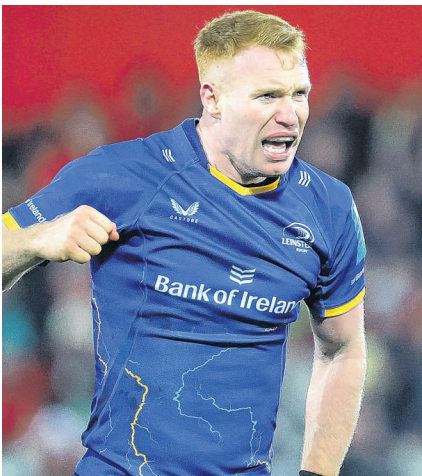


FRAWLEY'S
MOVE SHOULD
SERVE AS A
WARNING

Gordon D'Arcy
Sports Wednesday



“ I don’t make New Year’s Resolutions as a general rule, but I am making an exception this year. I can no longer in good conscience continue to exude Big Stop Relaxing Energy

Róisín Ingle
Life



IT IS NOW US
POLICY TO
WORK FOR
DESTRUCTION
OF THE EU

Lara Marlowe
Opinion

Some people
do not have
housing
right, says
Harris

Examination of homelessness statistics
'shows significant number have no right'

Tánaiste's claim disputed by Dublin
Region Homeless Executive chief

ELLEN COYNE
and KITTY HOLLAND

A “significant number” of people in emergency accommodation for homelessness “don’t have a housing right in Ireland”, Tánaiste Simon Harris has said.

In an interview with The Irish Times, the Fine Gael leader claimed he was “shut down” when he said in November that Ireland’s “migration numbers are too high” as he doubled down on comments linking immigration to the high rate of homelessness.

Mr Harris said he was not trying to create controversy, and nor was he dismissing the State’s “duty of care”, “but you have to have a right to housing in Ireland to be housed”.

He said that an examination of monthly homelessness statistics showed there was a “significant number ... that don’t have a housing right”.

“A lot of people who are in emergency homeless accommodation, or certainly some people who are in emergency homeless accommodation, don’t have a housing right in Ireland,” he said.

His view, however, was challenged by Mary Hayes, chief executive of the Dublin Region Homeless Executive (DRHE), which manages homelessness services across the four Dublin local authorities.

Of the claim that people with no housing right were a “significant” factor, she said: “That is not my experience. Anyone who presents for and is provided emergency accommodation has a right to housing or establishes that right very quickly.

“If they can’t establish a right to housing, they don’t get emergency accommodation and are sent on their way.”

Latest DRHE figures showed more than 12,000 people received emergency shelter in Dublin, including 8,141 adults and 3,883 children. Of the adults, 5,031 were single with no children.

“The main driver of family homelessness continues to be notices of termination from private rental, and the main

driver of single homelessness is [refugees or people with leave to remain] leaving direct provision in the preceding eight months,” says the DRHE’s October report.

The main driver of spiralling homelessness figures is not migrants, say sources within the sector, but ongoing “crisis in the private rental market”.

Homeless services are not responsible for providing accommodation to those seeking asylum as this is the responsibility of the International Protection Accommodation Service (Ipas).

Those who are recognised as refugees, or have leave to remain, are entitled to apply for housing, and most achieve a right to it.

In the interview, Mr Harris also defended measures in the Government’s recently published housing plan which could see families being prioritised ahead of single people in the queue for social housing.

“You can’t say everything’s a priority,” Mr Harris said.

“I’m saying we have to prioritise children in the first instance – children and families who are in long-term homelessness.”

Mr Harris said he was told by unnamed elements in the “system” that such a policy could “create a perverse incentive for somebody to become homeless” with their children in order to secure a home. But he said he didn’t accept this argument, saying: “It offends every fibre of my being.”

A number of measures in the housing plan have drawn criticism from the Opposition, with Labour’s Conor Sheehan saying “single adults in homelessness have been virtually ignored” by the Government.

The vast majority of the 16,766 people, including 5,274 children, in homelessness accommodation in October were in Dublin. Among 89 families who entered homelessness in Dublin that month, the largest cohort were Irish – at 43 per cent (38).

➔ 'I nearly quit politics after threats to wife and children': page 5



Festival fun
Hoops
upside
your head

Broken Theatre’s Brona Howard performing at Dublin Castle yesterday as part of NYF Dublin, the city’s three-day festival to celebrate the new year.

Events, including concerts and fireworks spectacles, continue today and tomorrow.

A feast of New Year’s Eve festivals and fireworks:
page 4
Photograph: Nick Bradshaw

Students may face interviews over their AI use

EMMET MALONE
Work Correspondent

Face-to-face interviews, during which students would have to demonstrate their work is their own, could become a routine part of third-level assessments under recommendations aimed at combating the improper use of artificial intelligence (AI).

Institutions have been encouraged to redesign courses in ways that ensure work is authentic, with a potential return to more old-fashioned written

exams alongside “oral verification”.

