Quay Pharmacy in Dublin 2, which did not respond to a request for comment.

The HPRA confirmed this weekend that IgG tests can still be legally sold in Ireland as they carry a CE marking, the certification of conformity with European standards. However, the HPRA now advises that "the only valid and safe way to diagnose food intolerance is to eliminate foods following clinical advice" from a doctor or dietitian.

Martin Healy, Fitzwilliam's director, claimed the HPRA ignored evidence he provided on the legitimacy of IgG testing and said it was "intolerable" that "people who may have benefited from this test may now not avail of it". He says he is considering a legal challenge to the HPRA.

Keogh said: "It's fantastic to see this guidance coming out. It's something dietitians have been calling for, for a long time."

@valerie_flynn

THE SUNDAY TIMES

SAOIRSE RONAN
THE NEW MERYL STREEP?
STYLE



MYTH BUSTERS MAGAZINE
REWRITING THE PAST FOR CHILDREN



MAIA DUNPHY
IN SEARCH OF HIT SINGLES
CULTURE



McDonald calls for Aras race this year

Justine McCarthy

Mary Lou McDonald has said there should be a presidential election this year. She is the first party leader in Leinster House to support holding a contest, as politicians await an announcement by President Michael D Higgins as to whether he intends seeking a second term.

"My instinct is that the position of first citizen, Uachtarán na hÉireann, should be contested and should be ratified by popular vote every seven years or every five when it's changed," McDonald said in an interview with The Sunday Times before her installation as Sinn Féin leader in Dublin yesterday.

"Given the primacy of the position as first among equals, my instinct would always be to say there should be an open debate," she said. "It's a very interesting election because it brings you to places other than government formation and all that adversarial stuff. It can become a platform for a very useful debate around identity and the direction of the country. My bias, personally, is that there ought to be an election."

Higgins, 76, stated during the 2011 election campaign that he would be a one-term president but he has since refused to rule out another seven years.

Last September the president said he would make his intentions known by September 2018, but he is now expected to announce his decision in the summer.

McDonald said she hoped Higgins would not interpret her remarks as a "personal commentary" and that she would "not be so presumptuous" as to set a

Continued on page 2 →

IRELAND'S MAGIC EIGHT BALL



Jacob Stockdale marvels at the space around him on his way to scoring Ireland's eighth try during its 56-19 thrashing of Italy in the Six Nations at the Aviva Stadium in Dublin yesterday. Full story, Sport

Cork-Limerick motorway 'will hurt the regions'

Valerie Flynn and Stephen O'Brien

The architect of the forthcoming national planning framework (NPF) has said the promised €850m Cork-Limerick motorway will undermine its aim of expanding regional cities in order to counterbalance Dublin.

The government will launch the NPF and a €115bn 10-year investment strategy, the national development plan (NDP), following a cabinet meeting in Sligo on Friday. The NPF is based on research by the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI), which recommended promoting growth in Cork, Limerick, Galway and Waterford as this would benefit the surrounding regions and the wider economy. A draft of the NPF, published last year, adopted this approach and promised to stop sprawl from cities and towns.

However, Edgar Morgenroth, the author of the ESRI research, said yesterday the promised Cork-Limerick motorway undermined the plan's objective of creating strong regional cities that could compete for international investment and close the gap in prosperity between Dublin and the rest of the country. Paschal Donohoe, the finance minister, has promised to include the motorway in the national development plan.

Morgenroth said: "Cork city centre has lost population, Limerick isn't really going anywhere. If you want growth in these places the investment has to go into them and not between them."

"This road between Limerick and Cork is exactly the wrong thing, unless you have no exits. Otherwise it will just facilitate sprawl – and a sprawled-out population does not add to your scale and will actually undermine any objectives that are there."

"The National Roads Authority will say that if you [have no exits] a motorway makes no economic sense and that is exactly my point: it makes no economic sense."

In response to lobbying by rural TDs, the government will also announce on Friday that Athlone and Sligo are to be regional capitals for the midlands and the north-west, and it will promise to upgrade the N4 road from Mullingar to Longford to dual-carriageway standard.

Drogheda, Dundalk and Letterkenny will be named as "designated centres for growth" to allay rural TDs' complaints over a "city-centric" development framework. However, there will be no funding to extend the western rail corridor from Athenry to Claremorris or to lay a dual carriageway from Tuam to Letterkenny.

Morgenroth said rural TDs' opposition to the draft NPF's urban focus was "parish-pump politics" and "totally counterproductive".

"Einstein once said stupidity is doing the same thing again and again and expecting a different outcome, and that's exactly where we are: the same mistakes again, and then nothing changes, and that means Dublin just grows bigger," he said.

Government sources yesterday

said the cabinet had moved to meet the concerns of backbenchers from the midlands, west and northeast in recent weeks, because Fianna Fail had threatened to block legislation allowing the NPF to become a binding planning template for local authorities.

The NDP has been prepared by Donohoe, while Eoghan Murphy, the housing and local government minister, drafted the NPF with Damien English, his junior minister. Donohoe, Murphy and Leo Varadkar – all Dublin TDs – have held a series of meetings with Fine Gael ministers and backbenchers from "the regions", and with the Independent Alliance, in order to broaden the geographical sweep of both plans.

Electrification of the Dublin-Belfast rail line will proceed as far as Drogheda in the 10-year lifetime of the NDP at a cost in excess of €180m. Capital funding for hybrid electric/diesel carriages could allow the extension of Dart commuter services to Drogheda as early as 2022, according to government sources.

Sligo and Athlone will be designated in a "top tier" of regional centres for growth, a government source indicated. Drogheda, Dundalk and Letterkenny will be in the next tier.

The cabinet will meet in Sligo Institute of Technology on Friday morning and launch the development plans in the adjoining Knocknareena concert arena afterwards.

Rural Ireland RIP, News Review, page 22

Sunday Times boost for Google workers

Mark Tighe

Google content reviewers were given improved pay and a late-night taxi service after The Sunday Times revealed the working conditions for staff employed by Hays and Accenture in Dublin's East-Point business park.

Workers hired to identify improper or illegal content on Google AdWords or YouTube are paid as little as €11.06 an hour and receive only 15% extra for working unsocial hours after 10pm, this newspaper reported last weekend. Last Wednesday an Accenture

manager emailed staff with "great news". She said staff would receive 20% extra for working between 10pm and 7am.

This means those on a rate of €11.06 will receive an extra €2.21 for working antisocial hours, instead of the previous "out-of-hours" additional rate of €1.66.

The email also said AdWords staff would no longer have to pay for taxis home if their shift ended at 1am or 2am, when there is no public transport available. AdWords staff had been forced to pay up front for their own taxis after late shifts, even though

colleagues on the YouTube teams were entitled to book taxis on the company account. Staff felt they were "subsidising Accenture and Google" as they were left waiting up to three weeks to receive taxi expenses that could equate to a quarter of a week's salary.

Google's arrangement with Accenture includes finance for the cost of workers' taxis when public transport is not available, but Google has said it was unaware Accenture made some workers claim taxi expenses retrospectively.

Some Google content reviewers with Hays/Accenture are not

impressed with the 5% increase in out-of-hours pay, as they believe the rate is still significantly lower than what Facebook pays its content reviewers in Dublin. They remain unhappy that workers in the Portuguese, Spanish and Italian markets are paid significantly less than German and Dutch colleagues who do the same jobs.

Sources in the workforce said management in Accenture showed a more conciliatory approach last week. Some 100 staff are understood to have signed a letter to management voicing

Continued on page 2 →

Immunity fear as jab rate falls

Valerie Flynn

The rate of vaccination of schoolchildren against meningitis and whooping cough fell in 2016-17, raising concern about weaker public confidence in vaccines.

