

## NEW HOMES 12-PAGE SPECIAL + RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY

Inside  
today



**“A barman in Portadown once told me he had served pints of Harp, fresh off the Dundalk train, to two prominent loyalists plotting a boycott of Irish goods”**

**Newton Emerson**  
Opinion & Analysis



## THE BEST SHOWS ON TV RIGHT NOW

**Patrick Freyne**  
Arts & Ideas

# Hundreds of young patients were at ‘risk of harm’

Psychiatrist examined mental health care for 374 children in north Kerry

Families say they are ‘absolutely shocked’ by ‘damning’ findings

SHAUNA BOWERS and  
MARIE O’HALLORAN

More than 200 children being treated by the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (Camhs) in north Kerry were at risk of potential harm, an independent review has found.

The HSE yesterday published a review into the service, which raised concerns about high rates of prescribing of medication and low rates of therapeutic intervention.

The report, conducted by Dr Colette Halpin, a consultant child and adolescent psychiatrist, examined the care of 374 children who were active on the north Kerry Camhs team database in November 2022.

Of these, 209 cases – 56 per cent – were found to be at risk of potential for harm.

In 12 files, the potential for harm was considered to be minor and these families received a letter outlining this fact.

Fewer than five cases were considered to be at risk of major harm, while the remainder were at risk of moderate harm. All of these were offered open disclosure meetings.

The review found 79 per cent of patients attending mainstream Camhs services in north Kerry were prescribed psychotropic medication, compared with 39 per cent in the HSE national audit.

Keith Rolls, a Tralee-based solicitor who represents more than 100 affected families, said they were “absolutely shocked” by the findings, which he described as “very damning”.

The length of time it took to complete and publish the report has “completely eroded trust” between the families and the health service, he said.

“Families want the opportunity to join the compensation scheme as was done for the south Kerry Camhs team. They need to be incorporated so they’re not subject to any further distress,” he said.

“In the grand scheme of things, there needs to be a full

review taken since the clinician [at the centre of the report] started working, extending back to 2010.”

The review was commissioned following a report in south Kerry Camhs, which identified similar concerns.

The doctor whose work came under scrutiny in the report is understood to no longer be practising medicine.

Hannah Ní Ghiolla Mhairtín, of Families for Reform of Camhs advocacy group, said families were “heartbroken and angry”.

“These are not just figures on a page. They are our children.”

“We trusted a system overseen by the Health Service Executive to protect our children. That trust has been deeply shaken.”

Speaking following the report’s publication, Minister of State for Mental Health Mary Butler said it found “fundamental care deficits”, which had not been identified elsewhere around the country.

Butler said it was her intention to extend the compensation scheme to the families affected by the review and she had spoken with the Attorney General in that regard.

Butler will visit Kerry today and tomorrow to meet affected families and the regional health forum.

Dr Amanda Burke, the HSE National Clinical Lead for Child and Youth Mental Health, said the report outlined the “ways in which many young people were failed by the mental health services that were provided to them”.

Speaking in the Dáil yesterday, Taoiseach Micheál Martin said there had to be “accountability from a clinical perspective” in the case of children who suffered harm.

Martin said “there will be a need for an extended look back in terms of absolute certainty for all cases”, adding that he understood a referral would be made to the Medical Council in respect of what transpired.

➔ **Over-reliance on medication borne out in hard statistics: page 2**



## Days of Ash U2 protest songs take on Ice, Putin and Netanyahu

U2 have released their first collection of new music since 2017 – a politically charged EP entitled Days of Ash.

Comprising five songs and a poem, it is described as a “current response to world events”, exploring themes of war, politics and violence.

One of the tracks on the EP, Yours Eternally, comments on Russia’s war on Ukraine, and features Ukrainian soldier Taras Topolia.

American Obituary focuses on the fatal shooting of mother-of-three Renee Good by an Ice agent last month. Other songs on the record explore the Israel-Palestine conflict and the Women, Life, Freedom protest movement in Iran. The band are pictured playing in a Kyiv underground station in May 2022.

Review: Una Mullally, page 3  
Photograph: Getty Images

# Three big US firms pay nearly half of corporate tax

EOIN BURKE-KENNEDY  
Economics Correspondent

Just three companies – technology groups Apple and Microsoft and pharma group Eli Lilly – were responsible for almost half the corporate tax collected by the State in 2024.

A report by the Irish Fiscal Advisory Council (Ifac) estimates that the three US multinationals paid 46 per cent – or around €13 billion – of the €28.1 billion collected that year.

It has warned that a heavy re-

liance on a limited number of companies for a substantial tax take “carries significant risk”.

