

HOW TO REDUCE THE COST OF IVF TREATMENT

Siobhán Maguire
Business



“The State needs to pick a side: either decide that the crock of gold will keep renewing itself and invest accordingly, or conclude that leprechaun economics has had its day

Fintan O’Toole
Opinion



MY DAD PAUL NEWMAN HE WAS A BIG KID TOO, SAYS CLEA NEWMAN

Jen Hogan
Health

Fast track planning to speed up projects in €200bn plan

Exemptions to some environmental assessments could accelerate delivery

Coalition prepares to unveil National Development Plan today

JACK HORGAN-JONES, MARTIN WALL and ELLEN COYNE

Exemptions to some environmental assessments and a planning fast track for key national infrastructure are measures being studied by the Government as it bids to accelerate project delivery.

The Cabinet committee on infrastructure was briefed last week on a review of blockages to delivering projects. It was told that, while common-law jurisdictions are being hit hard by delays to infrastructure, Ireland is especially vulnerable due to the slow pace of the civil legal system here.

As part of the review, reforms introduced in other countries are being examined, with the Government considering whether legislative steps are needed.

This comes as the Coalition prepares to unveil its €200 billion National Development Plan (NDP), which was agreed last night when the funding allocation for the Department of Housing was signed off.

Officials are assessing legislative reforms undertaken in other common-law jurisdictions. The committee was told the California Environmental Quality Act essentially exempts developments on brownfield sites from certain environmental assessments. The committee heard Canada’s One Canada Act enables the fast-tracking of infrastructure deemed to be of national importance.

Damaging shortfalls

Infrastructure delivery is a priority for the Government as it seeks to tackle damaging shortfalls in housing in particular. Tánaiste Simon Harris recently told Fine Gael members that “new ways” to better deliver infrastructure are needed, with the current process “taking too long and causing significant problems for the economy and society”.

It is understood that a presentation to the committee from the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform outlined changes made in the UK’s planning and infrastruc-

ture bill, as well as reforms introduced in New Zealand and Australia. The committee was told that infrastructure delivery in Ireland is being held back by complex regulatory frameworks that in turn contribute to an increase in High Court judicial reviews, place a burden on the courts and contribute to uncertainty. All of this drives up costs and can lead to years-long delays.

Duplication

Meanwhile, co-ordination between regulators is lacking and there is duplication between processes, Ministers were told. They were also briefed on issues in procurement, State co-ordination and funding.

The Cabinet will today sign off on the NDP, allocating billions to water and grid infrastructure, as well as capital investment in the likes of prisons and sports facilities. There will be more money for defence as well, with increased funding for radar, sonar and protection for Irish troops.

Last night talks were continuing in an effort to reach agreement on funding for housing and water projects.

The Government is to allocate an additional €30 billion to its existing capital funding allocation to boost infrastructural development across the economy over the next five years. Housing and water funding were the final elements of the NDP agreed last night, with €40 billion allocated over five years.

Alongside the NDP, the summer economic statement, to be published today by Minister for Finance Paschal Donohoe, will identify investment in water and energy infrastructure as a key priority for Budget 2026.

Mr Donohoe will announce that the State will continue to put money away in the Infrastructure, Climate and Nature Fund, and the Future Ireland Fund, to protect Ireland from external shocks, and in anticipation of the increased costs of an ageing society.

➔ Editorial comment: page 13



Israel expands Gaza assault, striking WHO building

MARK WEISS

Israel expanded its assault on Hamas yesterday, advancing for the first time during the 21-month war towards parts of central Gaza previously spared the worst devastation of the war.

Gaza’s health ministry said at least 130 Palestinians had been killed in Deir el-Balah and other areas of central Gaza in the past 24 hours, one of the highest such totals in recent weeks.

The World Health Organisation said its staff residence and

main warehouse in Deir el-Balah was attacked three times yesterday, with a staff member still in detention last night. “WHO is appalled by the dangerous conditions under which humanitarian workers are forced to operate,” it said.

The escalation came as Israel rejected international criticism of its conduct in the Gaza war, describing a statement by 26 countries, including Ireland, as “detached from reality”, saying Hamas was responsible for the continued suffering of Gaza civilians.

The 25 countries and the EU

commissioner for equality, preparedness and crisis management, including the United Kingdom, France and Canada, called yesterday for the war in Gaza to end immediately.

The signatories condemned the “inhumane killing of civilians” seeking aid through the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) aid sites.

The foreign ministers of the countries, all members of the OECD, published a joint statement urging the Israeli Government to “immediately lift restrictions on the flow of aid and to urgently enable the UN and

humanitarian NGOs to do their life-saving work safely and effectively”.