Children are offered booster vaccinations against meningococcal group C (Men C) disease and against tetanus, low-dose diphtheria and acellular pertussis (TDAP) in the first year of secondary school. In 2016-17, uptake of TDAP fell 3.4 percentage points to 85.8%, while uptake of Men C fell 2.8 points to 83.9%.

Karina Butler, a consultant paediatrician and infectious disease specialist at Crumlin children's hospital, Dublin, who chairs the National Immunisation Advisory Committee, said: "There is no doubt but that there has been a shaking of public confidence in vaccines, particularly in the teenage age group, probably as a knock-on effect from the concerns about the human papilloma virus vaccine."

"It is really important to get the message out there that you have to keep your protective immunity up, and to do that you need to get your

Continued on page 2 →

INDEX

Lottery	News	2
Weather	News	23
Letters	News	18
Sudoku	Money	12
TV & Radio	Culture	49



Embrace wellbeing for your business

Boost your employer brand with The KeepWell Mark – the wellbeing accreditation for Irish employers.

thekeepwellmark.ie
@lbeckeepwell
#lbeckeepwell

NEWS

In your favourite Sunday newspaper

BUSINESS & MONEY

THE RETURN OF FEAR

How the market meltdown happened

A PROBLEM FOR THE AGES

We're having a senior moment about our ageing society, argues Cormac Lucey



SUNDAY



THE HOLI CHOW

Indian chefs in Ireland explain how to celebrate the spring festival

PORTUGAL UNCOVERED

Our complete holiday guide to the country

MOVE

PRINTS WILL COME

We pick out the best homewares in stock right now

THE BOYS ARE BACK IN TOWN

Expat estate agents return from Britain



NEWS REVIEW



BOOKS STOPPED ME STARVING TO DEATH

Laura Freeman recalls the literary feasts that helped her recover from anorexia

DEATH OF RURAL IRELAND

Why a new development plan won't reverse the trend

JOIN THE CONVERSATION



Facebook.com/
timesandsundaytimes
Facebook.com/
sundaytimesstyle



Magazine podcast:
acast.com/
sundaytimesmagazine
or subscribe on iTunes



@ST_Newsroom
@STForeign



@sundaytimesculture
@sundaytimesstyle
thesundaytimes.ie

ANY SECTIONS MISSING?

If your paper is incomplete we will send you the missing section(s) subject to availability. Telephone 00 44 20 7711 1521

or email your details to: customerservices@sunday-times.ie with Missing in the subject.

IRISH LOTTERY RESULTS

February 10, 2018

LOTTO

4, 6, 16, 18, 27, 39
Bonus 45

LOTTO PLUS 1

8, 9, 13, 27, 32, 45
Bonus 2

LOTTO PLUS 2

1, 7, 15, 16, 22, 28
Bonus 19

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS CUP QUARTER-FINAL
SUN 1 APR AVIVA STADIUM 3:30PM

LEINSTER vs SARACENS

GET YOUR TICKETS AT LEINSTERRUGBY.IE

Bank of Ireland, Guinness, adidas, Puma, Leinster, From The Ground Up

Disadvantaged children 'get poor school meals'

Colin Coyle

Some of the food served to children in disadvantaged areas under the school meals programme is "wholly unacceptable", one of the scheme's main providers has claimed.

Correspondence between Carambola Kidz, which supplies school meals to more than 30,000 children each day, and the Department of Social Protection, which oversees the programme, suggests that a lack of regulation means there is no guarantee the food served by some small suppliers meets recommended standards. The scheme provides food to 230,000 children in 1,540 schools.

Carambola Kidz wants the department to increase the amount of money set aside for meals, which is currently 60c for breakfast, €1.40 for lunch and €1.90 for dinner, because the level has not increased for more than a decade.

"This, along with increased product and overhead costs, is damaging suppliers' ability to deliver a quality product," Carambola Kidz claimed. "Some of the food delivered into schools is wholly unacceptable. Suppliers have started exiting the business because they cannot afford to supply at these outdated rates."

Carambola Kidz, which operates in

every county in Ireland, has told the department that providers "should be obliged to meet certain standards with a view to obtaining approved-supplier status, and only then should schools be able to appoint approved suppliers". Currently schools that qualify for the programme, mostly those designated as DEIS (disadvantaged), can enter a contract with any supplier to provide their students with meals.

A lack of regulation means some suppliers may not be meeting minimum nutritional standards or addressing issues such as "health and safety, allergy management etc", Carambola Kidz claims. The company added recent guidelines for school meals issued by Healthy Ireland, a government body promoting healthier lifestyles, would force many suppliers to change their menus.

"However, the new menu is much more expensive to provide and consideration must be given to how much it costs to supply," said Carambola Kidz.

Few schools in Ireland have canteens providing hot food, and so children typically get a piece of fruit and a scone or muffin for breakfast, and a sandwich, wrap or roll with a piece of fruit and water or milk for lunch.

Schools that can provide hot food



Few schools are able to provide hot food because of a lack of canteens

typically do chicken curry or spaghetti bolognese for dinner.

The department said it had increased funding to the scheme from €35m in 2012 to €54m this year. "The scheme now provides funding for a breakfast for all children and lunch for the majority of children in DEIS [Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools] schools," it said. "For the first time in many years, breakfasts are also available in [this] academic year to some schools outside DEIS."

The new guidelines aim to ensure that children are provided with healthy balanced meals, the department said. "Schools are expected to achieve value for money as part of this process," it said.

The selection of suppliers is up to individual schools, according to the department, which noted that some large suppliers were seeking to increase their share of the market at the expense of smaller local suppliers.

The department also said it carried out on-site inspections. "Schools and organisations must provide us with details of the food items to be provided as part of the application process," it said. "Expenditure on items that do not meet the standards is deducted from the school's funding allocation." @colincoyle

Hope for Stormont deal as talks make progress

Stephen O'Brien
Political Editor

Sinn Féin and the DUP have made significant progress on the contentious issue of Irish language legislation in Northern Ireland, fuelling optimism that a deal could be reached this week to restore the Stormont institutions.

Sources close to the talks also say advances have been made on removing the issue of same-sex marriage as a barrier to the formation of a new Northern Ireland executive, although a commitment to hold a referendum on the issue is unlikely to be part of any agreement.

The DUP and Sinn Féin have explored the idea of drafting separate bills for the promotion and use of Irish and of Ulster Scots, but these could be merged into one law as they go through the assembly.

The idea is almost the opposite of a proposal by James Brokenshire, the former Northern Ireland secretary, for "an all-encompassing language bill which would



Government may return to Stormont if the talks succeed

have disappearing clauses and end up as separate acts by the end of the process".

Leo Varadkar, the taoiseach, and Theresa May, the British prime minister, are available to join the talks this week, but are likely to do so once agreement has been reached rather than try to break the deadlock themselves.

Michelle O'Neill, Sinn Féin's deputy leader, said yesterday that some issues remained unresolved in the talks, but progress had been made. She said Sinn Féin would re-engage tomorrow with the DUP and both governments.

She expected the talks to conclude this week.

"I believe the issues which caused the collapse of Stormont can be resolved with political will and mutual respect," said O'Neill.

"Issues like marriage equality, an Irish language act, legacy inquests, rights, respect and integrity in government should not be politically contentious."

Discussions on how to deal with same-sex marriage have covered possible reform of the "petition of concern" parliamentary mechanism. This is intended to protect minority positions in the assembly but has been

increasingly used as a veto by both the larger parties, most frequently by the DUP.

