



BUMP IN THE NIGHT

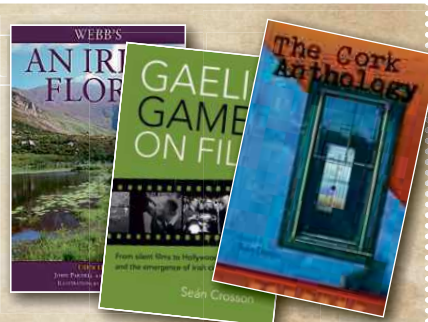
Ghostly encounters both fair and foul

News Page 2

Page turner

How Cork University Press chronicled a growing city

Arts Page 10



Abbie days

Larkin the hero as Ireland stun Belgium

Sport Page 22



PLUS Lives shattered by murder but still fighting Opinion Page 8

PLUS Claudia's style makes her queen of the castle Life/Style Page 11

PLUS O'Neill expects Celtic return to be brief Page 21

Wednesday, October 29, 2025

www.irishexaminer.com

No. 63,555

€2.60 (£1.70 in N. Ireland)

Defiant Martin: 'I'm not going anywhere'

■ Taoiseach says he'll face down any motion of no confidence

Tadhg McNally

Taoiseach Micheál Martin has said that he will fight any no-confidence motion in his leadership of Fianna Fáil, but "hopes it doesn't come to that".

In an exclusive interview with the *Irish Examiner*, Mr Martin insisted he is "not going anywhere", as he has a mandate from the people. He also claimed the criticism of his leadership has been made personal.

There has been growing discontent within the ranks of Fianna Fáil after the disastrous presidential election campaign for the party.

Mr Martin said he understands that anger, and described Jim Gavin's withdrawal from the campaign as a devastating outcome.

Over the weekend, there were rumblings within the party over a possible no-confidence motion, with TDs discussing the prospect of reaching the threshold of 12 signatures to trigger the contest.

It has been suggested by party sources that there are enough rebels to reach this threshold.

Asked about the prospect of a no-confidence motion in his leadership, Mr Martin said he "absolutely would" contest it.

"I mean, I hope it doesn't come to that. I want to engage with people," said the Taoiseach.

Mr Martin insisted that he will still be party leader in two years to take over as tánaiste, adding that he intends to "fulfil my mandate".

Asked about comments made by John McGuinness that there should be a change of leader, Mr Martin said that the Carlow-Kilkenny TD had been "consistent" in his calls for the Taoiseach to depart.

"To be fair, I've never been one of these kind of leaders that tries to suppress dissent," said Mr Martin.

"I've always believed it's healthy that you have debate within the party."

However, Mr Martin said criticism of his leadership

had been made personal. Unprompted during the interview, Mr Martin identified several Fianna Fáil TDs who had criticised him by name, including Cork East TD James O'Connor.

In one weekend newspaper, Mr O'Connor implied it was time for Mr Martin to step down, saying: "It's now up to other TDs and senators in the party if they want the court of Louis XIV to continue."

Mr Martin said: "I was a bit upset with some of the commentary that was made in respect of my leadership. I'm not a top-down [leader]. I'm no Louis XIV. I think James O'Connor used that. Like, come on — that's out of order, that kind of comment, because I'm always accessible."

Mr Martin said he is a "phonecall away from most TDs and senators".

"All TDs, if they ring me, they get a response," said the Cork South Central TD. "I've been in all their constituencies. I've canvassed with them all, knocked on doors."

The Taoiseach said people are entitled to have their perspectives on his time as leader, but there were no calls for him to depart the leadership before the last general election.

"We'll all go up and down in politics... There'll be swings and roundabouts," he said.

Mr Martin also warned against instability within Fianna Fáil, saying it could lead to further drops in support.

"I think if we fall into the trap of a degree of instability, and if the party portrays that, that would damage us more than anything," he said.

"I always act in the best interest of the party and the public, but I always say the party is only there as a vehicle for improving the well-being of the Irish people."

"We need stability as well in Government. You can't get focus on issues if you're going to be chopping and changing every 12 months."

Mr Martin said the public, above all else, wants to see stability within Government.

There are calls from some in Fianna Fáil for an emergency meeting of the parliamentary party next week.

However, Mr Martin's attendance at Cop30 in Brazil next week could prevent this from taking place.

News: 4
Editorial: 8



Residents self-evacuate under pouring rain from Playa Siboney to safe locations ahead of the arrival of Hurricane Melissa in Cuba. The hurricane has made landfall in Jamaica.

Picture: Yamil Lage/AFP/Getty

'Nothing can withstand a Category 5 storm'

Natricia Duncan, Jonathan Watts, and Waja Xipai

Hurricane Melissa has smashed into Jamaica, where sheltering residents braced themselves against ferocious winds, heavy flood waters, and landslides from the Category 5 storm, one of the strongest Atlantic hurricanes in history.

Videos and photographs from the scene painted a devastating portrait of the impact: Roads transformed into raging rivers, downed power lines and trees, and roofs ripped off buildings by the

power of the winds.

Matthew Cappucci, an American meteorologist who flew through the eye of the storm on Sunday, called the experience "scientifically stunning and horrifying from a humanitarian standpoint".

"Millions of people could be awakened Wednesday to devastation — shattered communities, an unrecognisable landscape, and scarring that will take decades to mend," he wrote in the *Washington Post*.

Jamaica's government said it had done all it could to prepare, issuing a manda-

tory evacuation of low-lying areas, as it warned of severe impact for the nation's 2.8m people.