“The suffering of civilians in Gaza has reached new depths,” the statement read. “The Israeli government’s aid delivery model is dangerous, fuels instability and deprives Gazans of human dignity.” The statement, signed by Tánaiste Simon Harris, says the signatories are “prepared to take further action” to bring about a ceasefire.

Israel’s foreign ministry said the international criticism sent the wrong message to Hamas. “All claims about the ab-

sence of a ceasefire deal and release of hostages should be directed at the terrorist organisation that started this war and is prolonging it,” the foreign ministry said.

“The declaration does not mention Hamas’s role and responsibility for the situation. It is solely responsible for the continued suffering on both sides.”

Incidents of Palestinians being killed while trying to collect food from distribution points run by the controversial GHF are reported almost every day.

Gaza’s civil defence agency said at least 93 Palestinians had

■ A man carries a child as Palestinians evacuated the area before Israeli warplanes targeted a building in central Gaza yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH: GETTY IMAGES

been killed queuing for food on Sunday, but Israel has questioned these figures. Fifty hostages remain in Hamas captivity, of whom 20 are believed to be alive.

➔ Attack on Gaza haven amid ceasefire talks baffles analysts: page 7

Extradition of George Gibney from US to Ireland imminent

CONOR LALLY
Crime and Security Editor

The extradition of former Irish Olympic swimming team coach George Gibney from the United States to the Republic is imminent. He is due to appear in court in Dublin as early as today, The Irish Times understands.

Sources stressed the precise timing of the extradition and the court appearance could change. However, according to plans in place late last night, it was expected Mr Gibney would appear before a Dublin court today, or very shortly thereafter.

Garda members have already travelled to the US as part of the plan to bring him back to the Republic. That operation was being run by the Garda Extradition Unit, which is part of the National Bureau of Criminal Investigation.



■ Former Irish Olympic swimming team coach George Gibney. PHOTOGRAPH: MARK HORGAN

was arrested last month. The extradition request was sent last October by the authorities in Ireland to American law enforcement, via the Irish embassy in Washington. Mr Gibney, who settled in the US in 1995, was arrested in Florida on July 1st by US Marshalls and has remained in custody pending the extradition process.

Detention hearing

Ten days ago he withdrew his request for a detention hearing in Florida and also consented to being extradited to the Republic, clearing the way for his return to face the charges.

The extradition process involves Garda members accompanying him on a flight from the US to Dublin. He was due to be arrested by gardai on arrival in Dublin, probably this morning, and taken to court for his first appearance.

Weather

Dry in the morning with more frequent showers in the afternoon. Highest temperatures of 15-19 degrees.

THE IRISH TIMES
24-28 Tara Street, Dublin 2.
D02 CX89
Telephone: (01) 9203900
Online: irishtimes.com
The recommended retail price of THE IRISH TIMES in the Republic of Ireland is €2.60
Subscriptions: Tel: (01) 9203901
Email: subscribe@irishtimes.com



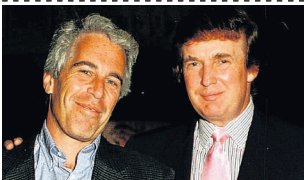
9 771393 351925 30
Vol. No. 52342, Tuesday, July 22, 2025

Home News

Immigration: People living in disadvantaged areas have a more negative attitude towards immigration, the ESRI has found. Page 2

Courts: A man who recorded the moment he stabbed his wife to death said he killed her after he ‘freaked out’, a court heard. Page 4

World News



US: An artist who accused Jeffrey Epstein of sexual assault almost three decades ago told prosecutors to investigate US president Donald Trump. Page 8

Business + Your Money

Airlines: Ryanair will ask the courts to overturn a night-flight limit imposed on Dublin Airport, Michael O’Leary said. Page 14

Transport: Hauliers accused the Road Safety Authority of moving driving testers from trucks to cars to reduce waiting lists. Page 15

Sports Tuesday

Rugby: Test places are up for grabs as the Lions face First Nations and Pasifika XV in Marvel Stadium in Melbourne this morning. Page 19

Soccer: Bryan Mbeumo said he was joining ‘the club of my dreams’ after completing a €71m (€81.9m) move to Manchester United. Page 20

*Offer ends 6 August. In store only. Subject to availability. Selected items only. Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Excludes underwear, baby socks, baby tights and all footwear except school shoes. © Marks and Spencer (IRL) Limited.

Now including school shoes

Maths you'll like...

20% OFF

SCHOOL UNIFORM*

M&S

Shop the collection in store