"It is not clear if there will be a full reform of the petition of concern, but there could be a deal where parties might agree to restrict its use on certain issues, or it could be suspended voluntarily for the remainder of this parliamentary term," said one Stormont source.

He said the concept of a sunset clause on same-sex marriage in Northern Ireland, which would transfer it to Westminster if not dealt with at Stormont, was "not a bad idea" but it might not work for either the DUP, which currently holds the balance of power in the House of Commons, or for Sinn Féin which does not take up its seats there.

Gerry Adams, then Sinn Féin leader, said last year that the party would not return to Stormont unless an Irish language act was in place.

Another source familiar with the talks said there was still some distance between the parties on "legacy issues" from the Troubles. @sob999

NEWS IN BRIEF

Man charged with 2010 murder

A 31-year-old man has been charged with murdering a former soldier in Dublin eight years ago. Gary Watson, of Millbrook Avenue Dublin 13, appeared at Dublin District Court after being extradited from the UK. He is charged with murdering Warren O'Connor at the Hole in the Wall Road in Donaghmede, Dublin on January 16, 2010, following a row about a late-night party.

Mother held over child's injuries

A woman in her forties has been arrested on suspicion of assault causing harm to her three-year-old daughter. The child was in a serious condition in Our Lady's Hospital in Crumlin last night. Emergency services were called to a house at Aubrey Grove in Shankill in south Co Dublin yesterday afternoon. The woman is being questioned at a southside garda station.

Sinn Féin leader's Aras call

→ Continued from page 1
deadline for him to announce his intentions. She would not be drawn on who Sinn Féin might run as an election candidate.

"I think everybody agrees he has been an excellent uachtaran and I think he is a very fine person," she said. "He and his wife Sabina are really grounded, decent, left-wing people whom I greatly respect and admire."

Last summer Leo Varadkar, the taoiseach and Fine Gael leader, appeared to suggest Higgins would be unopposed if he wished to remain in office. However, Fianna Fail's leader Micheál Martin said in October that, while it was too early to discuss selecting a presidential candidate, he would re-examine that position if there were still uncertainty in early 2018 about Higgins's plans.

Responding to reports of

Martin's comments, Higgins said he would not be pushed into making an early decision. "I don't simply take up threats or hints or whatever," said Higgins.

McDonald's support for an election in October follows declarations by Gerard Craughwell, an independent senator, and Michael Fitzmaurice, an independent TD, that they are prepared to stand as candidates.

About 2,000 Sinn Féin members watched McDonald formally take over from Gerry Adams as party president at a special ar fheis at the RDS in Ballsbridge. Michelle O'Neill, the party's leader in Northern Ireland, who was born in Fermoy, Co Cork, was elected national vice-president.

McDonald said she wants to modernise Sinn Féin, double its size, recruit new members from immigrant communities and "with respect, graciousness and generosity", bring about Irish reunification.

She said "the war is long over" and "we cannot allow those who want to use the past to maintain division and inequality to have their way".

McDonald was warmly applauded when, talking about Brexit, she said: "Ireland will not be the collateral damage in the political games and antics of Tories in London."

There was resounding applause, too, from male and female delegates of all ages when she said Sinn Féin would "be on the streets, knocking on doors and on the airwaves" campaigning for the repeal of the eighth amendment.

After O'Neill said she anticipated the talks to restore the Stormont executive would conclude this week, McDonald stated: "Sinn Féin is up for a deal."

McDonald thanked her husband Martin Lanigan, her children Iseult and Gearóid, her mother Joan, brothers Bernard and Patrick, and sister Joanne for their support.

McDonald was unopposed for leader, having received 290 nominations from cumainn. She was formally proposed by John Finucane, a son of the murdered Belfast solicitor Pat Finucane, and seconded by Louise O'Reilly, the party's health spokeswoman in the Dail.

Labour leader Brendan Howlin said the test McDonald faces "will be the speed with which she departs from Adams's legacy, by breaking free from the remnants of the Provisional IRA that many still believe control the party".

Meet the new boss, News Review, page 19

Falling vaccine take-up fuels fear

→ Continued from page 1
booster vaccine." A campaign incorrectly claiming that the HPV vaccine is unsafe resulted in its uptake falling to 51% in 2016-17 from 72.3% the year before.

The HPV vaccine is offered to girls in their first year of secondary school. A campaign by the HSE helped increase uptake to 62% in September and October 2017.

Butler said meningococcal infection was "extremely serious". In 1999, before the Men C vaccine was introduced, Crumlin treated 59 children with meningococcal sepsis. The incidence fell to very low levels by 2012 but there has been a slight increase since.

Butler said: "People forget the horror of it and that contributes to a feeling that vaccines are not that important because we don't see these diseases any more. Someone can go from

perfectly well to moribund in hours. You can lose limbs and extremities and be left deaf or with brain damage."

Whooping cough, also known as pertussis, is resurgent in Ireland, Butler said. Immunising teenagers helped protect the wider community, including babies who are too young to be vaccinated but who could die from the disease.

"Since 2011 we've had five infant pertussis deaths and it's really a tragedy when you see an infant die from what is a vaccine-preventable disease," Butler said.

The HSE pointed out that older adolescents were an at-risk group for Men C disease, and teenagers could pass whooping cough to younger siblings. "HSE vaccination teams will visit schools again from mid-March and will offer the vaccines to any girl or boy who has missed out," it said.

HSE figures show a discrepancy across the country in uptake of Men C and TDAP vaccines. Dublin north central had the lowest uptake for both.

John O'Brien, of St Joseph's Secondary School in Dublin 7, said people's fears about vaccines overwhelmingly stemmed from what they read on social media. @valerie_flynn

Google staff get 5% out-of-hours increase

→ Continued from page 1
concern about a new night shift. Workers said they have received assurances that the new shifts will be introduced only after consultation.

Kevin Humphreys, a Labour senator, said it was "unacceptable" for Google to pay workers below the living wage of €11.70 an hour, which supermarkets such as Lidl

and Aldi have agreed will be the minimum for their staff. "Google makes incredible profits and has a corporate and social responsibility to ensure their staff are paid

adequately and treated well," said Humphreys. "I don't accept they can hide behind saying they don't know what contractors are paying staff." He added that paying

different rates for staff doing the same job but in different languages was "just wrong".

Google Maps workers losing it, page 6

Independents call for recognition of Palestinian state

Stephen O'Brien
Political Editor

The Independent Alliance says it will continue to argue at cabinet for the recognition of Palestine as an independent state, in keeping with what it insists is a binding commitment in the Programme for Government. Simon Coveney, the minister for foreign affairs, has been resisting pressure from Independent Alliance

ministers in recent weeks to recognise Palestine, arguing that the promise does not bind government to formal recognition of the state.

Coveney is pursuing a two-state solution in Israel and has argued Ireland should only recognise Palestine collectively with the EU. Nine EU member states including Sweden and Poland have already taken that step.

Finian McGrath, the junior health minister, said: "This is

a hugely important issue for the Independent Alliance. We gave a commitment when we went into government that we would recognise Palestine as an independent state."

The programme states: "We will continue to play a role in advancing a stronger role for the EU in the Middle East peace process, having regard to the stalled nature of the process at present, and honour our commitment to recognise the state of

Palestine as part of a lasting settlement of the conflict."

Coveney has told cabinet colleagues this wording means Ireland should recognise the state of Palestine "in the context of a negotiated solution".

A senior Fine Gael source said Ireland has held talks with Israeli and Palestinian leaders in recent months, and should not risk cutting off those contacts by a unilateral move on recognition.