While the budgetary watchdog does not name the companies involved, publicly available financial statements indicate that iPhone maker Apple paid approximately €5.8 billion in corporate tax here in 2024.

This was alongside the €14 billion it paid as a result of its high-profile tax battle with the European Commission.

Separate accounts show Apple’s tech rival Microsoft, which employs about 6,400

people in Ireland, paid approximately €4.8 billion in tax here in 2024. Eli Lilly, which manufactures the ingredients for its top-selling weight loss drugs Zepbound and Mounjaro in Ireland, paid about €2.2 billion.

Drug giant Pfizer was previously in third position in terms of Ireland’s top corporate taxpayers but a fall-off in earnings in 2024 as demand for its Covid vaccine and medicine slumped saw it eclipsed by Eli Lilly.

Ifac’s report highlights what it describes as the “exceptionally concentrated” nature of Ire-

land’s corporate tax base, with just two companies responsible for €11 billion or almost 40 per cent of receipts in 2024.

It notes that corporation tax here almost doubled between 2021 and 2024, “largely driven by increased payments from the top three payers”. However, it warns that as “corporation tax revenues become more concentrated, they also become more risky”.

“Future receipts could be much higher or lower than current levels,” the budgetary watchdog says.

On a positive note, it says the two highest-paying tech companies continue to perform strongly. Both firms reported double-digit global revenue growth in 2025 “and market analysts expect this growth to continue into 2026 at least, supported by strong demand for their latest products and services”, it says.

The council also notes that Ireland appears to be a key manufacturing base for the active ingredient used to make hugely popular weight-loss and diabetes medicines. “Higher sales of these medicines in 2025 in-

creased corporation tax receipts in Ireland. Some of this was because one large pharma group front-loaded some exports to the US ahead of expected tariffs,” it said.

Corporate tax receipts are expected to rise again in 2026 as a new minimum global tax rate of 15 per cent rate, agreed as part of an Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development agreement on international tax in 2021, kicks in.

➔ **Editorial comment: page 11**

# Watchdog wants ride-hailing apps like Uber to be allowed

COLIN GLEESON

Private drivers should be allowed to provide taxi services using their own cars through platforms such as Uber to combat shortages in the industry, the consumer watchdog has said.

New research from the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC) has found a supply shortage in the taxi sector, as four in 10 people who tried to get a taxi in December reported difficulties in doing so.

Companies such as Uber do currently operate in Dublin, but regulations mean they can only act as a booking agent for licensed taxi drivers, rather than work as a ride-hailing service.

With a “significant share” of taxi users wanting the choice of ride-hailing (49 per cent), the CCPC has called for the removal

of regulatory barriers to facilitate “entry of these services”.

Ride-hailing platforms, including Uber and Bolt, connect private drivers to passengers via apps. “This would mean allowing these private drivers to provide services using their own cars, subject to appropriate regulatory safeguards,” the CCPC said yesterday.

According to the research, conducted in collaboration with Ipsos B&A, 57 per cent of those who expressed an opinion believe there are not enough taxis available in their area. However, there are stark differences across geographical locations.

While 56 per cent of those living in Dublin believed there are enough taxis in their area, only 28 per cent of those outside of the capital agreed. That drops to 21 per cent for those living in Connacht or Ulster.

Participants were asked whether they would like the choice of accessing ride-hailing services, subject to regulatory requirements. While 49 per cent of taxi users surveyed would like the option of ride-hailing services, that figure rose to 57 per cent for those who believed there were not enough taxis in their area.

When asked whether they would prefer a fixed fare or a metered fare, 60 per cent said they would support a fixed fare option.

CCPC chairman Brian McHugh said: “Regulatory barriers in the taxi market have failed to facilitate innovations that have flourished in other countries, and consumers are suffering as a result.”

➔ **Irish people should have option of calling an Uber or Bolt: Opinion, page 10**

## Weather

Scattered showers will give way to drier and brighter conditions. Highs of 5-10 degrees with variable winds.

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## Home News

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**Social media:** Legislation to ban social media access for under-16s is not being prepared by Government. Page 2

## World News



**Ukraine:** President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has accused Russia of stalling US-mediated efforts to end the four-year war. Page 7

## Business + Technology

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**High Court:** Seán Dunne told the High Court he believed he may be the only ‘dual bankrupt’ in the world. Page 13

## Sports Thursday

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**Soccer:** Arsenal’s title challenge suffered a blow as they gave up a two-goal lead to draw at Wolves. Page 21

THE OVERLAP PRESENTS

THE STARS OF THE OVERLAP

**GARY NEVILLE**  
**WAYNE ROONEY**  
**JAMIE CARRAGHER**

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