"There is no infrastructure in the region that can withstand a Category 5," said prime minister Andrew Holness.

"The question now is the speed of recovery. That's the challenge."

After passing over Jamaica, the storm was expected to bring "life-threatening storm surge and damaging winds" to the eastern half of Cuba.

Climate scientists have said the intensification of

Hurricane Melissa — with winds doubling from 112km/h to 300km/h in just a day — is probably a symptom of the rapid heating of the world's oceans, part of the human-driven climate crisis.

Leanne Archer, a research associate in climate extremes at the University of Bristol, said: "There has been a perfect storm of conditions leading to the colossal strength of Hurricane Melissa: A warm ocean which has fuelled its rapid intensification over the last few days, but it is also moving slowly, meaning more rain can fall whilst it

moves across land.

"Most of these conditions have been supercharged by the extra heat in our oceans and atmosphere due to climate change. A warmer ocean means more energy, more strength, and more moisture in the warmer atmosphere means more rain can fall with a higher intensity."

Last year, the world's oceans were the warmest on record, continuing a recent trend of record-breaking marine heat.

Just hours before Hurricane Melissa struck, the secretary general of the UN said

humanity has failed to limit global heating to 1.5C, and it is now "inevitable" that humanity will overshoot the target in the Paris climate agreement, with "devastating consequences" for the world.

António Guterres urged world leaders who are due to gather in the Brazilian rainforest city of Belém for the Cop30 climate summit to realise that the longer they delay cutting emissions, the greater the danger of passing catastrophic "tipping points" in the Amazon, the Arctic, and the oceans.

World: 7

Doctors warn of 'capacity emergency' at UHL

Niamh Griffin

Health Correspondent

The Government needs to "urgently change" its approach to hospital overcrowding in Limerick and a "capacity emergency" needs to be declared as patients continue to face "reduced privacy and dignity" compared to elsewhere, doctors have warned.

The call from doctors on the UHL medical board follows findings in Higa's review of emergency services in the region, published last month.

"It would be helpful for Limerick to be regarded as a capacity emergency," said Joe Devlin, deputy chairman of the medical board.

"That is really what this Higa report says, there's a lack of capacity."

"It's unequal and very different to every other part of the country."

"Higa stated baldly this is posing a risk to patient safety, so if you don't regard that as an emergency, I don't

know what is."

Health minister Jennifer Carroll MacNeill has pledged to respond to three solutions proposed by Higa by Christmas and in the interim to look at bed shortages.

Dr Devlin said it was clear during the pandemic that construction could happen quickly in health if necessary. He called for a similar approach for the Midwest.

"Why should the children in the Midwest have less access to emergency health care, than the children in the northwest, or the southwest or in Dublin," he said. The medical board said



Jennifer Carroll MacNeill said she will look at bed shortages.

the Higa review is the third investigation or review to find overcrowding is a real problem since the death of Aoiife Johnston in 2022, however little has changed.

"We hope to no longer hear the HSE or the Department of Health blame staff in HSE Midwest for problems that have yet again been clearly identified as those of physical bed capacity," the board said.

It highlighted "the privacy and dignity deficiencies our patients experience" and stressed Higa found staff still deliver more care than in other hospitals despite having fewer beds and working "in an inappropriately overcrowded environment".

Dr Devlin pointed out that while hospitals such as Cork University Hospital have ready support from smaller hospitals locally at Model 3 level, UHL does not.

The board urged: "The direction from Government on this critical point needs to urgently change."



CORK & KERRY FOOD FESTIVAL

Celebrate the very best of local and artisan food and drink as the Cork & Kerry Food Festival returns to Cork City Hall. With over 80 stalls and two live stages, it's your chance to discover, taste and explore why Cork and Kerry are at the heart of Ireland's vibrant food culture. Bring your appetite - leave inspired!

SAT 1 & SUN 2 NOV | CORK CITY HALL

TWO LIVE STAGES | LIVE COOKERY DEMOS | INTERACTIVE FOOD TALKS
80+ STALLS | TICKETS ON EVENTBRITE OR ON GATE

corkkerryfoodfestival.com



New 24-hour services mooted as Cabinet to discuss BusConnects

Louise Burne

Political Correspondent

Cork City will see a 53% increase in bus services and the introduction of two 24-hour services under plans due to be discussed at Cabinet today.

Transport minister Darragh O'Brien will seek approval in principle for the BusConnects Cork programme, allowing for a planning application to be lodged to An Coimisiún Pleanála.

The National Transport Authority will be able to

move forward with planning applications for the sustainable transport corridor next year, if approved at Cabinet.

The preliminary business case has already been subjected to an external review and examination by the Major Projects Advisory Group, paving the way for a detailed design and procurement phase.

The programme comprises seven projects which will deliver 11 sustainable transport corridors.

They will cover over 90km of bus lanes, 95km of cycle lanes, and deliver new bus shelters, electric buses, and next-generation ticketing.

The project is expected to increase the number of bus services in Cork by 53%, with two routes operating a 24-hour service.

Access to public transport services will increase, with 25% more people having access to frequent services in the peak morning hours.

It is intended to decrease

peak bus-journey times by up to 20% and save 2,700 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions in 2032.

Media minister Patrick O'Donovan, meanwhile, will brief Cabinet on RTE's annual report, including issues uncovered by the chief financial officer.

They include unapproved pension top-ups of up to €30,000 given to eight individuals, including a former senior employee's widow, "without clear justification".

IRISH EXAMINER

29.10.25

Recommended retail price in Ireland €2.60