McGrath told ministers the government should make a decision to recognise Palestine now rather than wait for another Dail motion from Fianna Fail or Sinn Féin calling on them to do so.

Frances Black, an independent senator, agreed last month to adjournment of a bill to ban "the import and sales of goods, services and natural resources originating in illegal settlements in occupied territories".

Last month Coveney travelled to the Middle East and met Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli prime minister, in Tel Aviv, the first substantive meeting since he criticised America's recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

He later met Riyad al-Maliki, the Palestinian Authority foreign minister, and paid a courtesy call to Mahmoud Abbas, president of the Palestinian Authority.



The Ireland Palestine Solidarity Campaign protest in Dublin

Google moderation 'a click farm'

Former worker at Dublin operation says staff approved ads and videos in languages they did not understand

Mark Tighe

Moderators who have worked for Google in Dublin say they were repeatedly instructed to label content as "family safe" even though they did not understand the language of the material.

Former staff have claimed an operation run by Accenture in Dublin's Eastpoint business park on behalf of Google sometimes resembled a "click farm", such was the speed at which they were required to approve content.

The team review material on behalf of Google's AdWords and YouTube to ensure nothing illegal or inappropriate is posted. Google promised to recruit 10,000 content reviewers by the end of 2018 amid increasing concerns from advertisers about the type of content posted on platforms such as YouTube.

An Italian moderator who was among the first hired to do content review at Eastpoint said she was part of a "trust and safety" team reviewing AdWords postings to ensure they met Google's rules.

"I remember we were calling ourselves the 'click farm team'," she said. "You read about these click farms with poor people living on the other side of the world working long hours to 'like' content in order to earn cents. Well, we were doing the same."

The former moderator claimed staff, some of whom process 3,500 adverts daily, were often "clicking 'F and enter' all day" to approve them. "We were going so quickly that at the end of the day I could not feel my hands any more," she said. "This was especially when we had backlog and tons of ads to be processed because we were out of time."

She said staff often carried out this task on material in languages they did not understand, and without reading the adverts, and some supervisors were aware of what was happening. "They were telling us to be fast and just click FS [Family Safe]," she said.

Some of the most experienced agents reviewed ads in several languages, including Arabic and Ukrainian, she said.

"In case of emergency, like if the queue was full of old ads that were about to expire, in order to meet the service-level agreement and make Google and Accenture happy", she said. "We would jump on those queues and work super quickly with the ads. This means we did not have the time to properly review the ads and apply the policy."

The Italian worker said Google would



Google, under pressure from advertisers to remove unsuitable content from platforms such as YouTube, promised to recruit 10,000 content reviewers by the end of 2018

sometimes contact the reviewers regarding an "emergency" in some markets that required to be prioritised. "I do not know if Google knew that an Italian was reviewing Arabic ads," she said. "We were told by our team lead that as we were experienced, we could do it. But I do not think that experience is enough because Arabic or Russian use a different alphabet."

Several other sources have said they were also required to review content they did not understand. One Turkish worker said she was required to review YouTube videos in tribal languages she did not

“

We would work super quickly and did not have time to review the ads and apply policy

even know existed. Content reviewers are paid between €23,000 and €27,000 a year based on their language skills.

A Google spokesman said: "Keeping our platforms safe is important and challenging work, and categorising ads correctly is crucial to our business. That's why we have a strict set of policies that govern the types of ads we allow."

"Manual reviews by our team, including contractors, are one of a number of checks that we make on ads to ensure they meet our suitability guidelines. We demand high standards of our contractor

companies and never ask them to prioritise speed over careful review of ads. We continue working closely with Accenture to maintain high standards."

Accenture said: "We collaborate closely with Google to maintain well-defined standards. Our multi-step review process includes comprehensive data analytics and senior moderators continuously monitor performance. Additionally, teams are supported with ongoing training and testing to help ensure they are delivering accurate and appropriate ad reviews."

TDs told off over gender balance

Justine McCarthy

Emily O'Reilly, the European ombudsman, criticised the absence of women on the Oireachtas committee dealing with Brexit, when she appeared before it on Wednesday.

All 11 members of the Joint Committee on European Union Affairs, which questioned O'Reilly about the transparency of Brexit negotiations, are male TDs or senators.

"It's a pity there isn't a female voice on the committee dealing with one of the biggest issues that is going to affect citizens' lives in the coming years," O'Reilly told The Sunday Times after the meeting. "Women have a life experience that is going to bring a particular perspective to any issue."

"I think the election of [Donald] Trump has had a positive impact on young women in raising their awareness about their position in the world and I've noticed in the EU it's increasingly difficult for people to turn up for a conference or seminar without gender balance. Everybody has become more sensitised to imbalance. It's now being noticed."

O'Reilly, the former Irish ombudsman, made the comments the day after Joan Burton, the former tanaiste, said it was "a disgrace" no women featured in media photographs of the Irish government delegation at the Stormont talks on Monday.

Michael Healy-Rae, an independent TD for Kerry, chairs the EU committee. Because he was at a Dail debate, the session with O'Reilly was chaired by Terry Leyden, a Fianna Fail senator.

In welcoming O'Reilly, to the committee, Leyden suggested her male-sounding job title should be changed from ombudsman.

The other Fianna Fail members of the committee are TDs Seán Haughey and Frank O'Rourke. Fine Gael has four members on the committee, including Paul Coghlan, the chathaoirleach of the Seanad, Senator Neale Richmond, and TDs Colm Brophy and Bernard Durkan.

O'Reilly told the committee she hopes that Mario Draghi, the president of the European Central Bank, will "respond positively" in April to her recommendation that he withdraw from the Group of 30, a private association of bankers, public officials and academics, which includes representatives of banks supervised by the ECB.

Landlord takes Facebook to court in eviction video stand-off

Facebook has refused to take down a video of an eviction that has resulted in a landlord and his family being subjected to death threats, writes Mark Tighe.

In February 2017, TheLiberal.ie posted on its Facebook page a video shot by a housing activist of the eviction of Ronda Sheldreck, a champion snooker player, from a rented house in Clondalkin.

The Liberal posting said it was a "shocking video" of "a

child with special needs and their parents being thrown out of their house". The post quoted the activist as saying the family "always paid their rent". In fact there had been a ruling they were in arrears.

The video, which identifies Aidan Sharkey, a businessman, as the landlord, has been shared over 4,000 times with 617,000 views. Many of its 853 comments include threats. One suggests people go the Sharkeys' home "and don't forget the

matches". Sources close to the Sharkey family say they have been inundated with abusive messages because of the video. Although they complained to both The Liberal and Facebook, neither will take the video down.

Sharkey and his wife Michelle have lodged High Court defamation proceedings against Facebook, The Liberal and the Sheldrecks. Facebook has ruled the video did not

violate its community standards. Ronda Sheldreck said she was not responsible for the video. She had posted comments on it "to get my story across".

The Residential Tenancies Board has ruled that a notice of termination against the Sheldrecks was valid. It noted the Sheldrecks left the house in June 2016 when the landlord changed the locks, but re-entered the property and changed the locks again. It found the Sheldrecks were

in rent arrears of €5,444. The Circuit Court issued Sharkey a possession order over the house in December 2016.

Sheldreck said she does not agree with the RTB ruling, and insists she was not in arrears. She said Sharkey had criticised her for attending snooker tournaments in Malta and Singapore but she had fundraised or had sponsors to cover the cost.

The Liberal did not respond to requests for comment.



