

## GEORGIA SITS ON A KNIFE EDGE BETWEEN RUSSIA AND THE EU

Daniel McLaughlin in Tbilisi



There wasn't a house in holy Catholic 1980s Ireland that didn't have a Jilly Cooper novel. I don't think anyone even had to buy them

Patrick Freyne Arts&Ideas



PROPERTY ● 'WE BUILT OUR HOUSE IN A WEEK' ● A DALKEY REDESIGN BY THE SEA

## Rape case Woman determined 'to change society'

Gisèle Pelicot leaves court in Avignon after attending the trial of her former partner Dominique Pelicot who is accused of drugging her and inviting strangers to rape her at their home in France.

Mass rape victim 'driven by desire to change society': page 6

Photograph: Christophe Simon/AFP via Getty Images



## Gerry Hutch arrested by Spanish police

Lanzarote searches part of investigation into alleged money laundering

CONOR LALLY and CONOR GALLAGHER

Veteran criminal figure Gerry Hutch was being questioned by Spanish police last night as part of an international investigation into alleged money laundering, that resulted in his Dublin home also being searched yesterday.

Mr Hutch (61) is understood to have been arrested on the island of Lanzarote, a popular destination for Irish holidaymakers, where he spends much of his time and where he has invested in property. In recent weeks, footage emerged online of Mr Hutch singing at a karaoke bar on the island.

The Irish Times understands at least two arrests have been made in Spain as part of the money laundering investigation, with Mr Hutch one of those detained.

Though the operation is covered by a secrecy order put in place by the Spanish courts, the police in Spain are expected today to share more information about the day of searches, arrests and progress with the international inquiry.

At least 10 searches were carried out as part of the Spanish operation, centred on Lanzarote, while the home of Mr Hutch in Clontarf, north Dublin, was also searched by gardai on foot of a request from the Spanish authorities. Garda sources stressed the investigation is a Spanish case

and their involvement in the search of the Hutch property was an aid to that inquiry.

Members of the Garda National Bureau of Criminal Investigation were in Lanzarote to support the Guardia Civil operation. At least one Spanish officer was also present in Dublin when Mr Hutch's home was searched.

The Dublin search team was supported by the Criminal Assets Bureau (Cab) and the Emergency Response Unit. The searches in Ireland and by the Spanish police were the latest in a long-running criminal investigation.

In 2019, in evidence by Cab to the High Court – in a case against gang leader Liam Byrne – Mr Hutch was identified as leading what the bureau described as "the Hutch organised crime group" in Dublin. In the same evidence, he was named as a key protagonist on one side of the Kinahan-Hutch feud, with Byrne, Daniel Kinahan, and Freddie Thompson on the opposing side.

He was arrested in Lanzarote in 2021 to be extradited to Ireland to face a charge of murdering David Byrne (34) at the Regency Hotel attack in Dublin in 2016. However, he was acquitted by the Special Criminal Court last year.

Hutch search forms part of Spanish investigation into money laundering: page 3

## Boy reported missing day after warning

Family member was aware Tusla was about to bring its concerns to the Garda

Gardaí continue to search former Dundalk home of missing boy Kyran Durnin

CONOR LALLY and KEVIN O'SULLIVAN

A family member of Kyran Durnin reported him and his mother missing in August, just 24 hours after Tusla went to An Garda Síochána and officially flagged its concerns for the boy's welfare.

The Irish Times understands the family member was aware Tusla was about to bring its concerns to the Garda and was advised to make a missing persons

report to the force, outlining their concerns that Kyran and his mother, Dayla (24), had gone missing.

Tusla has said it alerted the Garda "to a significant concern" about Kyran in August. In reply to queries, the Garda has now confirmed it was alerted by Tusla on August 29th and the missing persons report was made the following day.

It was claimed in the missing persons report that the mother and son were last seen at their

home in Drogheda, Co Louth, at about 11pm on August 28th. Their absence, the report claimed, was not discovered until the following morning.

That means the missing persons report claims the mother and son left Drogheda hours before the family learned Tusla was about to flag its concerns to the Garda about Kyran's welfare.

"An Garda Síochána's sole focus is on establishing where Kyran is," Garda headquarters said in reply to a query, also confirming the August 29th date of the first Tusla notification and the missing persons report "made by a family member" the following day.

"Since then, the Garda investigation has established a number of key facts in relation to Kyran and his last known location as laid out in our public appeal," the Garda said.