The proposals are made under new guidelines published by the Higher Education Authority (HEA), the State body that regulates third-level institutions.

A 20-page report from the HEA says universities and other third-level institutions need to embrace the potential of generative AI to contribute to education – while ensuring that students are learning more than simply how to use the new technology.

Institutions should support both staff and students in getting the best out of generative AI models but must step up efforts to prevent their output being passed off as a student’s work, says the report.

Various generative AI models can create text, images and other material based on prompts from the user. Widely available text-based models now have the ability to produce outputs mirroring the style and content of assigned student work in many fields.

At present, academics rou-

tinely complain they are presented with essays or other assignments students claim to be their own but which they believe to be AI generated. The situation can be difficult to resolve in instances where the student denies wrongdoing.

The report is authored by project lead Dr James O’Sullivan of University College Cork, and the Higher Education Authority’s Colin Lowry, Ross Woods and Tim Conlon with support from members of the Government’s AI Advisory Council and others.

It encourages third-level institutions to “redesign” assessment procedures in order to “prioritise authenticity, foregrounding student authorship and human judgment, as well as process-based learning”. Organisations are encouraged to design courses and their delivery to ensure that subsequent assessments are fair.

As a backup, the report advises institutions to establish an “institution-wide oral assessment safeguard that enables staff ... to demonstrate authorship directly, with the outcome

of this process taking precedence over any existing written artefacts”.

The recommendations could provide the basis for a greater reliance on old-fashioned exams conducted without recourse to technology and/or face-to-face interviews at which students would be required to demonstrate in conversation that the work presented in assessments had been their own.

The authors of the HEA-commissioned report contend that, at present, there is a lack of cohesion in policies regarding AI.

Pack-a-day smokers could save
€6,700 in next year if they quit

SARAH BURNS

A person who smokes a packet of cigarettes a day is likely to save around €6,700 annually if they decide to kick the habit for the new year, according to the Central Statistics Office (CSO).

Drinkers partaking in dry January could save around €95, based on the average intake of four pints of beer or stout a week in the pub.

The CSO has examined the financial implications of popular resolutions made at the start of each year, using the prices of some of the items it collects as part of the consumer price index basket of goods and services and other data.

A change in dining habits could also lead to savings, particularly as the cost of a meal in a restaurant went up almost 25 per cent in the five years between November 2020 and No-

vember 2025. This was similar for takeaways as they increased by 30 per cent, meaning a takeaway that would have cost €25 five years ago now costs more than €32. Coffee lovers can also make significant savings if they cut back as the cost of a single daily takeaway cup rose by 7 per cent in the 12 months to November.

The CSO said after coming through the costly Christmas period, households often shift their financial focus to better budgeting, tracking spending, and reducing expenditure, in a bid to increase savings.

Households saved almost 14 per cent of their income in January, February and March 2025 or approximately €1 out of every €7 of their disposable income.

The price of package holidays increased by 1.5 per cent this year, and despite the costs,

Irish residents took more than 4.6 million outbound overnight trips in July, August and September.

Eco-friendly resolutions, such as reducing energy consumption or commuting less by car, can also lead to a financial benefit, the CSO said.

Public transport use is rising with the number of bus and rail journeys (excluding Luas) at approximately 229 million from January to the beginning of November.

People have also been switching to greener options in their homes. The number with renewable energy sources is increasing and as of July, August and September, a quarter of the 1.3 million homes with building energy ratings (Ber) had at least one source of renewable energy present such as heat pumps, solar thermal systems and solar photovoltaic panels.

Weather

Variable cloud and sunny spells. Generally dry. Highs of 3-7 degrees.

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News

Pitbull attack: A woman suffered serious injuries following an incident involving a pitbull terrier in Carlow yesterday. Page 3

Roads: Gardai have appealed to people to prevent drink-and-drug-drivers getting behind the wheel. Page 4

World
News



Russia: The Kremlin has released a video of what it said was the deployment of its nuclear-capable hypersonic Oreshnik missile system in Belarus. Page 6

Business
Today

Forecast: The economy is expected to be among the top five performers in Europe next year, economists have predicted. Page 12

Tariffs: Donald Trump is set to launch a wave of new tariffs if the US supreme court rules against his current levies. Page 12

Sports
Wednesday

Soccer: Arsenal hit four second-half goals to see off in-form Aston Villa while Manchester United drew with Wolves. Page 15

Rugby: Back-to-back interprovincial wins are the target for Ulster as they prepare to open 2026 by hosting Munster on Friday. Page 14

NSOI

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Náisiúnta Éireann
National Symphony
Orchestra Ireland

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Great music, great artists,
great experiences



Barry Douglas
— 16 Jan



Ellinor D'Melon
— 23 Jan



Mirabelle Kajenjeri
— 6 Feb



Alexander Shelley
— 13 Feb

Fridays at the National Concert Hall

NCH

An Ceoltras Náisiúnta
National Concert Hall



An Roinn Cultúir,
Comairle agus Spóirt
Department of Culture,
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