Facebook will not remove video of Sheldreck being evicted

dfs MAMMOTH WINTER SAVINGS

END TOMORROW on this sofa

HALF PRICE €779

The Lomax 3 seater sofa after event €1559

€21.63 a month for 3 years

0% APR No deposit and no interest - ever!

final 2 days to save

IN ASSOCIATION WITH
EARLY MAN
IN CINEMAS NOW

© 2017 StudioCanal S.A.S. and the British Film Institute. All Rights Reserved. Lomax 3 seater sofa, armpads included, scatter cushions optional extras. Credit subject to acceptance. Credit is provided by external finance companies as determined by DFS. 3 years interest free credit from date of delivery. Delivery charges apply. After event price applies from 20.02.18 - see in-store or online for details. DFS is a division of DFS Trading Ltd. Registered in England and Wales No 01735950. Redhouse Interchange, Doncaster, DN6 7NA.

dfs

THE SUNDAY TIMES

SAOIRSE RONAN
THE NEW MERYL STREEP?
STYLE



MYTH BUSTERS MAGAZINE
REWRITING THE PAST FOR CHILDREN



MAIA DUNPHY
IN SEARCH OF HIT SINGLES
CULTURE



McDonald calls for Aras race this year

Justine McCarthy

Mary Lou McDonald has said there should be a presidential election this year. She is the first party leader in Leinster House to support holding a contest, as politicians await an announcement by President Michael D Higgins as to whether he intends seeking a second term.

"My instinct is that the position of first citizen, Uachtarán na hÉireann, should be contested and should be ratified by popular vote every seven years or every five when it's changed," McDonald said in an interview with The Sunday Times before her installation as Sinn Féin leader in Dublin yesterday.

"Given the primacy of the position as first among equals, my instinct would always be to say there should be an open debate," she said. "It's a very interesting election because it brings you to places other than government formation and all that adversarial stuff. It can become a platform for a very useful debate around identity and the direction of the country. My bias, personally, is that there ought to be an election."

Higgins, 76, stated during the 2011 election campaign that he would be a one-term president but he has since refused to rule out another seven years.

Last September the president said he would make his intentions known by September 2018, but he is now expected to announce his decision in the summer.

McDonald said she hoped Higgins would not interpret her remarks as a "personal commentary" and that she would "not be so presumptuous" as to set a

Continued on page 2 →

IRELAND'S MAGIC EIGHT BALL



Jacob Stockdale marvels at the space around him on his way to scoring Ireland's eighth try during its 56-19 thrashing of Italy in the Six Nations at the Aviva Stadium in Dublin yesterday. Full story, Sport

Cork-Limerick motorway 'will hurt the regions'

Valerie Flynn and Stephen O'Brien

The architect of the forthcoming national planning framework (NPF) has said the promised €850m Cork-Limerick motorway will undermine its aim of expanding regional cities in order to counterbalance Dublin.

The government will launch the NPF and a €115bn 10-year investment strategy, the national development plan (NDP), following a cabinet meeting in Sligo on Friday. The NPF is based on research by the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI), which recommended promoting growth in Cork, Limerick, Galway and Waterford as this would benefit the surrounding regions and the wider economy. A draft of the NPF, published last year, adopted this approach and promised to stop sprawl from cities and towns.

However, Edgar Morgenroth, the author of the ESRI research, said yesterday the promised Cork-Limerick motorway undermined the plan's objective of creating strong regional cities that could compete for international investment and close the gap in prosperity between Dublin and the rest of the country. Paschal Donohoe, the finance minister, has promised to include the motorway in the national development plan.

Morgenroth said: "Cork city centre has lost population, Limerick isn't really going anywhere. If you want growth in these places the investment has to go into them and not between them."

"This road between Limerick and Cork is exactly the wrong thing, unless you have no exits. Otherwise it will just facilitate sprawl – and a sprawled-out population does not add to your scale and will actually undermine any objectives that are there."

"The National Roads Authority will say that if you [have no exits] a motorway makes no economic sense and that is exactly my point: it makes no economic sense."

In response to lobbying by rural TDs, the government will also announce on Friday that Athlone and Sligo are to be regional capitals for the midlands and the north-west, and it will promise to upgrade the N4 road from Mullingar to Longford to dual-carriageway standard.

Drogheda, Dundalk and Letterkenny will be named as "designated centres for growth" to allay rural TDs' complaints over a "city-centric" development framework. However, there will be no funding to extend the western rail corridor from Athenry to Claremorris or to lay a dual carriageway from Tuam to Letterkenny.

Morgenroth said rural TDs' opposition to the draft NPF's urban focus was "parish-pump politics" and "totally counterproductive".

"Einstein once said stupidity is doing the same thing again and again and expecting a different outcome, and that's exactly where we are: the same mistakes again, and then nothing changes, and that means Dublin just grows bigger," he said.

Government sources yesterday

said the cabinet had moved to meet the concerns of backbenchers from the midlands, west and northeast in recent weeks, because Fianna Fail had threatened to block legislation allowing the NPF to become a binding planning template for local authorities.

The NDP has been prepared by Donohoe, while Eoghan Murphy, the housing and local government minister, drafted the NPF with Damien English, his junior minister. Donohoe, Murphy and Leo Varadkar – all Dublin TDs – have held a series of meetings with Fine Gael ministers and backbenchers from "the regions", and with the Independent Alliance, in order to broaden the geographical sweep of both plans.

Electrification of the Dublin-Belfast rail line will proceed as far as Drogheda in the 10-year lifetime of the NDP at a cost in excess of €180m. Capital funding for hybrid electric/diesel carriages could allow the extension of Dart commuter services to Drogheda as early as 2022, according to government sources.

Sligo and Athlone will be designated in a "top tier" of regional centres for growth, a government source indicated. Drogheda, Dundalk and Letterkenny will be in the next tier.

The cabinet will meet in Sligo Institute of Technology on Friday morning and launch the development plans in the adjoining Knocknareena concert arena afterwards.

Rural Ireland RIP, News Review, page 22

Sunday Times boost for Google workers

Mark Tighe

Google content reviewers were given improved pay and a late-night taxi service after The Sunday Times revealed the working conditions for staff employed by Hays and Accenture in Dublin's East-Point business park.

Workers hired to identify improper or illegal content on Google AdWords or YouTube are paid as little as €11.06 an hour and receive only 15% extra for working unsocial hours after 10pm, this newspaper reported last weekend. Last Wednesday an Accenture

manager emailed staff with "great news". She said staff would receive 20% extra for working between 10pm and 7am.

This means those on a rate of €11.06 will receive an extra €2.21 for working antisocial hours, instead of the previous "out-of-hours" additional rate of €1.66.

The email also said AdWords staff would no longer have to pay for taxis home if their shift ended at 1am or 2am, when there is no public transport available. AdWords staff had been forced to pay up front for their own taxis after late shifts, even though

colleagues on the YouTube teams were entitled to book taxis on the company account. Staff felt they were "subsidising Accenture and Google" as they were left waiting up to three weeks to receive taxi expenses that could equate to a quarter of a week's salary.

Google's arrangement with Accenture includes finance for the cost of workers' taxis when public transport is not available, but Google has said it was unaware Accenture made some workers claim taxi expenses retrospectively.

Some Google content reviewers with Hays/Accenture are not

impressed with the 5% increase in out-of-hours pay, as they believe the rate is still significantly lower than what Facebook pays its content reviewers in Dublin. They remain unhappy that workers in the Portuguese, Spanish and Italian markets are paid significantly less than German and Dutch colleagues who do the same jobs.

Sources in the workforce said management in Accenture showed a more conciliatory approach last week. Some 100 staff are understood to have signed a letter to management voicing

Continued on page 2 →

Immunity fear as jab rate falls

Valerie Flynn

The rate of vaccination of schoolchildren against meningitis and whooping cough fell in 2016-17, raising concern about weaker public confidence in vaccines.