The Garda are continuing to "appeal to anyone with any information, no matter how small they think it may be, to contact us" and the force is also working "very closely with Tusla and other parties in our ongoing investigation".

Tusla had been dealing with Kyran and his family in the period up to his disappearance but he was not in the care of the State.

Gardaí suspect he may have died in 2022 when he was aged six.

Search News of the timeline, and the rapid chain of events over two days in August, despite no independent confirmed sighting of Kyran for over two years, comes as gardaí continue to search a property in Dundalk. The Durnin family lived in the

house, on Emer Terrace, until May of this year.

Gardaí have carried out a thorough search and technical tests inside the property since taking possession of it on Monday.

The back garden of the property has also been excavated, using diggers, in what is a search for evidence and human remains.

The Garda search team moved diggers into a green area at the back of the terrace, where excavations were due to continue today.

Speaking at a Health Management Institute of Ireland conference yesterday, Kate Duggan, the chief executive of Tusla, said it was "a very extreme case, a very complex case".

She said "we'll find who's accountable" adding there were

"frontline social workers today trying to hold that case and trying to hold that family, and trying to hold each other. It puts us ... in a very challenging environment".

It was confirmed by the Garda last week the investigation into what happened to Kyran had been upgraded to a murder inquiry, with the missing persons inquiry stood down. The boy's mother has been located in the UK.

## Bills rushed through Dáil to clear way for election

HARRY MCGEE, MARIE O'HALLORAN and PAT LEAHY

The Government last night rushed through priority Bills in a scramble to clear the decks in advance of the dissolution of the Dáil and the general election.

A number of key pieces of legislation completed their passage through the Dáil with the Government imposing a guillotine on debates.

Five Bills were considered and passed in the Dáil in under six hours, a process that normally takes weeks. The most contentious was the Criminal Justice (Incitement to Violence or Hatred and Hate Offences) Bill which was amended because of opposition that turned into a backbench revolt, after it had been passed in the Dáil.

Minister for Justice Helen McEntee amended the legislation in the Seanad to delete the references to incitement to violence or hatred. It also removes reference to the EU framework decision on combating racism and xenophobia and its title changes to the Criminal Justice (Hate Offences) Act.

Other Bills were the Maternity Protection Bill, which will al-

low paid extended maternity leave for mothers undergoing cancer treatment; the Housing Bill; the Seanad Electoral Bill, which will extend the franchise for the university seats to more third-level institutions; and the Health Insurance (Amendment) Bill, which includes the provision that women in menopause will receive HRT medicines free. The Seanad Electoral Bill was passed with a vote on the second-stage debate, postponed from Tuesday, and no discussion on the committee or remaining stages. TDs passed the Bill by 71 to 53 votes.

The Dáil sits today but is then adjourned until Tuesday, November 5th, expected to be the final week of the 33rd Dáil. The Finance Bill, which gives effect to budgetary measures, will be rushed through the remaining stages that week and will be subject to guillotine.

Government Chief Whip Hildegarde Naughton said last night that there were 11 Bills being progressed at present, and her expectation was that nine of these would go to the President for final approval. The two Bills not expected to become law before the Dáil is dissolved

are the Defamation Bill and the Mental Health Bill.

The remaining three Bills of the nine are all time-bound, according to Government sources. Ministers have told the Houses of the Oireachtas Commission Bill must be passed by the end of the year, or else it will not be in a position to operate.

It provides for a three-year budget of €565 million for the Oireachtas, an increase of more than 20 per cent.

Majority of Dáil votes to accept assisted dying report: page 3

## Weather

Heavy rain in the west will move east through the afternoon. Highs of 13-16 degrees in gusty southerly winds.

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## Home News

Housing: Work is not yet concluded on the Government's new housing targets with no timeframe available as to when they will be completed: page 2

US: A court in Boston has granted a Dublin firefighter charged with rape funds to help fight his case: page 4

## World News



Middle East: Israeli strikes killed 42 people in Gaza as its forces stepped up a siege around parts of the Palestinian enclave: page 6

## Business + Technology

Telecoms: Macquarie-backed Viatel Technology Group is running the rule over BT Ireland after it was put on the market for the second time in five years: page 12

Insurance: The profitability of Irish motor insurers fell last year to its lowest level since 2017, a report claims: page 13

## Sports Thursday

Rugby: Caelan Doris has been named Ireland captain as coach Andy Farrell revealed his squad for the upcoming Autumn Nations Series: page 17

Soccer: Liverpool continued their good start to the Champions League with a win away to RB Leipzig: page 19

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