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New view of Liam Lynch on centenary

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All to play for in Irish football's culture war

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'I was followed, mocked, threatened with violence, assaulted'

'Daily there is always some comment about my sex. Or accusations on how I have achieved positively in my career. It must of course be because I have breasts or performed some sort of sexual act'

'I hate myself for being so weak and not fighting back'

'As a male officer, I witnessed many incidents of sexual harassment in the DF'



'A senior officer made unwanted sexual advances, I rejected her and she retaliated... my work was criticized, others were given preferential treatment'

'Males knocking on doors in the middle of the night with drink taken, unwanted sexual advances on female personnel'

'During training, the language used towards females by certain staff members was atrocious'

'I had suicidal thoughts'

## Badger of dishonour

Neil Michael and Elaine Loughlin

The full statutory inquiry into "brutal" abuse in the Defence Forces must include "military hierarchy, the Department of Defence itself, and the military system in its entirety, the Women of Honour have said. An independent review group's (IRG) report on sexual misconduct, bullying, and discrimination in the Defence Forces revealed: ■ 88% of female soldiers reported experiencing one

or more forms of sexual harassment; ■ Bullying, harassment, discrimination, and sexual harassment continue in the Defence Forces today; ■ Cadets, women, the lower ranks, and those who challenge, are at risk from predatory older members; ■ The working environment is not safe for men or women. As he confirmed the full statutory inquiry, Tánaiste and Defence Minister Micheál Martin said he was disturbed by the contents of

the report, which concluded that, "at best, the Defence Forces barely tolerates women and at its worst, verbally, physically, sexually, and psychologically abuses women in its ranks". The report's authors said they encountered notions about gender among officers "from the last century, or even the one before that". The report also found that while abuse was mainly carried out by male officers, and that almost 90% of female soldiers spoken to reported they had suffered

'Irish Examiner' view

If a significant proportion of their own members feel they are not being defended, how can the Defence Forces be fit for purposes? Accountability is certainly needed. And swift action. Editorial: 10

abuse, some of it had also been carried out by female officers. Those abused include the Women of Honour, a group of serving and former serving members who have campaigned for justice for the last two years. They said in a statement: "In the light of the findings made by the independent review group, nothing less than a full statutory inquiry was ever appropriate. "It is hoped this commitment by the Government to the establishment of a full

statutory inquiry will start the process of healing for those persons who have suffered within the Defence Force system the appalling litany of abuse that is part of the findings of fact of the IRG report. "We await the necessary discussions to start the process of agreeing terms of reference for an all-encompassing full statutory public inquiry where that process should start within days rather than weeks. "Justice delayed is justice denied."

Mr Martin said he will consult with various groups, including Women of Honour, before bringing the terms of reference of the inquiry to the Government. It is hoped that the inquiry will be established before the end of the year. Mr Martin warned that he does not want the investigation to go on for "years" as has been the case with other State inquiries. "This report is a watershed moment," he said. News: 4

## Ex-Bord Pleanála official faces nine planning charges

Noel Baker

Former An Bord Pleanála deputy chairman Paul Hyde has appeared in court on nine counts of failing to comply with planning laws. The 50-year-old appeared before Skibbereen District Court regarding nine summonses, one for each year from 2014 to 2022, inclusive. Mr Hyde, with an address at 4 Castlefields, Baltimore, Co Cork, was present in court when the matter came before Judge James McNulty. Mr Hyde stood back from his duties with the planning board last May and subsequently resigned last July. He has previously denied any wrongdoing. The nine summonses relate to alleged breaches of Section 147 of the Planning and Development Act. The first is that on or about April 29, 2014, when purporting to comply with

the requirements of the Act Section 147 (1) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, that he gave particulars which were false or which were to his knowledge misleading in a material respect, contrary to Section 147 (11) of the same Act. The other charges relate to similar alleged offences on or about January 26, 2015, January 19, 2016, January 31, 2017, January 19, 2018, January 14, 2019, January 22, 2020, February 5, 2021, and January 31 of last year. The prosecuting garda is Sergeant Shane Curtis of Sundrive Road Garda Station in Dublin. In court, Clodagh Grace for the State Solicitors Office said it was the first day the case had appeared on the list and she was looking for a date for either a plea to be entered or to fix a date for trial. Ms Grace said full disclosure would be made but it