Children are offered booster vaccinations against meningococcal group C (Men C) disease and against tetanus, low-dose diphtheria and acellular pertussis (TDAP) in the first year of secondary school. In 2016-17, uptake of TDAP fell 3.4 percentage points to 85.8%, while uptake of Men C fell 2.8 points to 83.9%.

Karina Butler, a consultant paediatrician and infectious disease specialist at Crumlin children's hospital, Dublin, who chairs the National Immunisation Advisory Committee, said: "There is no doubt but that there has been a shaking of public confidence in vaccines, particularly in the teenage age group, probably as a knock-on effect from the concerns about the human papilloma virus vaccine."

"It is really important to get the message out there that you have to keep your protective immunity up, and to do that you need to get your

Continued on page 2 →

INDEX

Lottery	News	2
Weather	News	23
Letters	News	18
Sudoku	Money	12
TV & Radio	Culture	49



Embrace wellbeing for your business

Boost your employer brand with The KeepWell Mark – the wellbeing accreditation for Irish employers.

thekeepwellmark.ie
@lbeckeepwell
#lbeckeepwell

NEWS

In your favourite Sunday newspaper

BUSINESS & MONEY

THE RETURN OF FEAR

How the market meltdown happened

A PROBLEM FOR THE AGES

We're having a senior moment about our ageing society, argues Cormac Lucey



SUNDAY



THE HOLI CHOW

Indian chefs in Ireland explain how to celebrate the spring festival

PORTUGAL UNCOVERED

Our complete holiday guide to the country

MOVE

PRINTS WILL COME

We pick out the best homewares in stock right now

THE BOYS ARE BACK IN TOWN

Expat estate agents return from Britain



NEWS REVIEW



BOOKS STOPPED ME STARVING TO DEATH

Laura Freeman recalls the literary feasts that helped her recover from anorexia

DEATH OF RURAL IRELAND

Why a new development plan won't reverse the trend

JOIN THE CONVERSATION



Facebook.com/
timesandsundaytimes
Facebook.com/
sundaytimesstyle



Magazine podcast:
acast.com/
sundaytimesmagazine
or subscribe on iTunes



@ST_Newsroom
@STForeign



@sundaytimesculture
@sundaytimesstyle
thesundaytimes.ie

ANY SECTIONS MISSING?

If your paper is incomplete we will send you the missing section(s) subject to availability. Telephone 00 44 20 7711 1521

or email your details to: customerservices@sunday-times.ie with Missing in the subject.

IRISH LOTTERY RESULTS

February 10, 2018

LOTTO

4, 6, 16, 18, 27, 39
Bonus 45

LOTTO PLUS 1

8, 9, 13, 27, 32, 45
Bonus 2

LOTTO PLUS 2

1, 7, 15, 16, 22, 28
Bonus 19

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS CUP QUARTER-FINAL
SUN 1 APR AVIVA STADIUM 3:30PM

LEINSTER vs SARACENS

GET YOUR TICKETS AT LEINSTERRUGBY.IE

Bank of Ireland, adidas, GAA, Leinster, Saracens, From The Ground Up

Disadvantaged children 'get poor school meals'

Colin Coyle

Some of the food served to children in disadvantaged areas under the school meals programme is "wholly unacceptable", one of the scheme's main providers has claimed.

Correspondence between Carambola Kidz, which supplies school meals to more than 30,000 children each day, and the Department of Social Protection, which oversees the programme, suggests that a lack of regulation means there is no guarantee the food served by some small suppliers meets recommended standards. The scheme provides food to 230,000 children in 1,540 schools.

Carambola Kidz wants the department to increase the amount of money set aside for meals, which is currently 60c for breakfast, €1.40 for lunch and €1.90 for dinner, because the level has not increased for more than a decade.

"This, along with increased product and overhead costs, is damaging suppliers' ability to deliver a quality product," Carambola Kidz claimed. "Some of the food delivered into schools is wholly unacceptable. Suppliers have started exiting the business because they cannot afford to supply at these outdated rates."

Carambola Kidz, which operates in

every county in Ireland, has told the department that providers "should be obliged to meet certain standards with a view to obtaining approved-supplier status, and only then should schools be able to appoint approved suppliers". Currently schools that qualify for the programme, mostly those designated as DEIS (disadvantaged), can enter a contract with any supplier to provide their students with meals.

A lack of regulation means some suppliers may not be meeting minimum nutritional standards or addressing issues such as "health and safety, allergy management etc", Carambola Kidz claims. The company added recent guidelines for school meals issued by Healthy Ireland, a government body promoting healthier lifestyles, would force many suppliers to change their menus.

"However, the new menu is much more expensive to provide and consideration must be given to how much it costs to supply," said Carambola Kidz.

Few schools in Ireland have canteens providing hot food, and so children typically get a piece of fruit and a scone or muffin for breakfast, and a sandwich, wrap or roll with a piece of fruit and water or milk for lunch.

Schools that can provide hot food



Few schools are able to provide hot food because of a lack of canteens

typically do chicken curry or spaghetti bolognese for dinner.

The department said it had increased funding to the scheme from €35m in 2012 to €54m this year. "The scheme now provides funding for a breakfast for all children and lunch for the majority of children in DEIS [Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools] schools," it said. "For the first time in many years, breakfasts are also available in [this] academic year to some schools outside DEIS."

The new guidelines aim to ensure that children are provided with healthy balanced meals, the department said. "Schools are expected to achieve value for money as part of this process," it said.

The selection of suppliers is up to individual schools, according to the department, which noted that some large suppliers were seeking to increase their share of the market at the expense of smaller local suppliers.

The department also said it carried out on-site inspections. "Schools and organisations must provide us with details of the food items to be provided as part of the application process," it said. "Expenditure on items that do not meet the standards is deducted from the school's funding allocation."

@colincoyle

Hope for Stormont deal as talks make progress

Stephen O'Brien
Political Editor

Sinn Fein and the DUP have made significant progress on the contentious issue of Irish language legislation in Northern Ireland, fuelling optimism that a deal could be reached this week to restore the Stormont institutions.

Sources close to the talks also say advances have been made on removing the issue of same-sex marriage as a barrier to the formation of a new Northern Ireland executive, although a commitment to hold a referendum on the issue is unlikely to be part of any agreement.

The DUP and Sinn Fein have explored the idea of drafting separate bills for the promotion and use of Irish and of Ulster Scots, but these could be merged into one law as they go through the assembly.

The idea is almost the opposite of a proposal by James Brokenshire, the former Northern Ireland secretary, for "an all-encompassing language bill which would



Government may return to Stormont if the talks succeed

have disappearing clauses and end up as separate acts by the end of the process".

Leo Varadkar, the taoiseach, and Theresa May, the British prime minister, are available to join the talks this week, but are likely to do so once agreement has been reached rather than try to break the deadlock themselves.

Michelle O'Neill, Sinn Fein's deputy leader, said yesterday that some issues remained unresolved in the talks, but progress had been made. She said Sinn Fein would re-engage tomorrow with the DUP and both governments.

She expected the talks to conclude this week.

"I believe the issues which caused the collapse of Stormont can be resolved with political will and mutual respect," said O'Neill.

"Issues like marriage equality, an Irish language act, legacy inquests, rights, respect and integrity in government should not be politically contentious."

Discussions on how to deal with same-sex marriage have covered possible reform of the "petition of concern" parliamentary mechanism. This is intended to protect minority positions in the assembly but has been

increasingly used as a veto by both the larger parties, most frequently by the DUP.

"It is not clear if there will be a full reform of the petition of concern, but there could be a deal where parties might agree to restrict its use on certain issues, or it could be suspended voluntarily for the remainder of this parliamentary term," said one Stormont source.

He said the concept of a sunset clause on same-sex marriage in Northern Ireland, which would transfer it to Westminster if not dealt with at Stormont, was "not a bad idea" but it might not work for either the DUP, which currently holds the balance of power in the House of Commons, or for Sinn Fein which does not take up its seats there.

Gerry Adams, then Sinn Fein leader, said last year that the party would not return to Stormont unless an Irish language act was in place.

Another source familiar with the talks said there was still some distance between the parties on "legacy issues" from the Troubles.

@sob999

NEWS IN BRIEF

Man charged with 2010 murder

A 31-year-old man has been charged with murdering a former soldier in Dublin eight years ago. Gary Watson, of Millbrook Avenue Dublin 13, appeared at Dublin District Court after being extradited from the UK. He is charged with murdering Warren O'Connor at the Hole in the Wall Road in Donaghmede, Dublin on January 16, 2010, following a row about a late-night party.

Mother held over child's injuries

A woman in her forties has been arrested on suspicion of assault causing harm to her three-year-old daughter. The child was in a serious condition in Our Lady's Hospital in Crumlin last night. Emergency services were called to a house at Aubrey Grove in Shankill in south Co Dublin yesterday afternoon. The woman is being questioned at a southside garda station.

Sinn Fein leader's Aras call

Martin's comments, Higgins said he would not be pushed into making an early decision. "I don't simply take up threats or hints or whatever," said Higgins.

McDonald's support for an election in October follows declarations by Gerard Craughwell, an independent senator, and Michael Fitzmaurice, an independent TD, that they are prepared to stand as candidates.

About 2,000 Sinn Fein members watched McDonald formally take over from Gerry Adams as party president at a special ar fheis at the RDS in Ballsbridge. Michelle O'Neill, the party's leader in Northern Ireland, who was born in Fermoy, Co Cork, was elected national vice-president.

McDonald said she wants to modernise Sinn Fein, double its size, recruit new members from immigrant communities and "with respect, graciousness and generosity", bring about Irish reunification.

She said "the war is long over" and "we cannot allow those who want to use the past to maintain division and inequality to have their way".

McDonald was warmly applauded when, talking about Brexit, she said: "Ireland will not be the collateral damage in the political games and antics of Tories in London."

There was resounding applause, too, from male and female delegates of all ages when she said Sinn Fein would "be on the streets, knocking on doors and on the airwaves" campaigning for the repeal of the eighth amendment.

After O'Neill said she anticipated the talks to restore the Stormont executive would conclude this week, McDonald stated: "Sinn Fein is up for a deal."

McDonald thanked her husband Martin Lanigan, her children Iseult and Gearóid, her mother Joan, brothers Bernard and Patrick, and sister Joanne for their support.

McDonald was unopposed for leader, having received 290 nominations from cumainn. She was formally proposed by John Finucane, a son of the murdered Belfast solicitor Pat Finucane, and seconded by Louise O'Reilly, the party's health spokeswoman in the Dail.

Labour leader Brendan Howlin said the test McDonald faces "will be the speed with which she departs from Adams's legacy, by breaking free from the remnants of the Provisional IRA that many still believe control the party".

Meet the new boss, News Review, page 19

Falling vaccine take-up fuels fear

→ Continued from page 1 booster vaccine." A campaign incorrectly claiming that the HPV vaccine is unsafe resulted in its uptake falling to 51% in 2016-17 from 72.3% the year before.

The HPV vaccine is offered to girls in their first year of secondary school. A campaign by the HSE helped increase uptake to 62% in September and October 2017.

Butler said meningococcal infection was "extremely serious". In 1999, before the Men C vaccine was introduced, Crumlin treated 59 children with meningococcal sepsis. The incidence fell to very low levels by 2012 but there has been a slight increase since.

Butler said: "People forget the horror of it and that contributes to a feeling that vaccines are not that important because we don't see these diseases any more. Someone can go from

perfectly well to moribund in hours. You can lose limbs and extremities and be left deaf or with brain damage."

Whooping cough, also known as pertussis, is resurgent in Ireland, Butler said. Immunising teenagers helped protect the wider community, including babies who are too young to be vaccinated but who could die from the disease.

"Since 2011 we've had five infant pertussis deaths and it's really a tragedy when you see an infant die from what is a vaccine-preventable disease," Butler said.

The HSE pointed out that older adolescents were an at-risk group for Men C disease, and teenagers could pass whooping cough to younger siblings. "HSE vaccination teams will visit schools again from mid-March and will offer the vaccines to any girl or boy who has missed out," it said.

HSE figures show a discrepancy across the country in uptake of Men C and TDAP vaccines. Dublin north central had the lowest uptake for both.

John O'Brien, of St Joseph's Secondary School in Dublin 7, said people's fears about vaccines overwhelmingly stemmed from what they read on social media.

@valerie_flynn

Google staff get 5% out-of-hours increase

→ Continued from page 1 concern about a new night shift. Workers said they have received assurances that the new shifts will be introduced only after consultation.

Kevin Humphreys, a Labour senator, said it was "unacceptable" for Google to pay workers below the living wage of €11.70 an hour, which supermarkets such as Lidl

and Aldi have agreed will be the minimum for their staff. "Google makes incredible profits and has a corporate and social responsibility to ensure their staff are paid

adequately and treated well," said Humphreys. "I don't accept they can hide behind saying they don't know what contractors are paying staff." He added that paying

different rates for staff doing the same job but in different languages was "just wrong".

Google Maps workers losing it, page 6

Independents call for recognition of Palestinian state

Stephen O'Brien
Political Editor

The Independent Alliance says it will continue to argue at cabinet for the recognition of Palestine as an independent state, in keeping with what it insists is a binding commitment in the Programme for Government. Simon Coveney, the minister for foreign affairs, has been resisting pressure from Independent Alliance

ministers in recent weeks to recognise Palestine, arguing that the promise does not bind government to formal recognition of the state.

Coveney is pursuing a two-state solution in Israel and has argued Ireland should only recognise Palestine collectively with the EU. Nine EU member states including Sweden and Poland have already taken that step.

Finian McGrath, the junior health minister, said: "This is

a hugely important issue for the Independent Alliance. We gave a commitment when we went into government that we would recognise Palestine as an independent state."

The programme states: "We will continue to play a role in advancing a stronger role for the EU in the Middle East peace process, having regard to the stalled nature of the process at present, and honour our commitment to recognise the state of

Palestine as part of a lasting settlement of the conflict."

Coveney has told cabinet colleagues this wording means Ireland should recognise the state of Palestine "in the context of a negotiated solution".

A senior Fine Gael source said Ireland has held talks with Israeli and Palestinian leaders in recent months, and should not risk cutting off those contacts by a unilateral move on recognition.

McGrath told ministers the government should make a decision to recognise Palestine now rather than wait for another Dail motion from Fianna Fail or Sinn Féin calling on them to do so.

Frances Black, an independent senator, agreed last month to adjournment of a bill to ban "the import and sales of goods, services and natural resources originating in illegal settlements in occupied territories".

Last month Coveney travelled to the Middle East and met Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli prime minister, in Tel Aviv, the first substantive meeting since he criticised America's recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

He later met Riyad al-Maliki, the Palestinian Authority foreign minister, and paid a courtesy call to Mahmoud Abbas, president of the Palestinian Authority.