Paul Hyde: Appeared before Skibbereen District Court.

would take some time. Paula McCarthy, for Mr Hyde and instructed by Collette McCarthy of Wolfe and Co Solicitors, said disclosure had not been received as yet and that with the upcoming Easter break and remaining business she had to attend to in the circuit court, it may mean a wait for a preferred date, such as in late May. Ms Grace said that her detective was in difficulty regarding a suggested date in mid-June. Judge McNulty directed that disclosure be made to Ms McCarthy and adjourned the matter until June 27, in Skibbereen, at 2pm, for either a plea or to fix a date. "I would have liked it to be dealt with earlier, now it will be dealt with later," he said.

## Biggest Q1 decline in house prices in over a decade

Liz Dunphy and Ciara Phelan

House prices recorded their biggest first-quarter fall in over a decade in the first three months of this year, but the number of available properties is still a fraction of what it was pre-pandemic. The continued dearth of available homes comes as the Government will this morning face a motion of no confidence over its decision to end the ban on evictions from March 31. According to the latest Daft.ie report, prices nationally fell by 0.3% in the first quarter — the biggest drop since the start of 2012. The only region not to see house prices fall was Munster, where they rose by 0.6% in the period. The average listed home price nationally is now €308,497 according to Daft.ie — 2.7% higher than a year previously and the slowest inflationary increase since mid-2020. While the number of homes for sale also rose by 30% compared to the same time last year, with 13,100 properties available on March 1, it is still well below the 2019 average of 24,000. "With demand weakening, prices should fall this year," said Ronan Lyons, associate professor in economics at Trinity College Dublin and author of the report. "The other side of the equation, however, is supply. The stock of homes available to buy is indeed higher than it was a year ago — 13,000 compared to 10,000

— but that is still barely half the level of supply that prevailed before covid-19. Ultimately, even in a cyclical downturn, it is hard to escape the overall lack of housing that has emerged in Ireland since the early 1990s." Lack of homes remains an issue for most of Daft.ie's 1,000 survey respondents, with more than 70% of them citing it as a factor in delaying buying a home, down from 80% two years ago. In the Dáil yesterday, Taoiseach Leo Varadkar said the Government is to increase targets for the number of houses that the Land Development Agency (LDA) will build. That was after an LDA report given to Cabinet said 67,000 houses could be built, but only 10,000 of them within the next decade. The Government is expected to survive the motion of no confidence in the Dáil as opposition parties continue to mount pressure on the Coalition over its decision to lift the eviction ban. Mr Varadkar warned that, if the Government was to lose the vote, it would trigger a general election and the eviction ban would lapse regardless. The Government has the majority to defeat the motion put forward by the Labour Party. Sinn Féin has urged TDs to support their legislation to extend the ban until January 2024, telling politicians: "Don't vote to evict your own constituents into homelessness." News: 7 Analysis: 15

## Shooter gathered guns

The killer of three children and three adults at an elementary school in Nashville, Tennessee, bought numerous firearms in the weeks leading up to the mass shooting, police have revealed. Audrey Hale, 28, was under a doctor's care for an unspecified emotional disorder at the time of the rampage, police said. World: 9

## Better economic outlook

The outlook for the economy has brightened, but price pressures and higher-for-longer rate hikes will likely weigh on households and hit sectors such as house building, the Economic and Social Research Institute said. In its latest quarterly report, the think tank has increased growth forecasts and lowered its projections for inflation. Business: 15

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