The Ireland Palestine Solidarity Campaign protest in Dublin

Google moderation 'a click farm'

Former worker at Dublin operation says staff approved ads and videos in languages they did not understand

Mark Tighe

Moderators who have worked for Google in Dublin say they were repeatedly instructed to label content as "family safe" even though they did not understand the language of the material.

Former staff have claimed an operation run by Accenture in Dublin's Eastpoint business park on behalf of Google sometimes resembled a "click farm", such was the speed at which they were required to approve content.

The team review material on behalf of Google's AdWords and YouTube to ensure nothing illegal or inappropriate is posted. Google promised to recruit 10,000 content reviewers by the end of 2018 amid increasing concerns from advertisers about the type of content posted on platforms such as YouTube.

An Italian moderator who was among the first hired to do content review at Eastpoint said she was part of a "trust and safety" team reviewing AdWords postings to ensure they met Google's rules.

"I remember we were calling ourselves the 'click farm team'," she said. "You read about these click farms with poor people living on the other side of the world working long hours to 'like' content in order to earn cents. Well, we were doing the same."

The former moderator claimed staff, some of whom process 3,500 adverts daily, were often "clicking 'F and enter' all day" to approve them. "We were going so quickly that at the end of the day I could not feel my hands any more," she said. "This was especially when we had backlog and tons of ads to be processed because we were out of time."

She said staff often carried out this task on material in languages they did not understand, and without reading the adverts, and some supervisors were aware of what was happening. "They were telling us to be fast and just click FS [Family Safe]," she said.

Some of the most experienced agents reviewed ads in several languages, including Arabic and Ukrainian, she said.

"In case of emergency, like if the queue was full of old ads that were about to expire, in order to meet the service-level agreement and make Google and Accenture happy", she said. "We would jump on those queues and work super quickly with the ads. This means we did not have the time to properly review the ads and apply the policy."

The Italian worker said Google would



Google, under pressure from advertisers to remove unsuitable content from platforms such as YouTube, promised to recruit 10,000 content reviewers by the end of 2018

sometimes contact the reviewers regarding an "emergency" in some markets that required to be prioritised. "I do not know if Google knew that an Italian was reviewing Arabic ads," she said. "We were told by our team lead that as we were experienced, we could do it. But I do not think that experience is enough because Arabic or Russian use a different alphabet."

Several other sources have said they were also required to review content they did not understand. One Turkish worker said she was required to review YouTube videos in tribal languages she did not

“

We would work super quickly and did not have time to review the ads and apply policy

even know existed. Content reviewers are paid between €23,000 and €27,000 a year based on their language skills.

A Google spokesman said: "Keeping our platforms safe is important and challenging work, and categorising ads correctly is crucial to our business. That's why we have a strict set of policies that govern the types of ads we allow."

"Manual reviews by our team, including contractors, are one of a number of checks that we make on ads to ensure they meet our suitability guidelines. We demand high standards of our contractor

companies and never ask them to prioritise speed over careful review of ads. We continue working closely with Accenture to maintain high standards."

Accenture said: "We collaborate closely with Google to maintain well-defined standards. Our multi-step review process includes comprehensive data analytics and senior moderators continuously monitor performance. Additionally, teams are supported with ongoing training and testing to help ensure they are delivering accurate and appropriate ad reviews."

TDs told off over gender balance

Justine McCarthy

Emily O'Reilly, the European ombudsman, criticised the absence of women on the Oireachtas committee dealing with Brexit, when she appeared before it on Wednesday.

All 11 members of the Joint Committee on European Union Affairs, which questioned O'Reilly about the transparency of Brexit negotiations, are male TDs or senators.

"It's a pity there isn't a female voice on the committee dealing with one of the biggest issues that is going to affect citizens' lives in the coming years," O'Reilly told The Sunday Times after the meeting. "Women have a life experience that is going to bring a particular perspective to any issue."

"I think the election of [Donald] Trump has had a positive impact on young women in raising their awareness about their position in the world and I've noticed in the EU it's increasingly difficult for people to turn up for a conference or seminar without gender balance. Everybody has become more sensitised to imbalance. It's now being noticed."

O'Reilly, the former Irish ombudsman, made the comments the day after Joan Burton, the former tanaiste, said it was "a disgrace" no women featured in media photographs of the Irish government delegation at the Stormont talks on Monday.

Michael Healy-Rae, an independent TD for Kerry, chairs the EU committee. Because he was at a Dail debate, the session with O'Reilly was chaired by Terry Leyden, a Fianna Fail senator.

In welcoming O'Reilly, to the committee, Leyden suggested her male-sounding job title should be changed from ombudsman.

The other Fianna Fail members of the committee are TDs Seán Haughey and Frank O'Rourke. Fine Gael has four members on the committee, including Paul Coghlan, the chathaoirleach of the Seanad, Senator Neale Richmond, and TDs Colm Brophy and Bernard Durkan.

O'Reilly told the committee she hopes that Mario Draghi, the president of the European Central Bank, will "respond positively" in April to her recommendation that he withdraw from the Group of 30, a private association of bankers, public officials and academics, which includes representatives of banks supervised by the ECB.

Landlord takes Facebook to court in eviction video stand-off

Facebook has refused to take down a video of an eviction that has resulted in a landlord and his family being subjected to death threats, writes Mark Tighe.

In February 2017, TheLiberal.ie posted on its Facebook page a video shot by a housing activist of the eviction of Ronda Sheldreck, a champion snooker player, from a rented house in Clondalkin.

The Liberal posting said it was a "shocking video" of "a

child with special needs and their parents being thrown out of their house". The post quoted the activist as saying the family "always paid their rent". In fact there had been a ruling they were in arrears.

The video, which identifies Aidan Sharkey, a businessman, as the landlord, has been shared over 4,000 times with 617,000 views. Many of its 853 comments include threats. One suggests people go the Sharkeys' home "and don't forget the

matches". Sources close to the Sharkey family say they have been inundated with abusive messages because of the video. Although they complained to both The Liberal and Facebook, neither will take the video down.

Sharkey and his wife Michelle have lodged High Court defamation proceedings against Facebook, The Liberal and the Sheldrecks. Facebook has ruled the video did not

violate its community standards. Ronda Sheldreck said she was not responsible for the video. She had posted comments on it "to get my story across".

The Residential Tenancies Board has ruled that a notice of termination against the Sheldrecks was valid. It noted the Sheldrecks left the house in June 2016 when the landlord changed the locks, but re-entered the property and changed the locks again. It found the Sheldrecks were

in rent arrears of €5,444. The Circuit Court issued Sharkey a possession order over the house in December 2016.

Sheldreck said she does not agree with the RTB ruling, and insists she was not in arrears. She said Sharkey had criticised her for attending snooker tournaments in Malta and Singapore but she had fundraised or had sponsors to cover the cost.

The Liberal did not respond to requests for comment.



Facebook will not remove video of Sheldreck being evicted

dfs MAMMOTH WINTER SAVINGS

END TOMORROW on this sofa

HALF PRICE
€779
SAVE €780

The Lomax 3 seater sofa after event €1559

€21.63 a month for 3 years
0% APR No deposit and no interest - ever!

final 2 days to save

IN ASSOCIATION WITH
EARLY MAN
IN CINEMAS NOW

© 2017 StudioCanal S.A.S. and the British Film Institute. All Rights Reserved. Lomax 3 seater sofa, armpads included, scatter cushions optional extras. Credit subject to acceptance. Credit is provided by external finance companies as determined by DFS. 3 years interest free credit from date of delivery. Delivery charges apply. After event price applies from 20.02.18 - see in-store or online for details. DFS is a division of DFS Trading Ltd. Registered in England and Wales No 01735950. Redhouse Interchange, Doncaster, DN6 7NA.

dfs